

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

HELD IN DISTRICT CHAMBER, TOWN HALL

MONDAY 29th JULY 2024 at 15.15pm

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
Myles Buchanan, Wicklow People

Cathaoirleach Gail Dunne opened the meeting at 15.15 pm.

ITEM 1

Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 27th May 2024

It was proposed by Councillor Paul O'Brien, seconded by Councillor John Snell and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on 27th May 2024.

ITEM 2

Confirmation of the Minutes from the Municipal District Annual Meeting held on the 24th June 2024

It was proposed by Councillor Graham Richmond, seconded by Councillor Shane Langrell and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Annual Meeting held on 24th June 2024.

ITEM 3

To consider Chief Executive's 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 7 houses at Merrymeeting View, Rathnew (Phase 3)

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Helena Fallon, Senior Executive Engineer and Admire Kamusoko, Executive Engineer to the meeting.

Members were presented with plans of the proposal for construction of 7 social houses consisting of 5 no. one bedroom single storey units of 48 sqm each and 2 no. one bedroom single storey units of 49 sqm each.

Helena Fallon outlined details of this infill development which is particularly suitable for Age Friendly units advising that there is strong demand for one bedroom units in the area. The site will also contribute to the creation of sustainable mixed communities in accordance with national and local

statutory planning policy. The design of the development has been carefully considered so as to provide a high level of passive surveillance on both the area of open space and public access areas. The design of the dwellings provide for a direct frontage onto all public areas ensuring the provision of a safe, secure and enjoyable residential development. The house types proposed are designed to be in keeping with the existing social housing units in Phase 1 and Phase 2.

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

All members welcomed the proposal stating that one bedroom units were badly needed and that bungalow type houses were difficult to come by. They commended the housing staff on the design. A query was raised regarding delivery time and members were advised that it was hoped to have the contractor on site by the end of the year and that development would be complete by the end of 2025.

It was proposed by Councillor Paul O'Brien, seconded by Councillor John Snell and unanimously agreed to proceed with the proposed development.

ITEM 4

Update from the Wicklow Local Sports Partnership Coordinator regarding the masterplans for Brides Head and Hawkstown Road sites

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Aisling Hubbard, Local Sports Partnership Coordinator to the meeting.

Aisling advised that as Brides Head is a heritage site it would be primarily an outdoor recreation area and development was more complicated.

Aisling presented the draft consultants report on the Hawkstown Road Sports and Recreation Amenity Site to the members as follows:

Survey Feedback – Gaps in Recreation and Sport Facilities in Wicklow Town
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Indoor

- Multi-user facilities
- Accommodate wider community use, e.g. meeting space of scale
- Indoor sports facilities
- Equipment storage

Outdoor

- All weather training facility
- Athletics track
- Space for track and field events
- Running routes and trails
- Basketball courts
- Alternative racket sports

Wider Town

- No primary sports complex
- Focus required on non-sporting groups
- Insufficient and low-quality facilities for size of community

- Insufficient number of pitches and courts to meet demand

Survey Feedback – ‘Projects’ for Wicklow Town

Indoor

- Accessibility
- Multi-user community facility
- Showers, toilets, changing facilities
- Multi-purpose sports hall
 - Community activities
 - Basketball
 - Volleyball
 - Table tennis
 - Boxing

Outdoor

- Accessibility
- All weather, floodlit training pitch
- Walking/running trails
- 200m athletics track
- MUGA courts accommodating range sports
- Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS)
- Car & Bus Parking

Key Features

1. Development of Community Space (inc. sports hall)
2. 200m athletics track with sprint lane
3. All-weather MUGA/Basketball Courts
4. Floodlit All-Weather full-size pitch
5. Illuminated running/walking/cycling trails

All members welcomed the proposal highlighting that the amount of new homes in the area within the last five years was extraordinary. It was also stated that the County Town should have better facilities.

A query was raised regarding timeframe for delivery but the members were advised that it wasn't possible to give this at present and they asked to be kept up to date with progress.

