



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12th APRIL 2017

Present: Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Tommy Annesley
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Mary McDonald

Apologies: Cllr. Miriam Murphy

Officials Present: Mr. Michael Geaney, A/District Manager
Ms. Linda McDonald, District Administrator
Mr. Jack Kelly, District Engineer
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, Assistant Staff Officer

Ms Laura English, Disability Federation Ireland.

It was agreed to start with Item 4 on the agenda -

Item 4: To receive a report from Laura English from Disability Federation Ireland.

Cllr Kennedy introduced Laura English from the DFI and welcomed her to the meeting. Ms English said this presentation had been made to the other 4 Municipal Districts in Co Wicklow. Ms English gave a brief summary of her experience working within the community and projects she was involved in with Cllr Murphy and Partnership groups. Ms English said her time is stretched and is only allotted 2 days a week to focus solely on Co. Wicklow. One positive thing is that the LECP has been published since January of this year and will contribute to any disability planning for the future.

Ms English circulated a handout and gave a brief summary of its contents. The report identified that there are a number of younger people resident in nursing homes because there are no other facilities available to them – they are too young to

be old. This has been highlighted in Bray and there is now a national initiative to resolve this issue and to direct funding to this area. Ms English also highlighted the fact that there is under-reporting of disabilities and that the statistics recorded are not specific enough to be of great use in planning for the needs of the disabled community. There also needs to be a change in the social model and to focus more on the individual and overcome the inflexibility of society.

A Questions and Answers session followed –

Cllr McDonald said the presentation was very interesting and she asked if she was in contact with the Taxi Regulator about the low number of taxis available to the disabled community. Ms English confirmed that contact has been made and that nothing has been sorted yet. Cllr Fitzgerald highlighted that some are forced to move and do not seem to have the right to live independently as the support network does not cover all scenarios and decisions about this seem to be rushed to balance the books. He also acknowledged that this has worked very well for a number of people. Ms English said that there was a lot of backlash on this and she could see both sides of the argument and that now the legislation is there for the majority who want to move rather than the minority and has been flipped on its head bringing with it an element of shock. She acknowledged that this cannot be done suddenly and the basics like being able to communicate can be lost in trying to implement these changes. Ms English also said that individual rights need to be met and very little instruction is available or given when readying the communities for moves. There are so many campaigns to keep the institutions open and should the campaigns be about the quality instead? – Arus Attracta Co. Mayo. Cllr Bourke said he greatly admired the work DFI were doing and wanted to highlight the difficulty experienced by parents of disabled children in national schools in assigning the SNA's and that the Education Sector needs to be more empathetic towards the parents requests. Ms English confirmed that the more regional approach has led to reduced numbers of SNA's and a training module is not currently part of the teacher training curriculum at 3rd level. Cllr Annesley said that Cllr Murphy has been a great advocate for those with a disability and we are lucky to have her as a member. Ms English extended congratulations to Cllr Murphy and said the Wicklow was one of the first counties to take the bull by the horns. Cllr Kennedy said the presentation was very informative and asked what level of investment would be required and Ms English said the one thing that would help would be to identify the cost of a disability by live costing such areas as medication, transport, education etc. and it's not about more money but how to allocate funding. It may be that it needs to move away from the HSE and the DSW to the Department of An Taoiseach.

Item 1 - Vote of Sympathy:

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

Elizabeth (Louie) Byrne, Darren Duffy, Sheila (Julia) Farrell, Leonard (Lenny) Hughes, Robert Kinsella, Tim O'Brien, John Smith, Patricia Sherwood, Martin McGuinness.

A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2 – Confirmation of Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Meeting, held on the 8th March 2016:

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Meeting held on the 08th March 2017 in Aughrim were proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Sylvester Bourke.

Item 3 – Matters Arising:

Ms McDonald gave an update on volunteers being insured when working in graveyards. The District Manager expressed that the national “ Spring Clean” initiative would also cover the clean up of grave yards and interested parties should register with An Taisce. This initiative runs for 3 months, April – June.

Michael Geaney DM asked if there had been any progress with the installation of a bike stand in Aughrim and Jack Kelly DE said that this would be installed when the works on the junction at Lower Main St started.

