



**Wicklow County Council  
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

**ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON**

**THE 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024.**

**Present:** Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach  
Cllr. Peir Leonard, Leas-Cathaoirleach  
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke  
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald  
Cllr. Miriam Murphy  
Cllr. Warren O'Toole

**Officials Present:** Ms. Leonora Earls, District Manager  
Ms. Alvina Brehoný, District Administrator  
Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer  
Ms. Lorraine Hayes ASO  
Ms. Catherine McCord

**Apologies:** None

**Press:** Eoin MacRaghnaill

**Presentations:** Tinahask Housing Presentation  
Helena Fallon (Capital Projects – Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery, WCC)  
Aideen Klauer (Capital Projects – Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery, WCC)  
Kerrie Beacom (Capital Projects – Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery, WCC)  
Ciaran Savage (Van Dijk Architects)  
Ciara O'Sullivan (Conroy Crowe Kelly Architects)

**Members of the public:** Laurence Cloke

**Item 1: Votes of Sympathy.**

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 13<sup>th</sup> November were proposed by Cllr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr. Murphy:

**Item 3: Matters Arising.**

None

**Item 4: Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.**

Presentation on new proposed development at Tinahask, Arklow delivered.

**The following concerns were raised:**

- As the entrance is at Churchview there will be a huge impact on traffic on an already congested area.
- As per Government Guidelines if an estate is within 1 km to the Town centre one car parking space per unit is the recommendation, this is not deemed to be adequate. People will park at Churchview which will cause upset for residents.
- With an additional 500 houses to be constructed in Moneylands it was thought a new road should be built sooner than planned. Traffic for these new estates should be directed out onto the Wexford Road and not through already busy roads.
- Flooding is a huge issue which needs to be addressed.
- Demand for housing in Arklow is at an all-time high with 981 units required; whilst we welcome the new housing developments it was thought we should learn from previous planning mistakes and ensure the builds are right.
- Too many one bedroom units are in the plan which is not sufficient to people's needs i.e. an elderly person may need a carer to stay over and there is not sufficient room. A single parent will not have room for their children to stayover.
- Proposed plan dictates both current residents and future residents of new estate will change lifestyle to accommodate design of estate – this is not realistic.
- Our current train and bus services are not efficient enough at present; this will need to be drastically improved.
- Traffic surveys need to be carried out on Abbeyville, Rory O'Connor, Abbey Heights, parking alone is very bad in these areas.
- Timeframe discussed.
- As this is a part 8 development the Cathaoirleach requested that Arklow Chamber's serious concerns should be relayed the Plenary Council.

The District Manager relayed all large residential developments have to be under the compact growth contract. National Policy is to work towards encouraging people to walk and use public transport. It is Nationwide for all developments.

It was agreed the two new developments should be named as this would be beneficial to get ESB networks up and running. Potter's Bay was proposed for the 74 unit site and all members agreed. Potter's View was agreed by all members for the PPP Development.

**Municipal District of Arklow**

**District Engineer's Report**

**11<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

**Roads**

**Restoration Improvement**

Works Completed

**Former National Roads**

Works Completed

**Safety Improvement Works**

| <b>Proposed Works</b>     | <b>Project</b>                 | <b>Status</b>  |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Johnstown Village, Arklow | Installation of Safety Signage | To be Tendered |

**Discretionary Funding 2024**

| <b>Proposed Works</b>                           | <b>Status</b>   |
|---|---|
| Educational Signage - Beaches                   | Liased with the Biodiversity Officer<br>- Awaiting Further Information            |
| Tree Management                                 | Scope Finalised   |
| Heritage Signage for Villages                   | Installation Commenced - 80%<br>Complete, final locations to be<br>agreed on site |
| Footpath Repair - Ferrybank                     | Contractor Appointed - Works to<br>Commence early January                         |
| Pottery Cross                                   | Tenders Received - Contractor<br>Appointed, Start Date TBC                        |
| Bus Shelter in Aughrim                          | Minor Works to be Completed   |
| Bus Shelter in Annacurra                        | Follow up with Landowner<br>Required  |
| Public Lighting at the Birches,<br>Ballinaclash | Lighting has been installed,<br>Commissioning to be completed                     |
| Public Realm, Rathdrum                          | Bollards and Planters Ordered -<br>Planters Fitted at the Old Mill, R752          |
| Footpaths at Templeraíne Heights                | 100% Complete   |
| 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                  |  |
| Infill Lighting Annacurra          |  |
| Footpath - Arklow Bearing Services |  |

