



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON THE 12th
FEBRUARY 2025**

<u>Present:</u>	Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach Cllr. Peir Leonard, Leas-Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sylvester Bourke Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald Cllr. Miriam Murphy Cllr. Warren O'Toole
<u>Officials Present:</u>	Ms. Leonora Earls, District Manager Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer Ms. Lorraine Hayes ASO
<u>Apologies:</u>	None
<u>Press:</u>	Eoin MacRaghnaill
<u>Presentations:</u>	Aisling Hubbard (Local Sports Partnership)
<u>Public:</u>	None
<u>Item 1: Votes of Sympathy.</u>	

The members expressed votes of sympathy to all families who have recently lost a loved one, a minutes silence was observed.

Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 8th January were proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Bourke.

Request for Suspension of Standing Orders:- the Meetings Administrator advised that a request for suspension of standing orders had been submitted in advance of the meeting. In accordance with the protocol adopted the request was read to the meeting as proposed

1. Cllr M Murphy, proposed "To discuss a plan for a proposal for an extra bridge over Avoca River for Arklow traffic congestion which is essential due to increase of potential housing and increase extra schools etc."

It was seconded by Cllr P Fitzgerald.

It was agreed to discuss the topic following the item 4 on the agenda.

Item 3: Matters Arising.

None.

Item 4: Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

Presentation on Rathdrum Open Active Space.

Aisling Hubbard, Sports Partnership delivered an in-depth presentation on the proposed development on Rathdrum active open space. This development is proposed to include astro-turf pitch, two multi-play pitches, a running track and a variety of other facilities which will be very welcomed in Rathdrum. A CLG will be set up for the running of the development; the CLG will include members of local sporting clubs and two Wicklow County Council staff members. This is the model used for other developments of the same nature. The plan will require Part 8 Planning to progress.

The project was discussed and the following matters were raised:

- The area needs to be fully wheelchair accessible.
- A "changing places" unit for wheelchair users needs to be included in the plans.
- Cover should be provided for spectators.
- It should be a dog/pet free zone.
- It will be investigated if it is possible to lease part of the land to a local sports group in the interim,
- Finance for development will be sourced through Sports Capital Funding and the development will be done over a phased period.

District Engineers Report.

Municipal District of Arklow

District Engineer's Report

4th February 2025

Roads

L-6175 Oghill and L-9975 Crone Upper commenced 4th Feb.

Safety Improvement Works

Proposed Works	Project	Status
Johnstown Village, Arklow	Installation of Safety Signage	Sign to be installed

Discretionary Funding 2024

Proposed Works	Status
Heritage Signage for Villages	Installation Commenced - 80% Complete, final locations to be agreed on site
Footpath Repair - Ferrybank	Works to commence w/e 14 th Feb.
Pottery Cross	Works commenced
Infill Lighting Annacurra	Requested a quotation from lighting contractor
Public Lighting at the Birches, Ballinacash	Requested quotation from lighting contractor to commission lights
Bus Shelter in Annacurra	NTA are looking at this location
Repair of Footpath at Currans Corner	
Pedestrian Crossing - Rathdrum	Considered in Wider Scheme
Public Realm - Arklow	
Public Realm Furniture Upgrade - AMD	
Public Realm - Rathdrum	
Footpath - Conary	
Tree Management	Issued to Councillors
Educational Signage - Beaches	Liaised with the Biodiversity Officer - Awaiting Further Information

Community Involvement Scheme

Proposed Works	Status
Ballinclea	Contractor to Confirm Dates

Other Projects

- Footpath at Coral and running track installed.
- Paths around Duck Pond have been cleared.
- Works to part of revetment walk completed. Closed off one dangerous area. Liaising with engineer for a solution.

Public Lighting Update

At the Plenary meeting which was held on Monday, it was proposed that a team from Public Lighting will come to the District March meeting to give a detailed outline of work in the district. There is priority be given to progressing repairs and engaging with ESB now, as ESB had been at full capacity working after storm Eowyn. At present there are 3.8% of lights out in the District. Members were reminded that faults should be reported through the Dead Shore app using the lamppost number for location of fault.

