

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

HELD IN DISTRICT CHAMBER, TOWN HALL

MONDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2024 at 15.00pm

Present: Cathaoirleach Cllr Gail Dunne, Cllr Danny Alvey, Cllr Shane Langrell, Cllr Paul O'Brien, Cllr Graham Richmond, Cllr John Snell

In Attendance: District Manager, Brian Gleeson
District Engineer, Pat Clarke
District Administrator, Georgina Franey
Assistant Staff Officer, Róisín Carroll

Cathaoirleach Gail Dunne opened the meeting at 15.00 pm.

ITEM 1

Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 29th July 2024

It was proposed by Councillor Shane Langrell, seconded by Councillor John Snell and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on 29th July 2024.

ITEM 2

To consider report (as circulated) in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) in respect of the proposed development to construct an extension to Wicklow Leisure Centre.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Michael McNamara, A/Senior Executive Officer to the meeting.

Members were presented with plans of the proposal to extend the existing swimming pool/gym facility located off Station Road, Wicklow Town. The proposed development will form a single storey extension to the south of the exiting leisure facility. To allow for this extension an existing prefabricated structure will be removed. The works will provide for new changing facilities, extended gym area, and a new aerobics studio.

There were no submissions received during the public consultation.

All members welcomed the proposal.

It was proposed by Councillor Paul O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Graham Richmond and unanimously agreed to proceed with the proposed development to construct an extension to Wicklow Leisure Centre.

ITEM 3

To consider report (as circulated) in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) in respect of the proposed development of 19 houses at Ballinahinch Park, Ashford.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Housing staff: Helena Fallon, Senior Engineer; Admire Kamusoko, Executive Engineer and Sean Wildes, Executive Engineer to the meeting.

Members were presented with the proposal to construct 19 social houses consisting of 2 no. one-bedroom single storey units, 15 no. two-bedroom two storey units, 1 no. three-bedroom two storey units and 1 no. three-bedroom two storey unit. The development is consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in accordance with national and local statutory planning policy.

Six submissions were received during the public consultations which were addressed in the Chief Executive's report.

All members welcomed the proposal noting that one bedroom units were badly needed. They commended the housing staff on the design and open space feature. Concerns arose regarding parking, should there not be two car parking spaces for two bed properties as most houses have two cars per house, and also the one-bedroom properties should have parking directly outside as these properties could have tenants with mobility issues. Helena Fallon said the parking meets the requirement of the development plan; however, she will examine it.

It was proposed by Councillor Graham Richmond, seconded by Councillor John Snell and unanimously agreed to proceed with the proposed development of 19 houses at Ballinahinch Park, Ashford.

ITEM 4

Deputation from the Wicklow Town Team

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Dave Shannon and Pascal Burke to the meeting.

Members were presented with a report. The Wicklow Town Team highlighted a number of projects that they would like to see come to fruition.

The Abbey Ground Works

That the Abbey Grounds works would be fully completed and open to the public April/May next year.

Provision of a significant increase in centrally located Parking Spaces

Request to revisit and seek funding for the provision of a multi storey car park in the Abbey Street Carpark. In addition a site at Quarantine Hill is for sale and this space could accommodate parking in a short space of time for a reasonable investment.

Development of sufficient Multi-Purpose Sporting facilities

Continue discussions with all local supporting clubs to research the demand for sufficient multi purpose sporting facilities.

Commencement of the East Coast Greenway

That the Government would give the green light to this project immediately upon completion of a satisfactory EIS.

Incentivising an investment in Hotel Accommodation

It was noted that the Council has no direct role in the provision of hotel accommodation however, the provision of same is vital for the town.

Wicklow Courthouse

Town Team request the Council to seek an answer from the OPW and Department of Justice as to whether or not the court services will be restored to this building or for this building to be handed over to Wicklow County Council, when it could be developed for a whole range of local facilities.

