

## MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

HELD IN DISTRICT CHAMBER, TOWN HALL

MONDAY 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 15.15pm

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

**Apologies:** Cllr Gail Dunne

**In Attendance:** District Manager, Brian Gleeson  
District Engineer, William Halligan  
District Administrator, Georgina Franey  
Assistant Staff Officer, Róisín Carroll  
Myles Buchanan, Wicklow People

Leas Cathaoirleach Graham Richmond opened the meeting at 15.18 pm.

### ITEM 1

#### **Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 21st October 2024**

It was proposed by Councillor John Snell, seconded by Councillor Paul O'Brien and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 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 Rockey Road Improvement Scheme.**

The Leas Cathaoirleach welcomed Michael Flynn, Senior Engineer to the meeting.

Wicklow County Council and Wicklow Municipal District have developed the Rockey Road Improvement Project to enhance the road between Junction 17 M11 and Hawkstown Road (Carrig Beag Housing Development) in Wicklow Town. The project aims to provide an alternative route into the town, addressing a critical need for improved access.

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

All members welcomed the proposal.

#### Members Observations:

- Concerns were raised about potential traffic issues, particularly the risk of creating a "rat run" at Friars Hill.
- Members sought clarification on the current stage of land ownership discussions.

- It was noted that the proposed footpath only extends halfway to the junction. Members queried whether preparatory work, such as installing ducting, could be undertaken now to facilitate a full footpath in the future.
- A request was made for an update on the project's overall timescale.

Michael Flynn confirmed that discussions with the landowner are ongoing and progressing positively and constructively. The project is expected to commence in Q1 of 2025, pending funding approval from the Department of Transport, which is anticipated in January or February 2025.

It was proposed by Councillor Paul O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Graham Richmond and unanimously agreed to proceed with the proposed scheme.

### ITEM 3

**To consider the appointment of two members to the working group for the former Ashford Garda Station project.**

- Cllr Shane Langrell was proposed by Cllr Graham Richmond and seconded by Cllr Danny Alvey.
- Cllr John Snell was proposed by Cllr Paul O'Brien and seconded by Cllr Shane Langrell.

### ITEM 4

#### **District Engineers Report**

Updates were provided by District Engineer William Halligan as follows:

#### **Housing:**

##### **❖ Relets/Prelets**

- 2no. houses currently being worked on, through WCC Housing Framework by MD,
- 14no. houses are being managed by WCC Direct Labour,
- 2no. tenders received back, tenders awarded,
- 4no. houses return to WMD for refurbishment.

##### **❖ 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.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Length of Works</b>	<b>Completed to Date</b>
L5093 Barnbawn (Aghowle Upper)	1.1km	Completed, with extension by 700m included
R765 Newtown To Roundwood Road (Slaughter Hill)	1.1km	Completed
R756 Brockagh, Wicklow Gap	0.5km	Completed
L 97632 Knockafrumpa	0.750km	Completed
L 5054 Ford 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	Completed
R 752 Rathnew- Glenealy Road (Miltown Junction)	1.0km	Completed
L 1600 Ballyguille Road	0.250km	Tenders received
L5099 Rockey Road Improvement Project	1.2km	Chief Executive Report to be considered by the Members

#### ❖ Restoration Maintenance

The Countywide Restoration Maintenance started in the Wicklow MD in July.

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

<b>Location</b>	<b>Length of Works</b>	<b>Completed to Date</b>
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 Carrigower	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 all complete.
- Installation of gullies, road crossings and repair of footpath all completed on Glenealy road in advance of surfacing works.
- Installation of road crossings completed at Brittas Bay at location where flooding used to occur.
- Installation of drainage pipe on R755 in advance of LIS scheme near Raheen.

#### ❖ **Local Improvement Scheme Projects**

- Two LIS projects allocated to the Wicklow Municipal District. Both LIS project are now complete.

#### ❖ **Safety Projects**

- Pedestrian crossing civil works completed on the Dunbur Road, issue with cranked pole which is delaying install. Installation to be completed on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. ESB to energise after this.
- Pedestrian crossing to be installed as part of a housing development condition in Ashford, at junction with R763 and R764 within coming weeks.
- Pencil Bollards installed at St Laurence O'Tooles School in Roundwood.
- Bollards have been installed in Wicklow, Rathnew and Roundwood at locations where parking has been an issue.
- Works completed on Wicklow Gap edge protection for 2024.
- Works completed on Slaughter Hill in respect of edge protection works in advance of the surfacing work.
- 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 approx. 3 weeks. Poles have been erected in advance by WCC.
- Solar powered driver feedback signage has been ordered for Ballinahinch, Laragh and Newtownmountkennedy. Poles have been erected in advance of commissioning by WCC at two of the sites. Expected commissioning in approx. 3 weeks.
- Solar powered vehicle activated signage erected on entry to Roundwood from Annamoe side.
- Solar powered vehicle activated signage erected on entry to Rathnew from Glenealy side.
- Footpath linking St Ernan's and St Brigid's Terrace on the R772 has been completed.
- Preparations for the Speed limit review underway, pole install completed, ready for signs. Circular RST-04-2024 issued by Department of Transport on Speed Limits Implementation revised date of 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