**Local Improvement Schemes**

| Proposed Works | Status   |
|----------------|--|
| Kilpipe        | Surfacing Works Completed,<br>Groundworks requirements to be finalised |
| Ballinabarney  | Surfacing Works Completed,<br>Groundworks requirements to be finalised |

**Community Involvement Scheme**

| Proposed Works | Status                      |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Ballinaclea    | Contractor to Confirm Dates |

**Other Projects**

- Running Track – Lighting Installed and Certified. Works ongoing to commission lights currently. Tendering completed for Improvements to Running Track Surface.
- Abbey Lane – Civil Works Complete
- Multi Use Pitch at Corel Leisure Centre – Construction Completed, Line Marking to be completed but weather dependent
- Beech Road Footpath – Road Resurfacing ongoing – will be completed before Christmas Shutdown.

#### **Other projects:**

- The heritage signs will be returned to Barndarrig.
- Cycle path project is finished on route to Arklow South exit.
- Line marking has not yet started at Templeraíne Heights.
- Abbey Lane is a fantastic job and a great amenity for the town, should be entered for upcoming awards.
- A masterplan is necessary for Arklow for the future of Arklow. We need to work on CPO's for derelict buildings and get some help for plan for the future. Consultation with Town Team on how to encourage public engagement especially for Riverwalk and Main Street.
- Running track is almost ready down to the great work of our staff Electrician who has sorted most of the issues out. Lighting will not be on all night it will be on a reduced capacity.
- The cross in St. Gabriel's cemetery will be restored in the New Year. A contractor has been appointed.
- Damage is being caused repeatedly by people working in the cemetery, as we have no caretaker there it is hard to monitor. Some of our workers have previously stopped works (without notification or permission) being carried out, due to damage being caused. This is being referred to Environment & Environment SPC.
- Consultants have completed an options report of traffic management in Rathdrum, this will be relayed to the Councillors and the public to enable them to make a business case, we are hoping this will be done by first quarter of 2025.
- Storm Darragh caused untold damage for our area, the outdoor staff worked tirelessly the whole weekend in order to clear roads of trees and debris.

#### **Item 5: Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting.**

No other business set forth.

#### **Item 6: Notice of Motions (for decision)**

##### **(a) To consider the Notice of Motion in the names of Cllr Sylvester Bourke and Cllr Pat Fitzgerald received on 11th November 2024**

*"That Arklow Municipal District set up a forum with Gorey Municipal District to meet and discuss ways to ameliorate economic and social links between both districts"*

Proposed by Cllr. Bourke and seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald.

Cllr Bourke stated that they feel this is a good idea it was thought we may learn from Gorey and they may also learn from us. It will be good to explore and work on developing more employment for the area.

It was proposed that the DA would make contact with her counterpart in Gorey.

This was agreed by all Councillors.

#### **Item 7: Correspondence**

Email received from Avoca Tidy Towns seeking help with funding for upkeep and insurance of Courthouse. It was decided that a letter will be drafted outlining the funding streams available for upkeep and costs of courthouse. It is not a matter for AMD as this would be a private protected structure.

**Item 8: Any Other Business**

- Storm drain at boxing club and soccer pitch is causing ponding on Emoclew Road. These are long term leases so not responsibility of AMD.
- A workshop for a masterplan for Arklow should be organised in the New Year. We need to work with our TD's towards development of Arklow over the next ten years.
- Arklow Town Team can access and qualify for more funding than the MD so we need to urge our Councillors to be more active with the ATT. Stephen Clarke TRO is available also for helping with this.
- A presentation to Jim Rees should be organised in 2025.
- St. Benedict's need space to store equipment if we could give the some land.
- Martin's Lane there is issues with road resurfacing and parking.
- A list of upgrades for housing was requested, DA will contact the housing department for this.
- Damp & mould issues in houses discussed. Elected members were referred to report to Housing Department.
- Old N11 at Rugby club [REDACTED] is looking for clarification regarding speed limits at his residence. There is no necessity for traffic calming measures at his residence as traffic studies have been carried out and no speeding occurrences were recorded. As he lives on a regional road the speed limit is not part of the national speed reduction of 60kph, this reduction is for rural roads only. It was suggested extending the 60kph limit to his road, DM will check with the roads department but they only work within the guidelines set down by Government.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

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

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