District Manager indicated that it was necessary to have shovel ready projects when funding becomes available. He advised that funding could be sought under the Large Scale Infrastructure Fund for Sports.

A query was raised as to how the facility would be managed. Aisling advised that there was no decision yet regarding management. District Engineer advised that a decision will be made when the facility is finalised. District Manager stated that it would be practical to have community groups involved but all options will be examined. At present it is a work in progress.

It was indicated that astroturf pitches require a huge amount of maintenance.

The matter of a possible lack of parking space was raised.

It was indicated that a playground is badly required in the area, as the new estates on Marlton Road don't have any playground.

District Engineer advised that the members comments would be taken on board.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Aisling for her presentation.

ITEM 5

Update on Speed Limit Review

The District Engineer advised members that in accordance with the Road Traffic Act 2024 reduced default speed limits for certain road types will be introduced on a phased basis. This is being implemented in order to reduce the number of accidents occurring on all roads and to lessen the impact of collisions on all road users.

- November 2024

It is proposed to reduce speed limits on rural local roads from 80km/h to 60km/h.

- Quarter 1 2025

It is proposed to reduce speed limits on national secondary roads from 100km/h to 80km/h. It is also proposed to reduce speed limits in built up areas from 50km/h to 30km/h.

Members welcomed these changes in order to try and reduce fatalities.

District Engineer advised that as part of the process all signage will be upgraded which is being put out to tender.

ITEM 6

District Engineers Report

Updates were provided by District Engineer Pat Clarke as follows:

Housing:

❖ Relets/Prelets

- 5no. houses returned to Housing Department for allocation (since 23/05/24),
- 3no. houses currently being worked on through WCC Housing Framework by MD,
- 5no. houses are being progressed by WCC Direct Labour,
- 3no. tenders received back and works to be progressed within coming weeks,
- 4no. tenders to be issued on properties by end of July.

❖ Maintenance and operations

- On-going repairs and maintenance being progressed as required on housing stock within the WMD.
- All complete, only snags remaining, future DPGs to be completed by Housing Centrally.

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
L1039 Carrigower	0.8km	Not started
L5093 Barnbawn (Aghowle Upper)	1.1km	Completed, with extension by 700m included
R765 Newtown To Roundwood Road (Slaughter Hill)	1.1km	Advance works have started on site
R756 Brockagh, Wicklow Gap	0.5km	Completed
L 97632 Knockafrumpa	0.5km	Completed
L 5054 Ford Road	1.75km	Completed
L 1051 Callow Hill	1.0km	Not started, Tenders received
L 1051- L 5062 Prospect to Ballyduff Cross Roads	3.0km	Not started, Tenders received
L 5597 Milltown Lane	1.0km	Not started, Tenders received
R 752 Rathnew - Glenealy Road (Milltown Junction)	0.750km	Tenders received, to start in coming weeks
L 1600 Ballyguille Road	0.250km	Not started
L5099 Rocky Road Improvement Project	1.2km	Part 8 to be completed

❖ **Restoration Maintenance**

The Countywide Restoration Maintenance start in the Wicklow MD in July due to poor weather conditions.

Advance works such as drainage and verge widening works has started on RM Roads. Main list of RM 2024 projects below:

Location	Length of Works	Completed to Date
R762 Glenealy Road	2.1km	Pad Coat complete, Second layer to be completed within coming weeks

L 11001 Knockrobin Estate Road	0.5km	Completed
R 755 Djouce To Calary	1.5km	Pad Coat complete, Second layer to be completed within coming weeks
R 756 Brockagh, Wicklow Gap	1.8km	Pad Coat complete, Second layer to be completed within coming weeks
L 1036 Stoney Pass Road	1.7km	Completed
L 1035 Powers Avenue	1.75km	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 have begun in advance of surfacing works.
- Installation of gullies and road crossings have been completed on Glenealy road in advance of surfacing works.
- Installation of road crossings completed at Barnbawn in advance of recycling works.