### **Abbey Grounds:**

- Project Ongoing. Contractor commenced works on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Schedule for completion of works has been moved back to February 2025 due to prolonged period of poor weather.
- Floor screed complete allowing windows to be installed on 18<sup>th</sup> November.
- Detailed designs still progressing for the Amphitheatre and performance area.
- Material finishes being worked through at present on certain elements of the design. Siberian Larch finish for new buildings now on site and will be installed over the coming week.
- Connection agreements with utility providers have been progressed. Both water and sewer connections now installed. Utilities connection progressing on site.
- Service entrance onto Wentworth Place completed 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 November. Delay due to galvanising issue with gate.
- Conservation and restoration works to existing footbridge at Abbey grounds to be completed at the end of September.

### **Community Recognition Fund/Outdoor Recreation:**

- Brittas Bay Blueway funding for accessibility works; works are completed on upgrade to toilet facilities. Chestnut fencing to be erected in coming months in order to protect the dunes.
- The Assembly Hall facility works are now complete internally. Ducting for ESB & Eircom connections now completed, awaiting ESB to connect power.
- Refurbishment of toilet block at harbour completed internally, door automation being progressed. Outdoor showers to be installed in coming weeks.
- Light projectors being installed at the Courthouse and on Abbey Street, Wicklow to illuminate buildings for different events/or seasons of the year, so as to enhance the ambiance of the area.
- Repairs to the Handball alley to commence on the 29<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Town & Village Renewal:**

- Wicklow Town, Connectivity Project – three ornate arches with lanterns are currently being fabricated for installation along the Doctor's Steps. Town team on design.
- 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 late 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 working along the Seafront, to be complete in a few weeks. This is not a project directly managed by WCC but the MD will work to assist the project to a positive completion.
- Glendalough Upper carpark – bin store to be added for aesthetic reasons, line marking of car park completed. Traffic management at weekends managed by Wicklow MD now finished for 2024.
- Wicklow MD Playgrounds repairs ongoing. Certified bark mulch has been installed at the following Brockagh, Wicklow Hills, Newtownmountkennedy Community playground and Rathnew playgrounds. Wet pour repairs completed at Roundwood with minor repairs at other playgrounds completed also.
- Clean up's of Rathnew and Newtown graveyards are complete (as of 21<sup>st</sup> October).

### **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,

Crossing at Laragh has been energised and is operational.

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.
- Historical lighting mini pillars have been energised. Completion of lights in coming weeks.
- Murrough Masterplan being worked on at present, with concept drawings completed. WMD have appointed a consultant to prepare a final design package. 10 week design phase ahead, prior to the lodgement of Part 8 process. Pump Track tender documents being drafted currently. Both Ongoing.
- Footpath to GAA club in Wicklow being progressed by the NTA team. Kerbing has been installed, with concrete path completed on 85% of the project. Drainage and ducting are completed also. Works progressing as scheduled.
- New cross being manufactured for Three Mile Water cemetery to be erect in coming weeks.

### **Discretionary Fund projects:**

- Wicklow Seafront Toilets – Refurbishment is completed and new doors installed.
- Roundwood – Two ramps from Playground to GAA Club. One ramp new has been installed and an existing ramp has been replaced/repared.
- Roundwood – Length of footpath Playground to GAA Club. New pole has been installed to enable reconfiguration of telecommunication lines for surfacing and footpath works.

- Rathnew – Resurfacing of the Old village has been completed, road line marking has commenced.
- Newtown –Killmullen traffic calming, new sign has been installed. Site visit to assess possibility of installing anti-skid surface.
- Fund to repair footpaths in MD. Installation of new footpaths at Saint Patricks Road, Wicklow Town has commenced.
- Church Hill Traffic calming – Communications with stakeholders commenced.

