



**Wicklow County Council  
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

**ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2016**

**Present:**

Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach  
Cllr. Tommy Annesley  
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke  
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald  
Cllr. Mary McDonald  
Cllr. Miriam Murphy

**Officials Present:** Mr. Michael Geaney, A/District Manager  
Ms. Linda McDonald, District Administrator  
Mr. Jack Kelly, District Engineer  
Ms. Frances Clinton, Staff Officer  
Ms. Sinead Boddy, Assistant Staff Officer, WCC.

**Item 1 - Vote of Sympathy:**

The Members expressed votes of sympathy to the families of the following who recently passed away:

Eithne Bentley, Andy Byrne, Emily Costello, Ann Craine, Mary Fitzgerald, George Hagan, Eddie Hanlon, Mariusz Jedrejek, Matt Lambert and Francis Robinson.

A minutes silence was observed.

**Item 2 – Confirmation of Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Meeting, held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2016:**

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 were proposed by Cllr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr. McDonald.

**Item 3 – Matters Arising:**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Cllr. Annesley back from his recent spell in hospital and wished him well in his recovery. He also welcomed Sinead Boddy who will be replacing Ms. Clinton from the 14<sup>th</sup> of November next.

Cllr. Annesley congratulated Arklow Rowing Club – both the ladies and men’s teams on their achievements in the Rowing World Finals in Monaco recently.

Cllr. Murphy congratulated Amy and Leah Penson on their roles in the musical The Commitments in the Bord Gáis Energy Theatre.

Michael Geaney said that Irish Water have informed him that the 3 manholes in Rathdrum, mentioned at the last meeting by Cllr. Kennedy, will be fixed soon. Cllr. Kennedy thanked Mr. Geaney for this.

Ms. McDonald said that the signage on the Main Street for Car Parks has recently been erected. She added that the signage for Mahon’s Lane, Dunne’s Lane and St. Mary’s Park have been ordered. Cllr. McDonald asked for a sign to put on Pearse Terrace.

Mr. Kelly informed all that the request for lighting on the bridge at Coolboy has gone to Wicklow County Council.

Cllr. Annesley asked for his request for the relevant Director of the department which determines whether a site is derelict or not, to attend a meeting be prioritised.

**Item 4: To receive an update on Local Authority Housing Projects for the AMD:**  
Joe Lane, Director of Housing, WCC and Ciaran O’Brien, Executive Architect, WCC gave an update on Local Authority Housing Projects for the AMD.

Mr. Lane discussed 4 one-bedroom houses planned for Aughrim as part of Part 8 in-fill housing. Mr. O’Brien showed and passed around the layout of these houses. He added that the downstairs toilet will also be plumbed for a shower which can be therefore added at a later date, this is to contribute to the idea of having a house adapted with ease as the tenant ages. He informed all present that 60% of housing applications in the county are for 1 bed units. He added that unlike apartments, these houses allow the tenant to have a private back garden. He also said that these infill houses will blend in with the housing that is already there.

Cllr. Fitzgerald welcomed this development and added that the single applicant has been ignored for too long – with regard to both social housing and rent allowance. The Cathaoirleach added that it is great to utilise a site in such a manner and Cllr. Bourke welcomed this scheme for Aughrim. He asked if there will be any delay with Irish Water connecting the sewerage. Mr. O’Brien assured all present that such connections have already been applied for. He added that these houses will not have fireplaces or boilers and would instead use air to water heating.

Mr. Joe Lane informed all present that the houses at Brewery Bends have approval for stage 2 and the last cost estimate is currently with the Department. With regard to Emoclew he said an existing Part 8 is on the site and it is hoped therefore to start building in 12 months time, (based on a 4 week and 2 week approval from the Department). He also said the old library conversion into apartments is progressing.

