



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th March 2019

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

Officials Present: Mr. Michael Geaney, A/District Manager
Ms. Linda McDonald, District Administrator
Mr. John Bowes, District Engineer
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, Assistant Staff Officer
Ms. Theresa O'Brien, SEO
Mr. Merlin Ovington, AO

Item 1 - Vote of Sympathy:

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

John Annesley, Mick Nelson, David Lalor, William Kenny, Eileen Doyle, John Kinsella, Terry Crosbie, Mick McCrudden, Frances Sharpe, Tom Kinsella, Ivan Ivanoff, Tommy Kavanagh, Stephen O'Byrne, Thomas O'Keeffe, Eddie Murphy, Margaret Corbett.

A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2 – Confirmation of Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting, held on the 13th February 2019.

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 13th February 2019 were proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Bourke.

Item 3 : Matters Arising.

Cllr Murphy expressed her thanks to Linda Greene principal of Scoil San Eoin, Redcross, for the use of the school for the meeting and wished them well with the new build and for the future of the school.

Cllr Annesley confirmed that he had contacted the Sheehan family with the proposal that the new housing scheme at Hudson's Sq Arklow be named after Johnny Sheehan who had a business there in the past. The family were delighted to accept the proposal.

Item 4: To receive a presentation from SEE Ireland.

Representatives from SEE Ireland (James O'Hara, Barry Kilcline, Jason Cooke) gave an overview of the progress of the Arklow Bank Wind Park project to date and the benefits of renewable energy for the future. The next phase of the project depends on the results of the feasibility study as to which port meets the criteria required to facilitate the onshore needs– Wicklow or Arklow.

With this phase an annual community fund will be available for local groups and SEE Ireland are very proud at the level of funding they have made available to date for rural communities.

The turbines should be fit for purpose for up to 30 years and SEE would hope to have the project completed in a 3 year time frame – there are regulatory issues to be resolved – Eirgrid connection – the financial process can take up to a year.

Cllr Murphy thanked the team for the presentation and noted the boost for Arklow, community groups and for employment in the area.

Cllr Fitzgerald asked if there are any other identified obstacles to the project – 82 years left on the lease and would further planning be required. Mr Cooke said that any planning application for this infrastructure would go to ABP. Cllr Fitzgerald asked that the port users be kept in the loop and that in his opinion Arklow is the right port for the company's needs.

Cllr Annesley asked that they consider the impact on the local fishing industry when drawing up the proposals for the project.

Cllr McDonald said that the project was timely for the town and that if possible that any onshore works that could be aligned with the flood defence scheme works should overlap when the construction phase begins.

Cllr Kennedy thanked the team for the presentation and asked for more details on the geographic spread for the proposed community funding and details on what happens once the turbines reach the end of their lifespan – who takes them down?

Cllr Bourke welcomed the project and re-iterated the need to ensure that there were no delays in connecting to the grid and raised the issue on the loss of land based commercial rates.

James O'Hara addressed the issues and said that there was no definitive answer on which port would be chosen and that surveys would be carried out to assess both. The decision may be made mid-summer and then the planning process can begin.

Once the wind farm is operational – 2024 – the community funding scheme will begin and should service an area from Wicklow to Courtown.

The Developer would be responsible for the removal, if and when required and this may work using the bond system. He also confirmed that they would communicate with IW and WCC(M Devereux) about future infrastructure works in common areas.

With regard to the delays in connecting to the grid there is no guarantee but believed that the need to reach targets (climate change) will feature prominently.

Item 5 : To discuss Columbarian Walls within Arklow Municipal District.

Theresa O'Brien SEO Environment, circulated images showing examples of columbaria walls that may be suitable for St Gabriel's Cemetery – different options were discussed and the cost of the project.

Cllr Fitzgerald said that the public should have a say on this matter and asked if funding was to be met by AMD – Michael Geaney confirmed that WCC would be funding this. Merlin Ovington AO Environment suggested that the members visit Redford Cemetery to view the wall there.

Cllr McDonald asked if any consideration has been given to earmarking a future site once St. Gabriel's is at capacity.

Discussion continued on pricing and the needs of the town versus the rural areas in the district. Cllr Murphy asked that a draft plan be put together and Theresa O'Brien will come back to the members with figures.

Item 6: To receive a presentation from Trevor Wood on Redcross Community.

