

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

HELD IN DISTRICT CHAMBER, TOWN HALL

MONDAY 21st OCTOBER 2024 at 15.00pm

Present: Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr 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, Pat Clarke
District Administrator, Georgina Franey
T/Senior Executive Engineer, William Halligan
Myles Buchanan, Wicklow People

Leas Cathaoirleach Graham Richmond opened the meeting at 15.00 pm.

Cllr Graham Richmond wished the Cathaoirleach, Gail Dunne the best of wishes for his upcoming surgery.

He also welcomed the incoming District Engineer, William Halligan to the meeting.

ITEM 1

Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 16th September 2024

It was proposed by Councillor John Snell, seconded by Councillor Shane Langrell and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on 16th September 2024.

ITEM 2

To consider report on the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal Districts in respect of the year ending 2025

The report of the Chief Executive on the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal Districts of Wicklow County Council for the financial year ending 31st December 2025 had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting. The Draft Budgetary Plan was prepared in accordance with Section 102 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended by Section 58 of the Local Government (LG) Reform Act 2014.

District Manager Brian Gleeson presented the Budgetary Plan to the members and advised that it is part of the Draft Local Authority Budget which goes for consideration at the Annual Budget Meeting scheduled for the 25th November.

The General Municipal Allocation for Wicklow Municipal District is €275,650.

District Manager advised members that the Budgetary Plan could be adopted with or without amendment.

Members Observations:

- A query was raised as to the breakdown of the figure of €9,000 for economic development and promotion. District Manager advised that it includes Tidy Towns and economic initiatives such as 'shop local' etc.
- The revenue generated from Glendalough and Brittas Bay car parks should be allocated to the Municipal District. The District Manager advised that the Environment section have expenses for Glendalough and Brittas Bay which must be covered.
- A query was raised if the figures will be broken down at the plenary Budget meeting in November and the District Manager advised that it will be split via MD.

It was proposed by Councillor Paul O'Brien, seconded by Councillor John Snell and unanimously agreed to adopt the Draft Budgetary Plan for Wicklow Municipal District.

ITEM 3

To discuss the proposal in relation to the Brideshead Recreation Plan

A proposal prepared by consultants on behalf of the Sports Partnership section was circulated to the members as follows:

The aim of the plan is to create a space that welcomes and caters for all in the community, fostering increased levels of inclusion and involvement.

- Social Impact
 - Enhancing social inclusion and reducing isolation
 - Creating opportunities for social innovation through new social assets
- Community Impact
 - Providing opportunities for community activity
 - Increasing participation levels
 - Delivering pride of place
- Wellbeing Impact
 - Physical Wellbeing
 - Social Wellbeing
 - Community Wellbeing
- Environmental Impact
 - Minimise impact on the environment
 - Seek to blend elements into surrounding retaining existing vegetation and topography where possible

The proposal includes zones of activity linked by walking and cycling paths.

Community Gardens

Establishment of garden space incorporating raised and wheelchair accessible beds for use by community groups and individuals.

Sensory Gardens

Creation of a fully accessible sensory garden and trail.

Learning Cycle Track

A looped cycling track with profiled turns and berms to cater for learn to cycle beginners and children on balance bikes.

Parking & Facilities

- Public toilets incorporating Changing Places
- Parking including provision for EVs and secure bike storage and maintenance point

Dog Park

- Secure dog park creating a dedicated space for dog owners
- Reduce issues relating to dog fouling etc. in other parts of the site

Adventure Playground

- Childrens playground with design elements to incorporate natural features and materials

The District Manager advised that this is a Special Protection Area most suitable to recreation and amenity. The proposal is currently a draft and feedback is sought from the members.

District Engineer advised that the plan is currently just a concept and could be changed following feedback.

Members Observations:

- An excellent use of land while also taking into account the SAC and the local residents.
- Query raised regarding car parking spaces, CCTV and lighting.
- There is potential to accommodate the Mens Shed on site who are currently without a premises. It was stated that this could also facilitate passive surveillance of the area and maintenance of the community gardens.
- How soon could works commence and is funding available?
District Manager advised that there is no funding at present and when the Masterplan is finalised, the issue of funding will be examined.
District Engineer advised that it could be carried out in phases.
- Funding in relation to the Hawkstown site was raised. It was also queried would the services be free of charge if the Council funded the facility? The District Manager responded that there seems to be a 4 year gap between (Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund) LSSIF funding calls with Summer 2023 being the last call. He added that, to date, no allocation has been. He also stated that if the Council funded the facility (through LSSIF or similar) then the facility would operate similar to Coral Leisure or Shoreline and it would not be free to users.
- Query regarding size of the site – 25-30 acres approx.
- Infrastructure needed, bio-diversity welcome.
- Would like to see the engagement of an independent ecologist in relation to nature restoration. This is a special area for birds.
- Possibility of input from Tidy Towns and ReWild Wicklow.
- Concern raised regarding anti-social behaviour and maintenance.
- Would like to see provision for small café.
- Concern regarding the dog park. Do we really need it?
- Possibility of securing funding from Codling Wind Park.
- Would like to see the Hawkstown site prioritised.