Creation and development of additional Town Walkways

- Ballyguilemore to the Lighthouse – linking up with the Cliff walk
- Vartry Reservoir Walk
- Monastic Walk to Glendalough

Development of a School Park & Walk facility

Proposing a park & walk facility at scenic carpark on Greenhill Road to service Bethlehem, Holy Rosary and the Dominican College.

Dart Extension to Wicklow Town

Provision of a Shuttle Bus service for Wicklow Town and District

Development of a Commercial/Industrial Park

Development of a new Ring Road linking the N11/Rocky Road with the Coast Road

The Cathaoirleach Cllr Gail Dunne thanked Wicklow Town Team for their presentation and commented that a lot could be achieved by working together.

ITEM 5

District Engineers Report

Updates were provided by District Engineer Pat Clarke as follows:

Housing:

❖ Relets/Prelets

- 4no. houses returned to Housing Department for allocation (since end of Aug 24)
- 2no. houses currently being worked on, through WCC Housing Framework by MD.
- 5no. houses are being progressed by WCC Direct Labour.
- 2no. tenders received back, and works to be progressed within coming weeks
- 2no. tenders to be issued on properties by end of Sept

❖ **Maintenance and operations**

- On-going repairs and maintenance being progressed as required on housing stock within the WMD.

DTTAS Roads Programme:

DTTAS Allocations for 2024 Projects on the Restoration Improvement and Maintenance Programme have been reviewed based on pavement condition ratings.

❖ **Restoration Improvement**

Tenders on Restoration Improvement works has started. Works will include a variety of techniques depending on classification and condition of Road.

Advance works such as drainage and verge widening works has started on RI Roads with a mixture of MD staff and sub contactors. Main list of RI 2024 projects below.

Location	Length of Works	Completed to Date
L5093 Barnbawn (Aghowle Upper)	1.1km	Completed, with extension by 700m included
R765 Newtown To Roundwood Road (Slaughter Hill)	1.1km	Advance works complete, surfacing to be progressed in two weeks.
R756 Brockagh, Wicklow Gap	0.5km	Completed
L 97632 Knockafrumpa	0.750km	Completed
L 5054 Fort Road	1.75km	Completed
L 1051 Callow Hill	1.0km	Completed
L 1051- L 5062 Prospect to Ballyduff Cross Roads	3.0km	Completed
L 5597 Milltown Lane	1.0km	Not started, Tenders received.
R 752 Rathnew- Glenealy Road (Miltown Junction)	1.0km	To be Completed on Monday 16th Sept
L 1600 Ballyguille Road	0.250km	Not started
L5099 Rockey Road Improvement Project	1.2km	Part 8 process has started

❖ **Restoration Maintenance**

The Countywide Restoration Maintenance started in the Wicklow MD in July due to poor weather conditions,

Advance works such as drainage and verge widening works all completed before start of RM Roads. Main list of RM 2024 projects below.

Location	Length of Works	Completed to Date
R762 Glenealy Road	2.3km	Completed
L 11001 Knockrobin Estate Road	0.5km	Completed
R 755 Djouce To Calary	1.5km	Completed
R 756 Brockagh , Wicklow Gap	1.8km	Completed
L 1036 Stoney Pass Road	1.7km	Completed
L 1035 Powers Avenue	1.75km	Completed
L1039 Carriggower	2.45km	Completed
R755 Laragh – Rathdrum road	1.3km	Completed
L 97558 Wicklow Heather Road to R755	0.150km	Completed

❖ **Drainage**

- General works on verge drains, drainage inlets, gullies and road crossings to outlets are ongoing throughout the MD.
- Programme for cleaning of gullies continuing within Wicklow MD. Drain surveys are still being carried out on problem areas as required.
- Installation of drainage pipes/ road crossings along Slaughter Hill are complete in advance of surfacing works.
- Installations of gullies and road crossings have been completed on Glenealy road in advance of surfacing works.
- Installation of road crossings completed at Barnbawn and Fort Road in advance of recycling works.

❖ **Local Improvement Scheme Projects**

- Two LIS projects allocated to the Wicklow Municipal District. One LIS completed with second project to be completed in two weeks.