The councillors welcomed the members of the committee and David Johnson spoke for the committee – delighted with the opportunity to talk to the members about the issues in the village. Issues were narrowed down to –

Roads –

New surface required – old cobbled drains on the sides of the street to be restored as part of the village heritage. There is a severe camber on the road that needs attention. There is a lack of road marking in village. Tourist traffic while welcome causes problems as the infrastructure is not there to accommodate it and is no longer sustainable. Streetlights are also not working at times.

Footpaths –

There is limited access for pushchairs and wheelchair users on the street and traffic calming measures are a necessity for the village on the 3 approach roads – possibly tabletop ramps with pedestrian crossings.

Bridge –

The Bridge has an old masonry arch and reduces the width of the road entering the village and there is no signage to warn oncoming traffic – the committee would like to see it widened and possible a footbridge beside it. This would benefit agricultural traffic in the area.

John Bowes DE agreed to meet with the committee members and discuss the issues.

Item 7: To agree Estate Development Funding for 2019.

The members agreed on the following funding proposal -

Cre Na Mara	€300
Willow Grove	€400
Brookmeadow	€200
Cluain Ard	€500
Ballanagh Crescent	€900
Chestnut Grove	€500
Woodlands	€500
Woodview Park	€900
Fr Redmond Park	€700
Derrybawn	€500
Upper Kirikee	€500
Churchview	€900
John Paul Ave	€700
Aughrim Hall	€500
2019 Estate Development Fund	€8000

Item 8: To receive a report from John Bowes District Engineer on the following works :-**Roads Programme Report**

Ballycoog to Clone and L-2143 – Annacurragh to Preban both overlaid last year by private contractor Moriarty. The Current contractor has commenced snag works which are still ongoing.

Roads Programme 2019

Tendering and planning work has commenced for the 2019 roads programme at the locations below as part of road strengthening and surface dressing;

Road Strengthening Works 2019

LOCATION	Current Status as at 13th March 2019
R752 Avoca to Meetings - Tinnahinch – Ballygahan	Tenders received
R747 Aughrim to Tinahely - Kilpipe Bends	Tenders received
R755 Laragh to Rathdrum - Ballyhad	Tenders received
L6908-L6906-L2901 Arklow Town - Tinnahask Lower	Tenders received
L6187-L6189 Johnstown - McGraths Cross	Preparing tender documents
L2180 Avoca - Beech Road	Tenders received
L2127 Rathdrum Area – Ballyteige, Greenan	Tenders received

Surface Dressing Works 2019

A list of surface dressing has been compiled and issued to the Roads Department. Feedback is currently awaited as to when these works can be scheduled for completion during the summer months. These works include the following:

- R750 Arklow - Brittas Bay
- R754 Redcross - Balinacor
- L2140 Aughrim - Macreddin
- L6169 Crone More - Ballymoneen
- L2172 Templeraíne - Redcross
- L6688 Springfield
- L6193 Kilcarra East

Discretionary Projects

2018 Works Substantially Complete.

LOCATIONS 2018	Remaining Works as at 13th March 2019
FOOTPATHS WCC HOUSING ESTATE KIRIKEE	Awaiting supply connection for PL
CCTV CONTRIBUTION ARKLOW TOWN	At Contract Award Stage
STREET LIGHT AT BEECH RD (COOLBOY BRIDGE)	Awaiting PL contractor (AUS)
FOOTPATHS AT ASHLEIGH CLS & MOUNTAIN BAY ARKLOW	complete

2019 Works

A list of approximately 9 different projects agreed, each of the projects is at varying stages of progression as per the table of information below;

LOCATIONS 2019	<u>Current Status as at 13th March 2019</u>
Emoclew Road - Resurface from Applegreen Roundabout to entrance to Ashgrove	Tenders received
Traffic Calming - Fairgreen, Rathdrum	Preparing tender documents
Tree Cutting/Pruning/Removal works in Arklow Town Area	Works suspended 1 st March Recommence 1 st Sept
Footpaths between the Meetings & Avoca	works ongoing by direct labour crew
Reconstruct L2191 Road at Ballyduff	Preparing tender documents
Carpark at Mill Road - 2019 Contribution	Preparing tender documents
Wexford Road (Bentley Court)	Tenders invited
Brook Meadow, Avoca - Footpaths & Tree Pruning	Preparing tender documents
Drainage Works at Croghan View, Aughrim	Preparing tender documents

Footpaths/IPB Remedial Works

2018 Works are Complete

2019 Works: -

A list of approximately 8 different project locations agreed, each of the projects is at varying stages of progression as per the table of information below;

