



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON THE 10th January 2024

Present: Cllr. Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald, Leas-Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke
Cllr. Pat Kennedy
Cllr. Peir Leonard
Cllr. Miriam Murphy

Officials Present: Ms. Leonora Earls, District Manager
Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator
Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer
Ms. Lorraine Hayes ASO

Apologies: None

Press: Eoin Mac Raghnaill

Public: None

Presentations: Patrick O'Connor | Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

Item 1: Votes of Sympathy.

The members expressed votes of sympathy to all families who have recently lost a loved one, all of the members acknowledged that it is an especially tough time of year to lose a loved one.

George Peterson, James Steadman, Laurence (Lar) Scallan, Bridget O'Brien(née Doyle), Ann Gaffney, Martin Carroll, Joseph (Joe) Byrne, Elizabeth (Lily) Foxall(née Nuzum), George Ennis, Patrick (Paddy) Murphy, Martin (Jento) Kenny, John (Tayto) Roche, William 'Billy' O'Loughlin, James Merrigan, Tony (Anthony) Willoughby, Patrick (Peter) Fox, Alan Griffin, Mary Mac Brian(née McCarthy), Clarence Whelan, Bernard Fleming

A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 13th December 2023 were proposed by Cllr. Murphy and was seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald.

Item 3: Matters Arising.

- Further to the recent notice of motion and reply received from the Environment section, to confirm a new fridge unit is required for the Fisherman's shed, it has previously been reconditioned but it is not safe or fit for purpose. A letter should be sent to The Environment Department requiring a replacement fridge.
- A speeding review on the Old Dublin Road revealed that there are no speeding issues at present. We are currently waiting for guidance from the National Plans. Following an agreement at the recent PPC meeting, speed reviews will be forwarded to the Gardaí for their information.

Item 4: Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

Patrick O'Connor delivered an update on the proposed new Arklow/Shillelagh Greenway.

A discussion took place and a number points and concerns were raised by the Elected Members. P O'C confirmed the following:

- Turnaround time for start of construction of Greenway, it is hoped the project will commence before the end of 2025.
- The Greenway will not be passing through the Disabled Angling facility in Aughrim.
- 77% of landowners are engaging with the project team.
- An Ergonomist has been in consultation with landowners to demonstrate the impact the Greenway will have and also to ascertain the best route.
- The road layout at Rednagh Road/Bridge junction will be changed to make the junction safer.
- The Greenway will promote usage of urban areas due to the larger footpaths and more lighting in the areas which are all part of the detail design.
- Tourism will be improved for the Towns and there is room for many new business opportunities en-route.
- It is thought a tar surface will be used in the busy urban areas and loose gravel tails in some rural areas. Tarmac is the most accessible surface type.

