

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE ELECTED MEMBERS OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 5th OCTOBER, 2020 COMMENCING 2.00PM

PRESENT:

COUNCILLOR P. KENNEDY, CATHAOIRLEACH, COUNCILLORS. T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, M. CREAN, A. CRONIN, S. CULLEN, G. DUNNE, E. DOYLE, A. FERRIS, P. FITZGERALD, A. FLYNN KENNEDY, T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, M. KAVANAGH, P. LEONARD, G. MCMANUS, D. MITCHELL, J. MULLEN, M. MURPHY, J. NEARY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, R. O'CONNOR, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, E. TIMMINS, G. WALSH AND I. WINTERS.

APOLOGIES:

COUNCILLOR G. O'NEILL

IN ATTENDANCE:

**MR. F. CURRAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
MS. L. GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES/ MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR
MR. B. GLEESON, HEAD OF FINANCE
MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. B. KILKENNY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. C. LAVERY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. FLYNN, SENIOR ENGINEER
MS. H. DENNEHY, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. C. FLOOD, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MR. C. PAGE, EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MS. G. LANG, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER**

Roll Call: At the outset of the meeting the Meetings Administrator conducted a roll call.

On the proposal of the Cathaoirleach it was agreed to commence the meeting at Item No. 2

ITEM NO. 2

To consider a presentation: NTA projects, mobility measures.

Mr Conor Page, Executive Engineer, Wicklow County Council gave the following presentation to the Elected Members covering the following areas and responded to Elected Members questions:

Funding Allocations

- Covid 19 Interim Mobility Measures - €950,000
- Active Travel Measures - €3.34m
- Climate Action Adaptation €378,000

Covid 19 Interim Mobility Schemes

- Works to facilitate changes to current street layouts to address social distancing and revised travel patterns
- 30 schemes approved for County Wicklow - €950,000 allocated
- Further funding application submitted for €755,200
- Progress to date outline.
- Covid 19 Interim Mobility Schemes - Funding Application Submitted
- Works Completed

July 2020 Stimulus – Active Measures

- Funding of 52m for Las in GDA, Cork, Limerick and Waterford
- Projects support Pedestrian and Cyclist movement and to enhance accessibility
- Wicklow County Council received funding allocation of €3.34m for 25 projects
- Wicklow Projects include
 - Construction of cycleways
 - Construction of footpaths
 - Installation of Pedestrian crossings
 - Road resurfacing
 - Works must be completed by 30th November, 2020.

July 2020 Stimulus – Active Measures Schemes listed

Climate Change Adaption Allocations

- Funding of €10m for Local Authorities
- Measures to address the impact of climate change on the road network
- Wicklow County Council received funding amounting to €378,000 for 5 schemes
- Works must be completed by 30th November, 2020

Climate Change Adaption Schemes

- Griffinstown Dunlavin
- Beechwood Park Kilcoole
- Garrymore Ballincarrig
- Barnamelia
- Bridge on Ashford main Street over Vartry river.

Elected members made the following contributions:-

- Concern expressed at the tight deadline of the 30th of November
- Query as to the feedback from the public in relation to the proposed measures
- Communication stressed as extremely important in moving the schemes forward within the community.

ITEM NO. 3

To receive a presentation: Proposed Wicklow County Council and Inclusion Committee.

Ms. Laura O’Callaghan, Community Development Worker gave a presentation to the Elected Members covering the following areas and responded to the Elected Members questions:

- **Breaking the Mould: Wicklow County Council’s commitment to people with disabilities**

- **Background**
- **Disability Federation of Ireland, DFI:** Acts as a representative for over 140 disability organisations across Ireland. Work includes: Community Work, Research, Policy and Advocacy. Membership and SOLA (training and development for the community and voluntary sector in Partnership with University of Limerick)
- **The Facts:** Number of people with disability.
- **Disability in Wicklow:**
- **Progress to date**
- **Current Context**
- **Reviewing the Role**
- **Renewed Energy**
- **Rationale for the Committee**
- **Meeting Obligations**
- **Wicklow County Council Access & Inclusion Committee:** Newly established committee in Wicklow County Council set up under the auspices of CCSD with representation from all five municipal districts.
- The purpose of the committee is to achieve a multi-departmental approach to making the services provided by Wicklow county Council accessible to all citizens in the County. The committee will be responsible for ensuring the implementation of existing relevant policies at local authority level. The committee will also be responsible for ensuring that the above policies are incorporated into the development and implementation of the Wicklow Local Development Plan, the Local Economic Community Plan (LECP), the Corporate Plan and all other internal documents and strategies.
 - Membership, Scope of the Committee and Reporting were outlined.
 - Next steps
 - Nominations for the committee will be sought immediately
 - The first meeting of the committee will be held on the 14th of October, 2020, venue and time to be confirmed.

Mr. Michael Nicholson, Director of Service CCSD, complimented Ms. O Callaghan on the presentation and for her work in this area. He advised that there is great learning to be had, particularly in the environment in which we are living in now and the effect it has have on people restricted to their homes. He advised that the interest in the committee is substantial and it is heartening to see such interest in the work of the Committee.