Cllr. Bourke asked if there are any Part V houses planned for the AMD area in 2017. Mr. Lane informed him there aren’t. Cllr. Fitzgerald asked if there is any Housing

Agency buying land in Arklow. Mr. Lane said there wasn't but added that WCC gave Part V land in Rathdrum and there are 2 approved housing agencies in negotiations on a site in Arklow that has planning permission. Cllr. Kennedy asked if there was a Council owned site with planning could a rural house/cottage be build on one if the need for one was provided. Mr. Lane said that in theory yes but in reality the housing section need to focus their resources on bigger schemes at present.

**Item 5: To receive an update on the Arklow Flood Relief Scheme:**

Marc Devereux, Senior Engineer, WCC showed all present a leaflet on the emerging preferred scheme for Arklow Flood Relief which has recently been delivered to all homes in the relevant area. This leaflet also informs recipients that the Public Information Days on this are the 16<sup>th</sup> (from 5pm to 9pm) and 17<sup>th</sup> (from 2pm to 9pm) of November in the AMD offices. He said relevant people such as the person involved in preparing the EIS, the engineer, the hydrologist etc. will be there and drawings of the proposed works will be on display. He asked that any comments, observations should be emailed to AMD and there will be forms available for people to make their submissions.

Mr. Devereux advised that the EIS, by its very nature, will take months to prepare and it will be June 2017 before it is ready to be lodged with An Bord Pleannala. He spoke about the multi-criteria analysis that his being done and explained that the OPW require this. He said it is, at present, planned to deepen the river by 1 metre, opening 17 of the 19 eyes of the arches in the bridge and to put walls at the River Walk and at the South Quay (low enough to look over) and an earth bank at the marsh. With regard to the marsh Mr. Devereux said that it is very important as it acts as a natural reservoir and slows down the flow of the river. He said when trying to balance the impact and benefits of the scheme it was found that there would not be enough benefit in interfering with the marsh. He added that the Hydrologist would look at the river flow both in and out of the marsh and will consider the effect of deepening the river by 1 metre and opening up 17 of the eyes upon this. He will also look at making the best use of the dry part of the marsh.

Cllr. Fitzgerald said opposition to removing the green area in front of the houses on South Green has been voiced. Mr. Devereux said that where a green area is being lost it is proposed to instead provide good quality public space e.g. a footpath.

Cllr. Bourke asked will debris traps be used. Mr. Devereux stated that there will be along the River Walk.

Cllr. Kennedy asked about having the 10/12 bridges over rivers flowing into Arklow cleaned. Mr. Devereux said he would refer this to the Bridge Engineer in WCC.

Mr. Devereux concluded by saying that information about the emerging preferred scheme and the public information days is on Facebook.

**Item 6: To consider the adoption of the Draft Budgetary Plan for AMD:**

Ms. McDonald gave all present a copy of the draft budgetary plan for AMD and its cover letter from Bryan Doyle, Chief Executive, WCC. Ms. McDonald pointed out the two differences between this year's draft budget from last year's budget i.e. the twinning budget increased by €3000 and there is now a budget for civic receptions of

€1000. Ms. McDonald said that if this draft budget is agreed it is secured. Cllr. Fitzgerald proposed to accept the draft budget and Cllr. Kennedy seconded it.

**Item 7: To discuss traffic calming measures at Woodlands Estate, Arklow:**

It was agreed that Mr. Kelly and Cllr. McDonald would meet in Woodlands Estate with regard to this matter prior to the next meeting.

**Item 8: To receive an update on the AMD Roads Programme 2016:**

Mr. Kelly informed all present that with regard to road strengthening, all such projects for this year are now complete and the last completed was the L6174 at Ballyrogan. He added that the works on the footpaths on the Wexford Road and at Woodview Park, Avoca are still at the construction stage while the ramps at Ballinaclesh are complete. He concluded by advising that the four Community Involvement Schemes selected for the AMD in the current year are now complete. All Councillors present and Mr. Geaney thanked Mr. Kelly and his outdoor staff for all the hard work done on these various projects throughout the year.