Cllr. Fitzgerald thanked Council staff for their on-going work regarding lighting and asked if we could keep this issue on the agenda for March Meeting.

Lighting on Main Street are heritage lights, it had previously been agreed that LED could be used as a temporary solution.

A cherry picker will be required to repair lighting at the running track.

The following concerns were discussed:

- 336 new speed limit signs were installed by outdoor staff.
- Casual trading – this is a matter for The Environment Section not AMD. DA to refer.
- Update on Tinahask Development required – District Manager will follow up on this with housing
- District Manager will come back with an update on Finance for Arklow and Rathdrum studies
- TRO is working on vacant properties for RDF funding; work is on-going in the background.
- Can a bench be erected at Asgard Nursing Home. District Engineer will investigate the suitability and safety of the area however the current plan is to upgrade existing street furniture.
- Have the Parking Byelaws been looked at – this has been referred to Senior Management.
- The delay on repairs to the Navvy bridge is due to traffic management.
- Contact will be made to Irish Rail regarding fencing at Glendale.
- Road at Halpins needs potholes to be repaired.
- Glenmalure Carpark funding is for County Wicklow Partnership and MD team have provided some technical assistance.
- Currently working with Engineer on some remediation works at the top walkway at North Beach. There are areas very badly damaged.
- €200,000.00 is for footpath upgrades, we are currently working through list with GSS.
- Land required for the graveyard, we need to contact Environment for figures on this.
- Trees at Duck pond are causing an issue with some pathways, the only fix is to remove the roots but the tree will die. We are trying to strike a balance with the natural habitat and safety.

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Item 5: Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members.

None

Suspension of Standing Orders

1. Cllr M Murphy, proposed "To discuss a plan for a proposal for an extra bridge over Avoca River for Arklow traffic congestion which is essential due to increase of potential housing and increase extra schools etc."

Cllr. Murphy stated with the population on the increase in the Town and traffic congestion that a second bridge be proposed for Arklow. A feasibility study regarding an extra bridge was put in in 2023.

Cllr. Murphy proposed that a second bridge over the river was necessary. Cllr. Fitzgerald seconded this proposal.

A second bridge is being considered in the draft plan of LAP.

The District Manager said she will get a date from Department of Transport for a Transport Forum.

Return to Agenda

Item 6: Other Business set forth in the Notice convening the Meeting

None

Item 7: Notice of Motions

(a) To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr S. Bourke. Received on 7th January 2025

"That the council consider the undergrounding of the ESB cables on the south quay in conjunction with the Arklow flood relief scheme"

Proposed by Cllr. Bourke and seconded Cllr. Leonard.

The Senior Executive Engineer for the Arklow Flood Relief Scheme confirmed that drawings submitted included all over head cables would be relocated underground. The Scheme is waiting for a design from ESB. Members all agreed that this should be priority.

Item 8: Correspondence

A letter had been received regarding traffic congestion in Rathdrum. DE has met with local residents and businesses regarding this issue. Consultants have conducted a survey and took the DE information into consideration; a good analysis has been made. A report is due on the results.

The District Manager said some attempts had been made to alleviate the traffic issues, we have spoken to the fire station there is a preferred option which is being considered. This issue should be on March's agenda for further discussion on a solution.


Item 9: Any other business

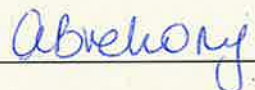
Councillors discussed the need for all the groups in the town of Arklow to have access to a Community Centre. Cllr O'Toole mentioned that there was a property which he understands is currently available to purchase if funding could be found. Members agreed that it was an important project but there was a need for a feasibility study to be carried out. It was agreed to bring the matter forward to the relevant Director of Services in Wicklow County Council.

Cllr Leonard requested a letter received from residents on the R1772 be recorded to the minutes, the contents of the letter were noted. It was agreed and noted by the members that names would not be used in the minutes of the meeting and the minutes from the January municipal meeting had the names redacted. Members agreed to reply directly to the residents.

It was reaffirmed that the a reduction of the speed limit is not a viable option as on the most recent traffic study there was zero speeding violations. 85% of traffic was travelling at 60kph this confirms there is no issue with speeding.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th March 2025.

Signed: 
Cllr Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: 
Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District