

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

HELD IN DISTRICT CHAMBER, TOWN HALL

MONDAY 16th DECEMBER 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, William Halligan
District Administrator, Georgina Franey
Myles Buchanan, Wicklow People
Maurice Mitchell, Wicklow Community Services

Leas Cathaoirleach Graham Richmond opened the meeting at 15.00 pm.

ITEM 1

Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 18th November 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 18th November 2024.

ITEM 2

Presentation in relation to the proposed Part 8 for the Murrough Masterplan

The Leas Cathaoirleach welcomed Declan O'Leary and Martin Powell from consultants Cunnane Stratton Reynolds who made a presentation to the members as follows:

Brief

Wicklow County Council has appointed the design team to develop a proposal for improvements and enhancements to the existing waterfront park located in the Murrough, Wicklow Town, County Wicklow.

The following community facilities are to be included in the proposal:

- A bicycle pump track
- Ancillary facilities to existing playground and skatepark (along with a new pump track)
- A park for overnight vehicle camping including associated ancillary facilities
- A community event space
- A reconfiguration of the existing dog park.

Design Team

- Cunnane Stratton Reynolds (CSR) for Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning services
- Roughan & O'Donovan for Civil and Structural Engineering services

PLANNING CONTEXT

Wicklow Town – Rathnew Development Plan 2013-2019

MB7 - To facilitate the development of a landscaped linear public park along the coastal edge of the Murrough connecting to the Murrough Wetlands / Broadlough, complete with playground, designated walkways, toilet and washroom facilities, boardwalk areas, seating, fishing stands, signage and lighting.

Draft Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025

WTR55 - To facilitate the development of a landscaped linear public park along the coastal edge of the Murrough recreational and amenity area, complete with formal and informal landscaped parks with off-road walking / cycling paths, as well as playgrounds, skate parks, 'Mixed Use Games Areas' and outdoor gyms, tourist / visitor infrastructure including car parking, Aires sites, information signage / booths, toilets, buildings / infrastructure associated with safety, rescue, utilities etc. seasonal markets / fairs / events.

OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS

- (1) Northern link to future Greenway.
- (2) Stair access to beach.
- (3) Northern cycle/pedestrian link from Leitrim river walk.
- (4) Pedestrian/cycle link from Wicklow train station.
- (5) Northern carpark is the primary entrance to the northern end of site accommodating cycle/pedestrian and vehicle connections from The Murrough, and cycle/pedestrian connection from the Leitrim river walk.
- (6) Recently purchased land parcel rezoned for mixed use could create links to central and northern site access points.
- (7) Central entrance point to site, accommodating cycle/pedestrian connection from The Murrough.
- (8) Potential cycle/pedestrian link from Leitrim river walk and central entrance point to site.
- (9) Existing recycling centre visible along central site boundary.
- (10) Existing informal access point to southern site through KWETB carpark.
- (11) Potential cycle/pedestrian link from Leitrim river walk to southern site, through KWETB carpark.
- (12) Existing informal access route to The Murrough from Leitrim river walk.
- (13) Murrough carpark is adjacent to the primary entrance to the southern end of site. In addition to the vehicular access on the northwest corner, there is also pedestrian access on the southwest corner.
- (14) Upper Strand Street park. Park is significant to the community, hosting the Wicklow Christmas Market. Primary link between the southern portion of the Leitrim river walk and the promenade.
- (15) Southern link to North Pier and Wicklow Harbour
- (16) Link to cycle/pedestrian bridge and road bridge leading to Wicklow township.

NEXT STEPS & PROGRAMME

- Feedback from elected members
- Liaison with the Steering Group
- Final Engineering and Ecological inputs / review
- Finalisation of Part 8 Submission (January 2025)

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

Members thanked Declan and Martin for the presentation and made the following comments:

- The proposal was broadly welcomed.
- Lot of interest in Aires Park due to lack of accommodation in the area.
- Liaise with FCA regarding Memorial Park.
- Effect of severe easterly winds on revetments.
Consultants advised that robust materials would be used.
- Estimated timeframe – District Manager advised that it is hoped to commence Part V111 process in January and examine suitable funding sources.
- The provision of toilet block was welcomed.
- It was suggested that the looped walk starting at Parnell Bridge be formalised and advertised.
- Use of existing Murrough carpark for Aires Park.
- Priority should be given to providing community facilities for local clubs etc., some of whom currently don't have a base.
- Need to maximise use of ground and funds in most cost effective manner.
- Shelters may encourage anti-social behaviour.
- Members were advised that there was no overall costing at this stage.
- District Manager advised that surfaces and planting would be as low maintenance as possible in order to impact less on resources.

It was proposed by Councillor Paul O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Danny Alvey and agreed to proceed to Part 8 consultation.

ITEM 3

District Engineers Report

Updates were provided by District Engineer William Halligan as follows:

Housing:

- ❖ **Relets/Prelets**
 - 4no. houses currently being worked on, through WCC Housing Framework by MD,
 - 10no. houses are being managed by WCC Direct Labour,
 - 4no. houses returned 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.

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 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 (Hillside)	0.250km	Completed
L-5103 Ballyguilemore Greenhill Road	0.5km	Completed
L5099 Rocky Road Improvement Project	1.2km	NNR Team to resource this project. Department Inspector approval to proceed with Project has been secured. Survey work week commencing 9 th December

❖ 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. 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 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'Toole School in Roundwood.
- Bollards have been installed in Wicklow (AIB bank), Rathnew (Lucy's Hairdressers) 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 7th February 2025.