**Item 9: To receive updates on the following projects:**

**a) Arklow Harbour – North Quay Wall Remedial Works**

Ms. McDonald advised that it is expected that the drilling and grouting work for the North Quay Remedial Project will be completed by Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of November. Triur Construction will remain on site until Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> to reinstate the area where drilling and grouting works were undertaken and demobilise plant and equipment.

**b) AMD Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme**

The District Administrator informed all present that 2 applicants have recently been advised that their applications were successful after both making very good presentations. These are Bridgewater (the roundabout at Bridgewater) and Boland's (the roundabout on the Emoclew Road). Both have agreed to put festive features on these roundabouts for Christmas. Ms. McDonald said there are 4 roundabouts remaining and 2 of these will be looked at next. She added that Ms. Breda McCarthy of WCC confirmed AMD can keep all proceeds from this scheme. Cllr. Murphy asked what income this provides. She was told each roundabout sponsorship provides €1500. This was proposed by Cllr. Annesley and seconded by Cllr. Murphy. The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. McDonald for her tireless work on this.

**c) North Beach Coastal Protection Works**

Mr. Geaney informed the Members that AMD's application for this has been unsuccessful as has another recent application to the Department of Marine. Mr. Kelly advised that Mr. Mulhall pursued both applications strongly and spent a lot of time on these. Mr. Geaney said a study will now be carried out to show improvements which can be made in regard to Climate Change. Cllr. Fitzgerald asked if this includes the walk and was told it does. Cllr. Annesley said that if we get another year of bad winter storms this area won't last. Ms. McDonald advised that she wrote to the five TDs on this matter.

#### **d) Arklow Court House**

Ms. McDonald advised that Ms. Lorraine Gallagher of WCC emailed her to inform her that she is awaiting a response from the Court Services following submission of the conditions survey report on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October last.

Cllr. Fitzgerald said that the Court House looks very poor at present, with weeds growing all around it and obsolete signage still in place.

#### **Item 10: Correspondence:**

- Ms. McDonald advised the Members that AMD has received an indication from the Director of Services for Roads that there may be funding in the region of €200,000 available for the upgrade of the Main Street in Arklow Town. This funding is from a planning bond. She added that there is also a possibility that following the adoption of the WCC budget on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November that there will be additional funding for the replacement of footpaths within the AMD.

Cllr. Fitzgerald thanked the Chief Executive and Director of Roads for this information and asked that these works are carried out in-house. He asked that monies therefore are not wasted on Consultants. Cllr. Kennedy thanked Cllr. Fitzgerald for his work on this. Mr. Kelly suggested all service providers are written to and advised when this work will be done and to therefore put their applications in for burying wires etc. well in advance. All Councillors expressed their delight with this news.

- Ms. McDonald informed the members that Hugh Campbell has been in touch with her regarding having a plaque erected in memory of George Campbell. He informed her that he was born 3 St. Patrick's Terrace. Cllr. McDonald suggested Ms. McDonald talk to Sandra Duffy for further information on this.
- The District Administrator told the Members that Leah Kinsella of Volunteer Wicklow has been in touch requesting a financial contribution to their organisation. The Members asked Ms. McDonald to reply stating that unfortunately AMD has no funding for this.
- Ms. McDonald advised the Members that she replied to Arklow CBS's letter regarding a Bursary Scheme stating that due to lack of finances the scheme did not operate for 2016 but she would bring this matter to the next AMD Meeting to see if the members will consider it when allocating their 2017 Discretionary Funding.
- Ms. McDonald told the Members that Brendan Moore wrote to request permission from AMD to erect funfair rides in one quarter of the Main Street Car Park (bottom right side) as part of the Arklow Christmas Festival. All Councillors agreed to this.

- Ms. McDonald advised the Members that with regard to the Per Cent for Art Scheme she has been advised by Irish Water that they undertook to honour all existing commitments which it inherited on existing projects on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2014. Where a Local Authority had entered into a contractual arrangement for a Per Cent for Art Scheme post 01/01/2004, without a construction budget from the DECLG (now DHCLG), the liability for scheme finance rested with the Local Authority. Therefore on future projects, Irish Water will not allocate funding for a Per Cent for Art Scheme due to the need for Irish Water to target expenditure on key areas where the water and wastewater infrastructure requires significant improvement for the consumer.