ITEM 4

District Engineers Report

Updates were provided by District Engineer Pat Clarke as follows:

Housing:

❖ Relets/Prelets

- 3no. houses returned to Housing Department for allocation (since end of September 2024),
- 2no. houses currently being worked on, through WCC Housing Framework by MD,
- 8no. houses are being progressed by WCC Direct Labour,
- 2no. tenders received back, and works to be progressed within coming weeks,
- 1no. tenders to be issued on properties by end of October.

❖ 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	Completed
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	Tenders received. Section 38 closed
R 752 Rathnew - Glenealy Road (Milltown Junction)	1.0km	Completed
L 1600 Ballyguille Road	0.250km	Tenders received

L5099 Rocky Road Improvement Project	1.2km	Part 8 process has started, to finish 24 th October, report after that
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❖ 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.

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 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. One LIS completed with second LIS started with completion date of the 25th October.

❖ Safety Projects

- Pedestrian crossing civil works completed on the Dunbur Road, issue with cranked pole which is delaying install. Installation to be completed on 22nd 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 Crossroads, 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 Newtownmountkenedy. 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 and signage works to be completed early November.

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 have been progressed. Both water and sewer connections now installed
- 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 October.
- 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 connection to be completed externally next week.

- 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 29th 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, Newtownmountkenedy Community playground and Rathnew playgrounds. Wet pour repairs completed at Roundwood with minor repairs at other playgrounds completed also.
- Clean ups of Rathnew and Newtown graveyards are complete (as of 21st 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,

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.
- 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.

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

- Members paid tribute to District Engineer, Pat Clarke, who is transferring to the Housing Section of Wicklow County Council. They acknowledged the huge amount of work he had done and wished him well in his new role. They also wished the incoming District Engineer, William Halligan well.
- Update sought on Brittas Bay footpath
District Engineer advised that funding is ring-fenced, it is hoped to progress the Part VIII process in the coming months and to start work before Christmas.
- Query re Aires Park at The Murrough
District Engineer advised that it is linked to the Murrough Masterplan and consultants to examine.
- Members welcomed news that the former Bayview Hotel will be redeveloped.
- Problem of speeding traffic on approach roads to town
District Engineer advised that there is only a limited amount that can be done from an engineering perspective, installation of ramps could be examined, but not possible to install ramps at all locations, enforcement of speed limits is a matter for An Garda Síochána. Speed limits to be reduced nationally from November.
- Provision of water supply to Kilmurry graveyard
District Engineer advised that the possibility of harvesting rain water could be examined.
- Possibility of holding Christmas market at Market Square
District Administrator advised members that an Event Licence would be required as the the only designated casual trading area is Abbey Street carpark.
- Members welcomed redevelopment works at the Ball Alley
District Engineer advised that it is hoped to commence work shortly.
- Members commended the recent road works at Slaughter Hill but referred to the problem of speeding here.
- Problem of speeding at Beechwood, Laragh – possibility of installing ramps.
- Beacons at crossing in Laragh not flashing.
District Engineer advised that work is 90% complete.
- Residents of Ashwood, Roundwood seeking ramps.
- Ramp outside An Tóchar GAA club removed

District Engineer advised it is hoped to have work done here in addition to speed limit signs under discretionary funding.

- Ramps require painting at Church Road, Newtownmountkennedy.
- Dead trees in green area near Mc Coys shop, Laragh.
- Query if flashing beacons to be provided at raised ramp near Hanleys, Ashford
District Engineer advised developer for Ballinahinch housing development to install in next few weeks.
- Lighting along footpath from Lynams, Laragh to Rathdrum
District Engineer advised that this could possibly be done under discretionary fund.
- Problems exiting from Parkview Hotel, Newtown
District Engineer advised that the lights at Fishers junction were installed by the housing developers and it is hoped that they will be switched on and the road opened on Thursday.
- Residents request to have the road at Ballinastoe resurfaced
District Engineer advised that this can be examined for future road surfacing programmes.
- Church Road, Newtownmountkennedy – potential development, wall to be retained, safety barriers needed.
- Green light not working at Marlton Court pedestrian crossing/hedging obscuring
District Engineer advised that he would contact Civic.
- Pole at Kilmullen Lane - to be installed tomorrow.
- Query re tree cutting in estates
District Engineer advised that there is little the Council can do.
- Number of large potholes in Newtown – to be examined.
- New gates and cross at Three Mile Water cemetery welcomed.
It was stated that there is a lack of parking space here especially for funerals and a query was raised as to CPO of land for this purpose – to consult with Environment Section.
- Possibility of providing “Children at Play” signs at Springfield Heights, Newtown.
- Road resurfacing on the Glenealy-Rathdrum road was welcomed.
- Outdoor staff crews were commended for their work during the recent storm.
- Difficulty in turning for the Primary Care Centre at Knockrobin
District Engineer advised that Civic are looking at the lights but the problem is down to volume of traffic.
- Flooding at Ballyduff Lane.
- Footpaths and potholes in Glebemount require attention
District Engineer advised that tenders have been received.