Municipal District of Arklow **District Engineer's Report**

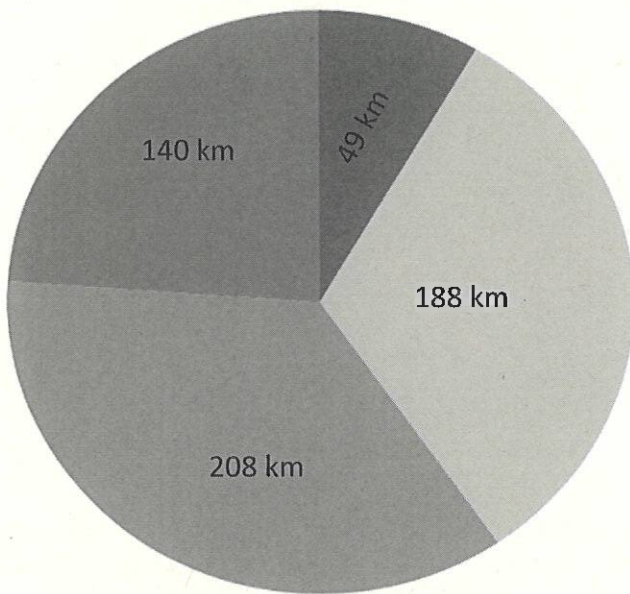
3rd January 2024

Roads

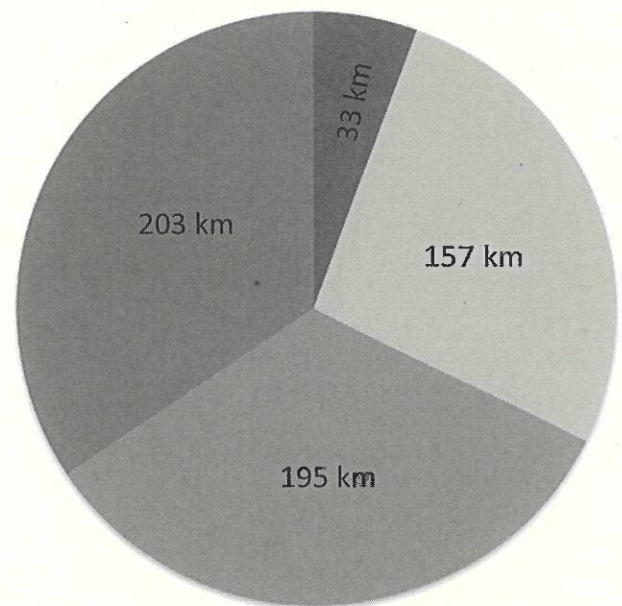
Restoration Improvement & Restoration Maintenance

Working from multi-annual roads programme. Dependent on funding received.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Structural distress (Extensive - some)				Moderate Defects		Surface Defects		Minor - No defects	
01/2024	-	-	1%	5%	8%	19%	25%	8%	20%	14%
02/2023	-	-	1%	7%	11%	22%	26%	9%	8%	16%



Feb-2023



Jan-2024

Proposed Works	Status
Footpath – Brewery Bends	Scheduled with GSS
Upgrade of footpaths 130-204 Fernhill	Completed
Footpath in Greenane	Surfacing complete. Works to back of path to be completed
Public Realm - Rathdrum	Waiting on design & prices for planters
Tree management	Waiting on report
Footpath at RNLi	Scheduling with GSS
Footpaths at Templeraíne Heights	Scheduling with GSS
Bus Shelter in Aughrim	Order.Placed
Bus Shelter in Annacurra	Order Placed
Public lighting at The Birches, Ballinaclesh	Liaising with lighting designer
Public Realm - Arklow	Putting scope of works together
Repair of footpath at Curran's Corner	TBC with GSS
Footpath at Ferrybank	Contractor in place, confirm ownership with businesses

The DE also provided an updated on the following:

BALLYMORRIS JUNCTION

DE and EE looked at the junction of the L-6184 with the R-747 close to the Woodenbridge. There is not an easy solution to improve sightlines in this area. It is not just a matter of cutting back vegetation, the junction is located close to a bend on the R-747 and in order to improve the sightlines in the Aughrim direction, a section of bank needs to be removed. There is a significant level difference between the R-747 and the adjacent land so a large retaining structure is required. AMD would not have funding for this, could possibly be looked at in conjunction with roads and a safety improvement scheme.

LIGHTING IN ANNACURRA

The public lighting team have advised that Annacurra is a rural village classed as E2/E3 in the public lighting guidelines. They have acknowledged that the spacing of the lighting in Annacurra is erratic and advised that as the public lighting is upgraded under the PLEEP scheme, the contractor/designer is required to undertake designs and recommendations for sections that require infill lighting. Initial estimates is that 2 lights could be required at a cost of up to €50k as the excavations will have to take place in the footpath. It is recommended that we wait for the recommendations under the PLEEP scheme as funding could be applied for through PLEEP.

BRIDGEWATER CARPARK

I have arranged with the GSS in Arklow that the carpark will be closed for 3 days in January to facilitate the re-grading of the car park. This will improve the surface of the carpark so there are no potholes. The only way to reduce the re-occurrence of the issue with potholes is to introduce drainage and re-surface the carpark. There is currently no budget available in the MD for a significant

DRAINAGE (the 3 in green at the end weren't raised in December but we have looked at them)

Woodbrook

Location: No's 13-16 had been experiencing issues with water. The drains in the area have been checked and these are clear.