Michael Geaney DM said that in relation to dog fouling CCTV can be used in court and has been used in one case which was successful and the person paid the penalty and there are 3 cases pending. It should be noted though that the CCTV chain of evidence is very important.

Item 5 : To Adopt the schedule of Municipal District Works for 2017.

The adoption of the schedule of Municipal District Works for 2017 were proposed by Cllr McDonald and seconded by Cllr Bourke.

Cllr Bourke asked if the co-funding of the Avondale works had advanced and Cllr Kennedy replied that there were talks underway and future meetings to be had relating to this.

Ms McDonald circulated a report on current Expenditure. Cllr Fitzgerald asked if a property recently renovated would be a pre-let or housing repairs J Kelly DE said that it had not been decided yet and that there were no mechanisms in place for contingencies like that one. Cllr Fitzgerald stated that the full cost could not be allocated to the housing repairs budget and J Kelly DE was hopeful that it would resolve itself without forcing the issue.

Cllr Kennedy asked about the salt store at the depot – Winter Maintenance and Jack Kelly DE replied that the supply is ordered centrally and can be used into next year and does not go off. Cllr Fitzgerald expressed concern at the timing of any works over the summer months and Jack Kelly DE confirmed that the works at Templeraíne may take 4-5 days and some of the works on Main St could be done in the night time to minimise disruption. Cllr Fitzgerald asked if there was an overall plan for the spend. Jack Kelly DE replied that it is intended to complete works at the Post Office pedestrian crossing, narrowing the street on the opposite side for pedestrian safety. The stretch from the junction at Bridge Street to the Bank of

Ireland has been considered for re-surfacing with the intention to raise the gullys and the balance of funds will go toward the upgrade of the Parade Ground.

Item 6: To discuss the availability of Community Land in Rathdrum

Cllr Kennedy stated that 15 acres of land in Rathdrum may be available for Community use and suggested writing to CCSD to request a feasibility study to see how best the land could be utilised. Although there are members of the community involved in raising awareness about the availability of the site, there may be a need for professional input to at least give some guidance. Cllr McDonald agreed that members should go with that suggestion and not lose the opportunity to improve the amenities in the area. LMcD to write to the DOS for CCSD.

Item 7: Update on the Roads Programme for 2017 from District Engineer

Jack Kelly DE said that the following works are near completion –

Parnell Park Rathdrum
Ashleigh Close Arklow
Avondale Footpaths

Cllr Bourke asked if footpath works at Ballycoogue would be starting shortly, Jack Kelly DE said this had been discussed with Ballycumber Windfarm and some funding has been secured to add to the €8,000.00 budgeted. Cllr Fitzgerald asked if there was a start date for Woodenbridge and Jack Kelly DE confirmed that no date had been agreed yet and will be another few months before any work starts. Cllr Kennedy asked if the works would be completed by contractors or Council Staff and Jack Kelly DE said both would be involved.

Item 8: To agree a project for the Tourism budget of €10,000.00

Ms McDonald said that agreement was needed by the 13th April and the CCSD SPC would need to agree proposed projects. Cllr Fitzgerald put forward a proposal to put it toward the upgrade of The Parade Ground. Cllr Kennedy put forward a proposal to put it funding towards extending the Ciaran Shannon Walk in Annacurra and proposed the amount of €2000.00. Jack Kelly said that the Town Team had reported that the Outdoor Gym at the Duck Pond needed upgrading and asked that €5,000.00 be put aside for new equipment as this was outside the normal maintenance. Cllr Bourke suggested a painting grant for the traders in the town. Members agreed that it would not work for the district to dilute the funds. Cllr Fitzgerald stated that the area around the Courthouse is difficult to maintain without available funding. Cllr Annesley said that previous painting grants amounted to €30,000.00 and the Municipal area is much bigger. Cllr Kennedy asked how much would be required for the upgrade of the Parade Ground and Jack Kelly DE gave an estimate of €350,000.00. Cllr Fitzgerald said that €10,000.00 would go a long way toward the maintenance of the courthouse area. After further discussion Cllr Kennedy withdrew his proposal and a proposal to put the funds toward the upgrading of the Parade Ground was proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr McDonald. Jack Kelly

said that the Town Team would look elsewhere for funding to upgrade the outdoor gym.