❖ **Safety Projects**

- Pedestrian crossing civil works is completed at Mountainview in Newtownmountkennedy. Installation of belisha beacon poles are completed. ESB connection completed. Crossing has been energised and road markings completed.
- Pedestrian crossing civil works completed on the Dunbur road, issue with cranked pole which is delaying install. Install to be completed as soon as pole is manufactured.
- Periodic School Signage has been installed at various locations in WMD. Signage at school in Ashford is complete. Bollards have been erected at the schools request to eliminate turning movements at school gate for safety reasons.

- Pencil Bollards to be installed at St Laurence O'Toole's School in Roundwood by week ending the 20th September.
- Works completed on Wicklow gap edge protection.
- Works completed on Slaughter Hill in respect of edge protection works.
- Vehicle activated signage erected on both approaches of the regional road at Killiskey Cross Roads.
- Solar powered vehicle activated signage have been ordered for Blainroe Cross Roads, and Wicklow Hospice. Expected commissioning in 7 weeks approx. Poles to be erected in advance by WCC.
- Solar powered driver feedback signage has been ordered for Ballinahinch, Laragh and Rathnew. Poles to be erected in advance of commissioning by WCC. Expected commissioning in 7 weeks approx.
- Footpath linking St Ernan's and St Brigid's Terrace on the R772 has been completed.

Fáilte Ireland:

❖ Abbey Grounds

- Project Ongoing. Contractor commenced works on June 10th and project continuing on schedule. Current works a focused on ensuring the structure is safe and fit for purpose Toilet block and Plant Room/Storage buildings have been erected. Roofing and installation for these buildings ongoing. Steel support beams have been installed to coach house structure.
- Detailed designs still progressing for the Amphitheatre and performance area.
- Material finishes being worked through at present on certain elements of the design.
- Connection agreements with utility providers are being progressed.
- Service entrance onto Wentworth Place complete in advance of planned works for the park and amphitheatre.
- Construction of new entrance wall for Parochial House is complete with kerb and footpath along entrance completed also. New gate to be installed and final entrance surfacing to be completed by end of October.
- Conservation and restoration works to existing footbridge at Abbey grounds to be completed by end of September.

Community Recognition Fund/Outdoor Recreation

- Brittas Bay Blueway funding for accessibility works; works are completed on upgrade to toilet facilities. The upgrade included a disabled toilet, improved water storage and improvement of security facilities. Disability access ramp and new showers were also installed. Works are now complete. Works are complete and toilet block is now open to the public. Beach safety signs have been erected as planned. New directional signage for both North and South beach Car parks has been erected. New information lecterns have been erected. Line marking of South beach car park has been completed to the public's satisfaction. Chestnut fencing to be erected in coming months in order to protect the dunes.

- The Assembly Hall facility works are now complete internally. An ESB connection to be completed externally in coming weeks.

Town & Village Renewal:

- Wicklow Town, Connectivity Project – three ornate arches with lanterns are currently being fabricated for installation along the Doctor's Steps.
- Lighting heads along the Mall and Market Square have been completed.
- Compactor bins have been installed in Glendalough, Laragh and Roundwood to promote a cleaner environment but also to increase efficiency from an operational point of view. These bins have smart technology built into them and will communicate back to base when full and require emptying. Efficiency of big belly bins has increased from 12% at year start to 38% presently.

❖ NTA Projects

- Consultants still working on pedestrian and cycle improvement scheme as part of the Pathfinder project, initial survey completed on the Marlton Road and Rocky Road, linking to the train station on Station Road. A topographical survey of roads and footpaths has taken place along entire route. This information is required as part of the detailed design process.
- Working with NTA to look at Market Street junction with respect to turning movements of buses/ larger vehicles.