At this point, 4.45pm, it was proposed by Councillor John Snell and seconded by Councillor Paul O'Brien to grant a time extension

- Problem of dog fouling at Broadlough since footpath was widened – dog owner responsibility.

District Engineer, Pat Clarke, thanked the members and said he had enjoyed working with them and getting projects done.

Update on M11 Bus Park and Ride at Junction 16, Ashford

The Cathaoirleach welcomed John Bowes, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation and Infrastructure Delivery to the meeting. John gave a brief presentation to the members on the proposed Bus Park and Ride at Junction 16, Ashford in advance of the planned briefing by the NTA at the November Plenary Council meeting to be held on 6th November. It is proposed to conduct the

Part V111 public consultation in November. The park will comprise of 210 spaces, 2 bus bays and set down area, taxi rank.

Members welcomed the proposal and said it is a perfect location and would benefit everyone in the surrounding towns and villages.

ITEM 5

To consider the Christmas 2024 parking arrangements

The District Administrator advised that 2 hours free parking is recommended in the car parks and all day free parking at The Murrough carpark from 18th November 2024 to 2nd January 2025. It was proposed that no free on-street parking be given this year as this had previously caused difficulties. She advised that the Chamber of Commerce are in favour of this and it is also in line with the practice in other large towns across the County. Signs will be placed advising of the arrangement and it will also be advertised on social media. The date for switch on of the Christmas lights is Sunday 17th November.

It was proposed by Councillor Graham Richmond, seconded by Councillor John Snell and agreed to proceed with the recommendation.

ITEM 6

Correspondence

The District Administrator advised members that an official invitation was received to attend a Christmas event in Montigny Le Bretonneux from Friday 29th November to Sunday 1st December. As the Cathaoirleach will be unable to attend it is protocol that the Leas Cathaoirleach would represent Wicklow MD at the event. It is proposed to take a stand at the market to promote Wicklow i.e. Wicklow Craft, Wicklow Naturally, Shuttleknit etc.

Members commended the District Administrator and the Twinning Committee and stated that this was a great opportunity and wished them well.

Correspondence was received from Wicklow Cancer Support seeking funding to provide comfort kits for people undergoing chemotherapy. It was stated that community groups should explore all avenues of funding available prior to seeking discretionary monies. The District Administrator advised that she was happy to meet such groups. It was noted that Rathdrum Cancer Support recently secured funding through Leader.

It was proposed by Councillor Paul O'Brien and seconded by Councillor Graham Richmond to allocate €2,500 from the discretionary funding to Wicklow Cancer Support to purchase comfort kits.

Correspondence received from Wicklow Pride Festival thanking the Council for their support and commitment to the festival.

The District Administrator received an email from the Roads and Transportation team regarding the time change for their SPC. In order to facilitate Councillors Shane Langrell and Danny Alvey, it was suggested that the Wicklow MD meeting in November commence at 3.15pm.

It was proposed by Councillor John Snell, seconded by Councillor Paul O'Brien to amend the time of the Ordinary meeting of Wicklow Municipal District on 18th November 2024 to 3.15pm.

ITEM 7

Any Other Business

Following the recent briefing from the NTA at the WCC meeting, Members requested that clarification be sought from the NTA in relation to a number of items.

The District Administrator noted that this was a briefing to the plenary Council and if they wanted a letter to be issued from the Chief Executive then this would have to be raised at the plenary meeting. She added that the members could issue a letter from the six Wicklow MD members through the Municipal District office.

Salt Boxes – the District Engineer advised that 18 boxes were purchased. Members were in agreement that the District Engineer would prioritise locations based on calls received and topography. Greenhill Road in Wicklow town and Springfield Heights, Newtownmountkennedy were mentioned as areas that require boxes.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 17.32pm.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Date: _____