Abbey Grounds:

- Project Ongoing. Contractor commenced works on June 10th. Schedule for completion of works has been moved back to February 2025 due to prolonged period of poor weather.
- Windows installed, allowing first-fix electrical work to commence on 9th December.
- Detailed designs still progressing for the Amphitheatre and performance area.
- Siberian Larch finish for new buildings now installed.
- Connection agreements with utility providers have been progressed. Both water and sewer connections now installed. Utilities connection progressing on site.
- Works for new pedestrian entrance alongside completed service entrance onto Wentworth Place commenced on 2nd December.
- Works for new entrance to Parochial House now complete. We would like to thank Fr Duffy for his cooperation throughout this process.
- 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.
- Wicklow Seafront Toilets – Refurbishment is completed and new doors installed. Awaiting ESB connection. Outdoor shower installed
- 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.
- Water fountain installed at pedestrian bridge.

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. Level access carousel at Roundwood playground will be repaired upon receipt of required spare parts (currently being sourced). New equipment ordered (delivery approx. ten weeks):
 - The Murrough Playground – New Sand Digger at sand pit,
 - Ballynerrin Playground – New Cradle Swing set to replace the old broken unit,
 - Roundwood Playground – New ‘Wobble Bridge’ (to be located in green area adjacent to the Zip Wire).
- 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,
 Both crossing have been energised and are operational.
- 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. Lights at Stone Bridge require to be aligned and colour controller fitted, currently switched off – road user/pedestrian protection from glare. Lighting designer to visit site within next two weeks.
- Murrough masterplan part 8 documents due to be finalised in December, lodgement of part 8 January 2025. Pump Track tender documents are complete. Presentation to Members at meeting of 16th December 2024.
- Footpath to GAA club in Wicklow 95% complete, one remaining Eir column to be removed and footpath can be completed. Additional resurfacing along this stretch also complete.
- New cross being manufactured for Three Mile Water cemetery to be erect in coming weeks.
- Road marking project in Wicklow Town to commence in January.

Discretionary Fund projects:

- Roundwood – Two ramps from Playground to GAA Club. One ramp new has been installed and an existing ramp has been replaced/repaired.
- Roundwood – Length of footpath Playground to GAA Club. All cables are now under ground. Pedestrian crossing will be progressed.
- Rathnew – Resurfacing of the Old village has been completed, road line marking has commenced.
- Newtown - Kilmullen traffic calming, new sign has been installed. Site visit to assess possibility of installing anti-skid surface.
- Fund to upgrade footpaths in MD. Footpaths upgrade works at Saint Patricks Road, Wicklow Town is complete. Footpaths upgrade works in Glebemount have commenced.
- Church Hill Traffic calming – Consultation with National School, Gardai, Fire Service and Church of Ireland completed.
- All salt boxes have been distributed around the District.

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

- Members acknowledged the work undertaken by the outdoor crews during storm Darragh and expressed their gratitude.
- Frost gritting boxes placed in estates working well.
- The issue of a derelict building at Main Street with loose slates and plaster was raised. District Manager advised that the Environment Section are in contact with the architect for the owner to have the property secured. District Administrator advised that the footpath would be kept closed for safety.
- Difficulties with disability spaces in carpark beside AIB, Wicklow and on the road at Market Square. District Engineer advised that the spaces in the carpark will be moved closer to the bank and the space at Market Square will be reviewed.
- Reports from residents of oil slicks in the harbour. District Engineer advised that this is a matter for the Environment Section and Harbour Authority.
- Hillside Road: garden wall crumbling onto the footpath. District Engineer advised that this isn't an issue that the Council can remedy. A large embankment has slipped from private property and is blocking the public footpath, if the debris was moved from the footpath a significant further volume of material would certainly fall out, due to height and inclination of the embankment.
- Greenhill Road: residents walking down this steep road have reported a lot of wet leaves creating slip hazards. District Engineer advised that the Green Machine will attend this location.
- Provision of pedestrian crossing on Hawkstown Road at junction to Marlton Link Road. District Engineer advised this project will be reviewed in 2025 to assess if funding is available.
- St Ernan's Affordable Housing Scheme: houses delayed due to the water connections. District Engineer advised that this is being managed by the Housing Section.
- Fishers Junction, Newtown: opening of new road. District Engineer advised that DRES is completing works on final snagging.
- Footpath and road in front of derelict building in Newtown: pothole in the footpath running from the drain to the edge of the building which presents a problem for parents with buggies and also a deep pothole in the car parking space. District Engineer advised that Council crew will attend to complete upgrade.

- Building next to Indian Spice, Newtown: the footpath was raised here which left the step down into the building very dangerous. Currently the owner has a plank on the step to try to raise it more to the path level.
District Engineer advised that this is a matter for the private landowner.
- Mountainview Drive, Newtown: pedestrian crossing - there is a slip road here linking up from Sycamore Drive but when drivers get to the top it is difficult to see oncoming traffic to their right. Request if the wall and vegetation could be reduced to improve sightlines.
District Engineer advised that the Council crew will cut back the vegetation.
- Speeding through Kilpedder when the N11 is busy. Residents have repeatedly raised the issue and have suggested a pedestrian crossing ramp between Glenview Park and the bus stop on the other side of the road to slow traffic and give safe access across the road for school children. District Engineer advised the Roads Section have engaged a consultant to review issues at this location.
- Drains at Trooperstown: road floods when raining. To be referred to GSS.
- Update sought on beacons in Ashford.
- Pencil bollards on road from Ashford to Laragh.
- Public lighting in Ashford.
- Problem with traffic lights in Newtown.
District Engineer advised that the lights will not function properly until the new road is open. There is an official taking in charge process.

ITEM 4

Correspondence

Members were advised that the Road Closure notice for Rocky Road would appear in the paper on Wednesday 18th December.

Correspondence was received from Glenealy Tidy Towns thanking the Council for their assistance in the recent turning on of Christmas lights.

ITEM 5

Any Other Business

There was no other business.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 4.38pm.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Date: _____