❖ WCC General Projects/Maintenance

- New anti-slip surface to be installed on bridge deck in October.
- On-going maintenance of grass care and weed control around Wicklow town, with additional measures used to improve appearance for recent events in Wicklow town.
- OPW works to commence along sea front. This is not a project directly managed by WCC but the MD will work to assist the project to a positive completion.
- Harbour Toilet – works are currently ongoing with expected completion date by end of October. Works on schedule. Showers also to be installed in coming months.
- Glendalough Upper carpark – bin store to be added for aesthetic reasons, line marking of car park to be completed within coming weeks. Traffic management at weekends managed by Wicklow MD.
- Wicklow MD Playgrounds repairs ongoing. Certified bark mulch has been installed at the following; Brockagh, Wicklow Hills, Newtown Community playground and Rathnew playgrounds. Wet pour repairs complete at Roundwood with minor repairs at other playgrounds.

❖ Additional MD projects:

- WCC have issued payments for the following connections. WMD has received MPRN's to progress completion:
 - Laragh Pedestrian Crossing,
 - Moneystown Pedestrian Crossing,

Scheduling of ESB to energise this equipment is being progressed but is very slow.

- Road markings are being progressed around the MD; some have been carried out around the town, with others refreshed at certain locations. Double yellow lines have been completed at Magheramore. Road markings being progressed around Newtown and on RI and RM projects at present. Extensive road markings completed in Hillview housing estate for safety reasons.
- Murrough Masterplan being worked on at present, with concept drawings completed. Identification of existing services underway at present. Services have now been identified as part of review process. WMD are in the process of appointing a consultant to prepare a final design package. 12 week design phase ahead, prior to the lodgement of Part 8 process.
- Footpath to GAA club in Wicklow being progressed by the NTA team. Kerbing has been installed, with concrete path completed on 80% of the project. Drainage and ducting are completed also. Works progressing as scheduled.

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

- Members congratulated the District Engineer, Pat Clarke on his new promotion; they thanked Pat for the outstanding work he has done since his arrival to the Wicklow Municipal District and that his departure would be a huge loss to the Municipal District.
- Update on the sunken lids in Rathnew and the dip at St Ernans. The District Engineer advised that developer is to do night works on the 30/09/24 and commented that he would like to see this issue resolved before his departure.
- Update on Footpath at Merrymeeting View under discretionary fund. The District Engineer advised this will need to be dealt with by his replacement.
- Road markings in Glenealy and Roundwood need renewing. The District Engineer noted that road markings are ongoing in the MD.
- Is there any update on the toilet at the Sandfiner end of the Harbour. The District Engineer advised that this toilet block was the responsibility of the Harbour crew and not the Municipal District. The MD is looking to open the toilets at the rowing club side shortly.
- Public Lighting issue with various lights not working within the Municipal District. The District Engineer advised that a new contactor has been appointed and it will take time for them to get up and running. He advised that public lighting is managed centrally.
- Request for feasibility to look into sea bins to capture waste coming in from the sea. It was noted that this is a very large project.
- Pedestrian crossing at Roundwood needs repainting, reports of cars not stopping at crossing. The District Engineer noted that flashing lights have been installed and it is down to driver behaviour, however, he will examine the line markings.
- Issues at playground at Roundwood. The District Engineer advised that work is ongoing here.
- Ditches at Callow Hill need to be cut back. The District Engineer advised that this is a landowner issue.
- Ballylusk (Coillte), trees need to be cut back. The District Engineer advised that this is the landowners responsibility. Cllr Shane Langrell advised he will speak with Coillte.
- Bus shelter for the new houses in Rathnew. The District Engineer advised this will be a 2025 project and will be looked at with the NTA.
- Laragh GAA Club – clean up to the wall.

ITEM 6

Correspondence

The District Administrator, Georgina Franey outlined a request from the Local Sports Partnership for a member from the Municipal District to be nominated to the committee. It was noted five meetings will be held per year with three meetings being in person.

It was proposed by Cllr Gail Dunne and seconded by Cllr Shane Langrell to nominate Cllr Paul O'Brien to the Wicklow Sports Partnership committee.

ITEM 7

Any Other Business

Cathaoirleach Gail Dunne expressed a vote of sympathy in respect of the late Patrick (Sting) Kavanagh, RIP. Sting's popularity and well known football skills were noted.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 17.00pm.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Date: _____