### **Item 11: Any Other Business:**

Ms. McDonald gave all present a copy of the Arklow Christmas Festival leaflet. She explained how each business/shop listed had supported the festival by contributing either a prize for the draw or €50. Cllrs. Murphy and Annesley praised the work on this by the Committee and by Ms. McDonald. Ms. McDonald said that Dairin Murphy from the Bridgewater Centre did a lot of work on the brochure and the Bridgewater Centre paid for the printing and distribution of the leaflets.

Cllr. Kennedy expressed his delight with the funding awarded for Rathdrum under the Village Renewal Scheme. He thanked Mr. Sean Dunne, Mr. Kelly, Ms. McDonald and Mr. Geaney for their work on this. He added that this is just the first step in a long process but it will, in itself, make a difference.

Cllr. Kennedy asked that Ms. Gallagher be reminded of his request, made at the AMD Meeting held in Rathdrum this year, for a new valuation on Industrial Land (Corballis).

Cllr. Kennedy asked Mr. Kelly for his good wishes to be sent to those currently doing great work on the Vale Road, Avoca.

With regard to the idea of specific parking spaces for O.A.P.s, Cllr. Annesley said that as he was not present at the previous AMD Meeting, he needs to clarify that this scheme is not based on good will as it was previously described in his absence. Instead, it is a paid for O.A.P. parking disc that is used, and can only be used, in designated O.A.P. parking spaces, similar to how disabled parking works. He added that such a scheme operates successfully in Carlow, Kilkenny and Tipperary. He said that basically one disabled parking space takes up the space of one and half regular parking spaces. He suggested that out of the 80 car parking spaces in the Main Street Car Park a number are given over for O.A.P. parking spaces. After some discussion it was agreed to give his matter further thought and discussion. Ms. McDonald informed the Members that she did some research on this and will email the documentation to them.

Cllr. Fitzgerald suggested that the AMD Members get involved in the proposed changes currently being made to the parking bye-laws for AMD.

Cllr. Kennedy told of an email he received from a wheelchair user in Arklow who often cannot get parking in a disabled space as it is used by a non disabled driver and sometimes after coming into town has to go home due to lack of suitable parking. They added that in Wexford if this happens you send a text to a specific number – each disabled parking space has its own, clearly displayed number and the Traffic Warden received it, knows where it relates to and can therefore inspect it. Ms. McDonald said that in relation to this and the idea of being able to text a Traffic Warden when such a situation occurs, as discussed at the previous AMD Meeting, she did some research. She explained that this programme is used in Gorey as their Traffic Wardens are directly employed by Wexford County Council but she has been in touch with Park Rite to see if such a programme could be introduced in Arklow. She said she is awaiting their reply.

Cllr. Bourke asked that some residents of Abbey Street have asked if anything can be done about empty Roadstone lorries hitting their ramps at speed and causing vibrations. Cllr. Fitzgerald also said that trucks are going up the Navy Hill rather than using exit 21 on the Southside. After some discussion it was agreed that representatives from Roadstone be invited to a meeting with Ms. McDonald, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Geaney and Cllr. Kennedy.

Both Cllr. Murphy and Cllr. Annesley asked Mr. Kelly to look at the work currently being done on Ferrybank near the Bridgewater roundabout by contractors as they both had separate situations with access being blocked resulting in them being left in a hazardous position. Mr. Kelly agreed to look at this.

All Councillors present thanked Ms. Clinton for her work with AMD and wished her well in her new position in WCC.

**Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2016 at 3.30pm.**

**Signed:** *Councillor Pat Kennedy*

**Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.**

**Signed:** *Linda McDonald*

**Ms. Linda McDonald, Arklow Municipal District Administrator**