❖ **Safety Projects:**

- Pedestrian crossing civil works is finished at Mountainview in Newtownmountkennedy. Installation of belisha beacon poles are completed, ESB connection completed and crossing to be energised by end of July.
- Periodic School Signage has been installed at various locations in the WMD. Signage at school in Ashford to completed before schools return.
- Works completed on Wicklow Gap edge protection in late June.

Fáilte Ireland (Abbey Grounds):

- Project Ongoing. Contractor commenced works on 10th June and project continuing on schedule. Current works are focused on ensuring the structure is safe and fit for purpose, alongside the addition of a separate toilet block for both park and commercial customers.
- 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.
- Erection of temporary site fencing has been installed around areas of interest on site, as per National Monuments requirements.
- Service entrance onto Wentworth Place complete in advance of planned works for the park and amphitheatre.
- Construction of new entrance for Parochial House is ongoing and scheduled to be complete in the coming weeks.

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, with the contractor to remove security fencing next week. Toilet block works are complete, 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 have been erected. New information lecterns have been erected. Line marking of South beach car park has been completed.

- The Assembly Hall facility works started on Monday 4th of March as specified, with a completion date of June 2024. Works include the upgrade of electrical and heating systems, refurbishment of existing toilets and kitchen facilities, creating of a meeting room space upstairs to create a multi-functional building for different user groups, plus other aesthetic improvements throughout the building. Works are substantially complete with only snags and an ESB connection to be completed.

Town & Village Renewal:

- Wicklow Town – South Quay connections to Main Street (Connectivity Project); Three ornate arches with lanterns are currently being fabricated for installation along the Doctor's Steps, cabling works now complete for this part of the works. Planters have been added to protect the heron from anti-social behaviour. Website currently being developed to include trail map and project information. New ornate safety barriers have been installed at bottom of the doctor's steps and outside the scouts den.
- Lighting heads along the Mall and Market Square have been completed. Mini Mural on Bridge Street Books wall has been completed, plus an additional mural at the sailing club and on New Street.
- 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.

❖ 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 to take place along entire route over coming weeks. 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:

- 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 expected to start week after bank holiday weekend in August to upgrade the two toilets.
- Glendalough Upper Car Park – bin store to be added for aesthetic reasons, line marking of car park to be completed within coming weeks.

❖ 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.
- Murrugh Masterplan being worked on at present, with concept drawings completed, landscape architect required to detail up concept. Identification of existing services underway at present. Services have now been identified as part of review process. The Murrugh Masterplan has been put out to tender for a consultant to prepare a final design package. Tender review process scheduled for mid-August, with award by end of August.
- Footpath to GAA club in Wicklow being progressed by the NTA team. Kerbing was installed, with concrete path being laid at present. Drainage and ducting are completed also. Works progressing as scheduled.

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

- Members commended the District Engineer, District Administrator and staff on how well Wicklow town looked during the recent festivals – Round Ireland Yacht Race, Pride Festival, Leinster Fleadh and Regatta Festival.
District Engineer advised that the outdoor crew had put in a lot of work including overtime and he would pass on the comments to them.
- Residents of Knockafrumpa Lane appreciated the recent works done here.
- Regular maintenance of playgrounds required in order to prevent them becoming dilapidated, Ballynerrin playground in need of works.
- Request if the surface of Roundwood playground could be examined and possibly replaced with wood chips, also needs to be tidied up.
- A report was requested on all playgrounds.

District Engineer advised that work is ongoing on playgrounds and a grant has been sought for Ballynerrin. He advised that a report on playgrounds will be provided for the next meeting.

- Lack of toilet facilities at Wicklow Harbour.
District Engineer advised that the toilet block at the harbour was outside the remit of the Municipal District. Works due to start after the bank holiday. He said he would take on board the suggestion of providing portaloos.
- A query was raised as to whether two portaloos could be provided ahead of the bank holiday weekend.
- Bank Wall – overgrown with nettles.
District Engineer advised that the General Services Supervisor would inspect.
- Fishers Junction, Newtownmountkennedy - representations received regarding safety and request for lights to be turned on and road markings completed.
District Engineer advised that there were a lot of issues here and the Council was working with the developer to progress. It is hoped that the new layout is close to completion.