Item 9: To provide updates on the following projects:

a) Arklow Town Team

Cllr Kennedy said that things are progressing as well as expected and the sub committees are working well and the team is aiming to be one voice – one town. Cllr Fitzgerald said that the initiative is having a positive impact on the town and the presentation by John Jameson (DIT) was very informative. He also acknowledged the commitment of councillors from outside the town. Cllr Kennedy said that the Town Team will generate the good news stories and each sub-committee should give feedback to the District Administrator who will prepare the press releases.

b) Arklow Courthouse

Ms McDonald advised that a meeting had been held recently with the CE, Ms. L. Gallagher and representatives from the Court Services. It was agreed that WCC would arrange to have the proposed alterations costed with a view to reverting to the Court Services.

c) Coastal Protection Works on the North Beach

Jack Kelly DE said that the application to the OPW was to be revised and re-submitted. Cllr Fitzgerald thanked Rob Mulhall for the work already put in to the application and his dedication to the district. Cllr Bourke said that Rob Mulhall had raised the possibility of putting in groins to prevent the erosion. Jack Kelly DE said that Wexford Co Co are also looking at this as an option. Cllr Kennedy expressed his disappointment that nothing seemed to be achieved at the meeting with the TD's.

d) Arklow Christmas Festival

Ms McDonald said that the committee has 4 new members and there was great positivity at the meeting. The next meeting is to be held in early May.

Item 10: Notices of Motions:

In the name of Cllr Pat Fitzgerald:

“ that the resurfacing of the L6203 Toberpatrick Rd takes place as soon as funding allows” 15/02/2017

Jack Kelly DE confirmed that this was not in this year's schedule and didn't think it was on for next year. Cllr Fitzgerald said he would check the 3 year plan.

Item 11: Correspondence

Ms McDonald said that a date was needed to meet with the Kearons. Cllr Fitzgerald asked if the issues they had could be investigated with the proposed traffic study plan for the new Primary Care Centre. The Members agreed to meet with the Kearons on the 10th May.

Ms McDonald received correspondence requesting that AMD meet with PPN representative, this was agreed for the 10th May.

Ms McDonald received correspondence from St Saviour's church committee requesting funding. It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

Ms McDonald received further correspondence from the Campbell family and the preparations for the presentation were well underway. Invites were to be sent out in the coming days.

Item 12: Any Other Business

Cllr Bourke raised a query in relation to getting a roadway/access to the Old Kilmagig Graveyard. A 100metres stretch is required between Coillte and the landowner. The son of the landowner is open to giving the right of way back. The graveyard committee need the Co. Co. to register the right of way and the graveyard itself. Michael Geaney asked Cllr Bourke to source a map of the graveyard and he would find out what steps needed to be taken to register and establish the right of way. Jack Kelly DE said that there was a previous case similar to this that ended up with the Rights Commissioners as the parties could not agree.

Cllr McDonald requested that CPR/AED training be given to the councillors in each district and that staff could be included. Ms McDonald confirmed that staff and Councillors were trained up last year.

Cllr Annesley said that Kieran Byrne Environmental Consultant has requested a meeting with the Members regarding a solar planning application. Cllr Fitzgerald said that he would not be inclined to meet him before the planning application was submitted. It was discussed and agreed that a meeting could be arranged when a planning application was submitted.

Cllr Annesley raised the issue about the containers in the harbour area and feels that WCC needs to get involved and funding put in place to maintain the harbour. The flood relief works will have an impact and this should be considered now. Cllr Fitzgerald said the temporary containers were also a problem and that the tourism potential of the area needs to be considered.

Cllr Fitzgerald also commented on the foul smells created when the pumps at Harbour Rd are not working. Cllr Kennedy said that IW are pumping out holding tanks on a weekly basis. Michael Geaney said this has been raised with IW and they

are to investigate further. Cllr Bourke asked that it be on the agenda for the May Meeting.

Cllr Kennedy asked if a reply had been received from I W for a request for a meeting. Ms McDonald confirmed that they her requests had been acknowledged on each occasion and nothing further.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 10th May 2017.

Signed - Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed - Ms. Linda McDonald, Arklow Municipal District Administrator