Footpaths/IPB - Areas for Remedial Works	<u>Current Status as at 13th March 2019</u>
John Paul Avenue (No. 13 - No. 20)	Tenders invited
Park Avenue (RHS at entry, past playground)	Tenders invited
Rory O'Connor Place (Replace Chequered Tiles)	Tenders invited
St. Michael's Terrace (no. 1 - no. 16)	Tenders invited
Ashleigh Close	Tenders invited
Avalon	Tenders invited
Fernhill (230m * 1.4m) on RHS at entrance	Tenders invited
Marian Villas (no. 38 - no. 50) & (no. 5 - no. 11)	Tenders invited

Low cost Safety Schemes

The 2018 low cost safety schemes have been completed. ESB connection works are outstanding. Contact with ESB has been made to advance the works as a priority.

2019 Works: -

There are three pedestrian crossing schemes approved under the low cost safety scheme 2019. The schemes are located as follows: -

- L2900 Emoclew Road, Arklow
- L2172 Redcross
- R754 Avoca

Navy Bridge Works

Confirmation of programme for replacement of Navy Pedestrian Bridge yet to be confirm with Irish Rail. The major works are expected to take approximately 7 days to include night works between the hours of 10:00pm and 5:00pm.

Other Road Works – CIS and LIS Works

- a) **Local Improvement Scheme Works 2018:-** Snagging works at Cronawinna, Kilmagig Upper and Ballycooleen completed end Feb 2019.
- b) **Local Improvement Scheme 2019:-** Applications Closing date 13th March 2019
- c) **Community Involvement Schemes 2019: -** Applications Closed 6th March 2019

Item 9: To discuss receive an update on the URDF – Arklow Historic Core Project.

Update circulated to all members – Consultants likely to start in April 2019.

Item 10: To discuss the AMD May meeting.

Members agreed to bring forward the May meeting to the 24th April 2019.

Item 11: Notices of Motions:

(a) In the name of Cllr Pat Kennedy

“That funding be made available for the construction of a footpath from the community centre in Aughrim to Rednagh Bridge as there is no footpath in place at present only a grass path.” (received 17th January 2019)

An estimate of the cost was put to the meeting and the works deemed unnecessary at the moment. Cllr Kennedy stated that the residents are looking for this and the costs don't seem to add up. John Bowes DE advised that the location should be considered and the dangers of leading pedestrians along that route and that the bridge is narrow. It may be looked at as a long term project. Micheal Geaney DM suggested works under LCS scheme for pedestrian route and the bridge. John Bowes DE said he would look at the costing again. Cllr Murphy suggested that the community group meet with officials.

(b) In the name of Cllr Pat Kennedy

“Following on from the upgrading of the footpath at Avonbeg Heights on the Ballinaclash Lower Road, that funding be made available to continue this work to the Upper Road next year” (received 17th January 2019)

An estimate of the cost was put to the meeting and it was noted that the project should be prioritised if the money is available later in the year.

(c) In the name of Cllr Pat Kennedy

“That the footpaths along both the Main St. and Lower St. in Rathdrum be assessed to ascertain if they are safe for pedestrians and that whatever works need to be done are carried out in the interest of the public.” (received 17th January 2019)

An estimate of the cost was put to the meeting and the works deemed unnecessary at the moment. A footpath already exists on the east side of the road.

Item 12: Correspondence

Correspondence received from World Shore Angling group with a request that Arklow hosts and supports an international competition in 2020. Linda McDonald will liaise with M Nicholson CCSD.

An invitation to all members and officials issued to the St. Patrick’s Day Parade celebrations in Arklow.

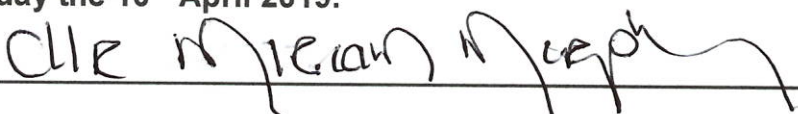
Item 13: Any Other Business

Cllr Kennedy – Sign at the bottom of Shroughmore Hill is missing and needs to be replaced.

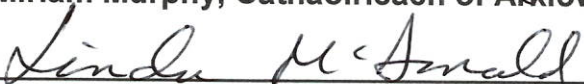
AMD should recognise the achievements of the winners of the Garda Youth Awards from the district – all agreed.

Cllr Murphy on behalf of the members thanked Michael Geaney DM and wished him well in his new role.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 10th April 2019.

Signed: 

Cllr. Miriam Murphy, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: 

Ms. Linda McDonald, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District