- Footpaths in older estates in bad condition, i.e. Glebemount.
District Engineer advised that funding had been allocated and work would be done on the footpath programme in the latter half of the year. It won't be possible to do all areas, he is aware of the problems arising from trees in Glebemount.
- Uneven footpath around AIB in Wicklow town.
District Engineer advised he would examine. New surfacing carried out here recently.
- Dangerous junction at Tinakilly Park.
District Engineer advised that sequencing of traffic lights would be examined.
He also advised that the Part V111 consultation process for proposed improvement works at Rocky Road was commencing and funds were allocated. He said that when these works are complete it should ease pressure on the main route to/from Wicklow town.
- Update on lighting at Doctors Steps.
Members were advised that the Town Team had commissioned a fabricator for the ornate arches and it was hoped works would be complete in eight weeks.
- Paintwork on ramps at Keeleys Roundwood.
District Engineer advised the Council intends to do some re-painting but weather conditions must be favourable.
- Forestry gates at Ballinahinch, Newtown – possibility of moving barrier closer to the road to prevent parking and anti-social behaviour. Matter for Coillte.
- Verge cutting on road to GAA Club in Newtownmountkennedy.
District Engineer advised that under Section 70 of the Roads Act it is the responsibility of landowners to maintain their hedges. If they don't comply the onus is on the local authority to cut and bring the landowner to court to recoup costs, which is a very costly process. He advised that an advertisement was run in the Farmers Journal to remind landowners of their responsibility.
- Church Road Newtownmountkennedy requires road marking.
District Engineer advised that the Council is trying to upgrade road markings as much as possible but the budget for this is very limited.
- Provision of bin at scenic carpark in Wicklow Town.
District Manager advised that this matter was discussed previously and it was felt that placing a bin here would attract dumping and that people must take responsibility for their own rubbish and bring it home.
- Dangerous entrance on R752 between Rathnew and Glenealy. Location to be clarified.
- Query from Marlton Park Residents Association as to whether the MD would take away green waste from the estate.
District Engineer advised that there is no budget for such works.
- Update requested for Rocky Road upgrade works.

- Query regarding provision of pedestrian crossing in Ashford for residents coming from Ballinahinch.
District Engineer advised that the Council would try to work with the developer.
- Query regarding responsibility for cutting of an area at Marlton Road.
District Engineer advised that last year a hedgecutter was obtained from Bray to cut back this area. He said that after 31st August this could be done again. He also advised that the area would be examined in view of anti-social behaviour. The issue of broken public lighting has been referred to the public lighting section. He advised that it was envisaged that this area would link out to Hawkstown Road and the matter would be reviewed.
- Murrough sewerage plant – representations received from residents regarding foul odour from plant. A meeting with Irish Water/Veolia was requested.
- Rathnew cemetery – it was indicated that a lot of graves have fallen into disrepair as there are no relatives left. A query was raised as to whether an “adopt a grave” policy could be examined as happens in other areas.

It was indicated that an Urn Wall is urgently required in Rathnew cemetery as a lot of people are now cremated.

District Engineer advised that some work had been done on graves and the options would be checked out. He said he would consult with the Environment Section.

He also advised members that a new set of gates were being erected at Three Mile Water cemetery and the cross was taken down for refurbishment. He would check with the Heritage Officer if the old gates were listed.

ITEM 7

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

ITEM 8

Any Other Business

Members were advised that the information event in relation to the refurbishment of the old Garda Station in Ashford was rescheduled for early September. District Manager advised that the Municipal District will have at least one representative, possibly two on the working group. This will be revisited at a later date. Councillors Shane Langrell, John Snell and Paul O’Brien expressed an interest. District Manager advised that members could agree nominations among themselves.

Councillor Paul O’Brien expressed interest in being a representative on the Wicklow Sports Partnership. This matter to be raised at the September meeting.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 17.26pm.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Date: _____