Issue: The road falls towards these properties and the floor level of the properties is below the road level so when the network becomes overwhelmed, the water flows down the steps to the properties.

Solution: We will ensure that drains are maintained and that sandbags are available at the depot for the residents.

Martin's Lane

Location: Road gully at the centre of the lane.

Issue: Water is gathering in the gully and not drainage away. The issue was examined by Uisce Eireann as this is a combined sewer. AMD ensured that this gully was clear and the gully at the end of the road was clear.

Solution: UE jetted the lines, and a blockage was cleared. UE advised the resident that there is a gully at the rain water down pipe that will take overflow and given the fall on the lane and the height of the finished floor level above the road, the property is unlikely to flood.

Woodview Park

Location: Water is ponding at the bottom of the hill.

Issue: The surface water gully here drains to a soak-pit in the green area. Following pro-longed periods of rainfall or short periods of intense rainfall, the ground around the soak pit is either saturated and takes longer for the water to be absorbed into the surrounding ground or the pipes become overwhelmed before the water can soak into the ground.

Solution: No action to take place.

Ballanagh Crescent

Location: No.1 Ballanagh Crescent

Issue: water coming up out of the ground. UE investigated, it was not a leak in the water mains.

Solution: A land drain was installed in the green area to direct the water to the surface water network. We will continue to monitor the situation.

Location: No. 35 Ballanagh Crescent

Issue: Water flowing down the bank adjacent to the property.

Solution: Culvert was cleared; significant levels of illegal dumping had led to the culvert being blocked.

Knockmore

Location: 121-123

Issue: Sewage coming back up through drains due to cross-contamination of the surface water and foul water networks *inside* the property boundary at 123 and possibly 122.

Solution: I met with Pat Fox on this one and we had previously though a non-return valve would alleviate the problem but this won't work. As there is cross-contamination, a non-return valve will still allow foul sewage to come up through the surface water gullies inside the property. The only way to solve the problem is for the homeowners to resolve the issue within their property boundary. There was quite a bit of foul sewage entering the stream at the boundary of the estate and this has been referred to the Environment Section.

Graveyard

Location: Various locations around graveyard

Issues: Water is ponding in various locations. There are a number of factors here but mainly, the soil in the graveyard is marl which has poor soakage so the ground doesn't absorb much water. Also, over time, the levels of the grave have been altered and concrete has been placed in between graves which is holding water which cannot escape due to the differing levels.

Solution: We have placed some gravel between graves in bad spots but this isn't going to solve the issue that the water cannot escape or soak into the ground.

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

No other business set forth.

Item 6: Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting

No other business set forth.

Item 7: Notice of Motion/s

No notices put before the meeting.

Item 8: Correspondence

Correspondence was received from a member of the public in relation to Rathdrum; the correspondence raised concerns which included illegal parking, build-up of rubbish around the bottle bank and road surfacing.

The Elected members asked for these matters to be relayed to the relevant Roads and Environment Sections.

An email was also received from an American Tourist citing how much Arklow has changed over the years.

AB noted that a response had been received from the Environment section with regards to concerns raised by the Members at the December meeting. The concerns related to increased surface water in the District.

"The concerns about surface water drainage are already being considered by the Climate Action Team. These matters are being covered in Wicklow County Council's DRAFT Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 as follows:

Objective 4.3 Protect communities and infrastructure from the risk of flooding

And action 22BET Standardise the management of drainage systems within the council"

Item 9: Any Other Business

- Irish water holding up development of the Town.
- Is North Beach access court case ongoing?
- Local area plan time frame and Planning levies.
- Speeding at Emoclew Road.
- New parking machines

In response to the AOB, the following was confirmed:

- It was proposed to seek clarity on a time frame of works from Irish Water.
- LE confirmed that the Planning Section are waiting for a date for the court case.
- LE confirmed that the Contribution scheme for Local Development Plan is centralised.
- Transportation study will need to be carried out with regard to any new developments.
- Any matters relating to the new parking meters should be addressed to Bray Parking.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th January 2024.

Signed: _____



ClIr Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: _____



Ms. Alvena Brehony, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District