Cllr. Miriam Murphy thanked all involved in the work of the committee and for acknowledging the important work of the committee which she looked forward to contributing to.

Ms. L. Gallagher, Meetings Administrator advised that this item was listed on the Agenda for the September meeting but that it had not been reached upon and that it would come before the elected members again for formal resolution and ratification of committee members.

ITEM NO. 4

To receive a presentation: Representatives of Codling Bank Wind Park.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the following representatives from the Codling Windpark to the meeting to make a presentation.

- Mr. Arno VerBeek, Project Director
- Paul Concannon, Project Director
- And Erland Christiansen, Project Engineer.

- About Codling Wind Park
- Introducing the Codling Joint Venture
- Project Overview
- Project History & Current Status
- Development Plan and Stakeholder Engagement
- Indicative Timeline
- Challenges and Opportunities
- In summary
- How to get in touch

Elected members made the following contributions:-

- Query as to the community gain that will come from the project
- Query as to the number of turbines that will be built, what is the cost of the project and how will it be financed.
- Reference made to the number of turbines, which is in or around 100, and how does this compare with the density relative to the rest of the country.
- Consultation welcomed query as to the distance the turbines will be from the shore and concern expressed on the potential impact to marine biodiversity.
- Are there any plans to roll out apprenticeships prior to the operation being rolled out.
- Reference made to the coastal erosion at Wicklow and Greystones and query as to the impact the project will have, either positive or negative.
- Concern expressed on visual impact.

At the conclusion of the discussion the Cathaoirleach thanked the representatives from Codling Windbank for presenting to the elected members.

ITEM NO. 5

To consider proposal and submission from Transportation Water & Emergency Services SPC – DART + Maynooth Line/West Public Consultation.

Elected Members were circulated with a prepared paper of Cllr. Derek Mitchell, Chair of Transport Water and Emergency Services (TWES) SPC dated January, 2018: Rail and Commuter Transport Plan for East Wicklow: Submission to DART + Plan and Update, October, 2020.

Cllr. Derek Mitchell, Chair of the TWES SPC gave the background to the document circulated and advised that same had been considered by the SPC. He asked that the document be forwarded to for consideration as part of the consultation process DART + Maynooth line Options. Following a discussion it agreed that the document as noted be forwarded for inclusion in the consultation process as well as forwarded to the County Wicklow's Oireachtas Members.

ITEM NO. 1

To consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, September 2020.

Elected Members were circulated with the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, September 2020 on 1st October, 2020. The Chief Executive referenced some highlights in the report including grant aid received for projects across the County.

Elected Members raised the following questions which were responded to by the Chief Executive and the relevant Directors of Services:

- Request to provide information on one off rural house numbers in the planning report as the current figures do not capture the position on the ground.
- Up to date situation in relation to the recruitment of a traffic warden for Baltinglass requested
- Update on remediation of Whitestown requested and how the costs will be met
- What is the position with the recruitment of a harbour master for Arklow harbour
- Reference made to fires in buildings with Asbestos roofs and what work is being done in this area.
- Query as to the number included in the homeless figures and the cause of homelessness
- How will the proposed new content creation hub for Rathnew will be managed.
- Query as to the provisions for accommodation needs of single men.
- List of the different funding schemes required.
- Reference made to the Housing Adaptation Grant and unspent funds, query as to the current position.
- Reference made to the heritage monument on privately owned land in Bray being accessed by young people and if the Council's heritage officer could have a look at this.

ITEM NO. 6

Correspondence:

- Refurbishment works to the Council Chamber: Ms. L. Gallagher, Meetings Administrator updated the elected members in relation to the refurbishment works currently underway to the Council Chamber, Elected Members rooms and the development of new Customer Care Innovation Hub. She advised that it is expected that works will be complete towards the end of October/middle of November and that the council looks forward to welcoming the elected members back in accordance with health and safety covid 19 restrictions in the new year.
- Ms. L. Gallagher also advised in relation to the Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) for Council meetings which were discussed at the Protocol Committee Meeting earlier that morning prior to the Council meeting, and referenced the November meeting which it was proposed to be held on line as there was no statutory business to be considered ahead of the budget meeting on the 23rd of November. She also advised that the Council has to be mindful of the cost of holding a physical meetings which is in or around €6,000 per meeting. In response to a query in relation to the attendance of the public and the media the Meetings Administrator advised that the meetings are covered by MyClearText and that the transcript goes live out on the web with the transcript on the website the following day. She also advised that the Ministerial order providing for the holding of statutory Council meeting on line is expected in the short term.
- November Council Meetings: The next council meeting is scheduled for 2nd November, 2020 online, with a physical meeting of the Elected Members for the Budget meeting of 23rd November, 2020. As per the Covid guidelines, the meeting will be no longer than 1 hour and 55 mins.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

**CLLR. PAT KENNEDY
CATHOIRLEACH
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MS. LORRAINE GALLAGHER
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES/
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**

Confirmed at meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Friday the 11th of December, 2020.