## **MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS**

- Overgrown trees are a concern at Marlton Park, Wicklow Town. The Residents' Association is willing to cut them but needs help with green waste removal. The District Engineer advised that there are insurance concerns with the RA carrying out tree works. The budget only covers trees posing an immediate safety risk.
- Footpath dishing is needed at Marlton Court for wheelchair and buggy access. The District Engineer advised that this work can be carried under the footpath monies allocated from the Discretionary funding.
- Meadowgate open space area is causing ASB and other issues. Can the engineer visit to assess?  
The District Engineer advised that ASB is a Gardaí matter, and there is no current budget for maintaining these spaces, however he did agree to walk the area.
- Status of the footpath connecting Avondale Hall to Ballynerrin Road.  
The District Engineer advised that the footpath layout has been agreed. The developer is due to commence work in February 2025.
- Residents are concerned about road safety pulling out of Belview Court. Can alternatives to the mirror be explored?  
The District Engineer advised that the installation of a mirror is not appropriate. A traffic monitor will be installed for two weeks to gather data for potential solutions.
- Large potholes in Newtown. Can they be repaired soon?  
The District Engineer advised repairs will be completed by the end of the week.
- Status of the pedestrian crossing outside Vartry Woods?  
The District Engineer advised he has logged the query with the developer.
- Uisce Éireann's ongoing works are causing disruption. Can the MD help push for completion?  
The District Engineer advised a query has been lodged with Uisce Éireann for follow-up.
- Are any footpath repairs scheduled before year-end? Worst areas include Glenview Park in Kilpeddar and others.  
The District Engineer advised footpath works planned at Glebemount estate. Other areas will be added to the list.
- A request was made for the installation of a fence at Cluain Ban, Laragh. The District Engineer confirmed that this could be funded through the Discretionary Fund.  
Cllr Graham Richmond proposed, and Cllr John Snell seconded, the allocation of €1,000 from the fund. The proposal was unanimously approved by all members.
- Concerns were raised about people parking their cars in Newtownmountkennedy for the day while commuting to Dublin. The District Administrator explained that Wicklow Municipal District is unable to enforce parking regulations in this area, as Newtownmountkennedy is not included in the current Wicklow County Council parking byelaws. The byelaws are scheduled for an update in 2025.

- Callow Hill hedge cutting. The District Engineer informed that letters regarding hedge cutting will be sent to the relevant landowners.
- Beechwood residents have requested that the ramps be repainted.
- Request for a disabled swing at Roundwood playground.
- Moss on footpath on road beside the Woodpecker, Ashford.
- Dunbur road ramps need repainting.
- Request for public lighting down to GAA club in Laragh.
- Poles to be removed on old pedestrian crossing on Dunbur Road.
- Request to postpone any works on Church Hill (one way system) until the Rockey Road improvement works are complete. The District Manager noted that following a request from the Wicklow Chamber of Commerce and the Town Team, he gave commitment to re-examine the one way system on Church Hill. He added that this was not a commitment to reverse the current system. WMD will be consulting with the school, residents and indeed the emergency services and this will be done before any final decision is recommended.
- Request for old motorway signs to be removed from Ashford Village.
- Issue of speed on Milltown lane.
- Rockey Road/Harbour View light is blocked by bushes.
- Manhole covers around Main Street, no response has been received from EIR. The District Engineer advised that he will look into the matter.
- Salt House Lane signage to indicate water (harbour) ahead.
- Cllr Snell asked if the District Engineer would meet him to discuss the turnaround time for vacant houses / relets.
- Public lighting – while it was noted that this is managed centrally by WCC, the backlog and the lack of response to emails is unacceptable. It is noted that this was discussed at the Roads SPC and the Directorate is to examine the possibility of a new in house team. It was suggested that a general statement should be issued by WCC to inform members of the public.
- Fishers Junction, Newtownmountkennedy – backlash is unacceptable and WMD is being blamed for the situation. It was suggested to meet with the developers moving forward to address any issues.
- Cllr Snell would like to commend the projects completed to date, including Milltown Lane, Glenealy Graveyard, Old Village resurfacing in Rathnew and the Abbey Grounds. He particularly noted the high standard of workmanship on the wall of the Parochial House.

## **ITEM 5**

### **Correspondence**

The District Administrator received an email from Planet Youth requested funding of €1,000 from each of the five Municipal Districts from the discretionary funding. She stated that she had discussed the matter with the other DA's and the District Manager and it was agreed that it is more appropriate for the Community team centrally.



**ITEM 6**

**Any Other Business**

Members expressed their gratitude to the District Administrator, Georgina Franey, the staff of Wicklow Municipal District and the Wicklow Chamber of Commerce for organising the Christmas Lights event. They noted the event's great success, with a significant turnout, and commended it for being a safe and enjoyable occasion for both children and adults.

Cllr Paul O'Brien complimented the committee in Roundwood for organising the commemoration marking the 50th anniversary of President Erskine Childers' death in office, which was held at Derralossary Graveyard, Roundwood.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 16.42 p.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Date: \_\_\_\_\_