

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

MONDAY 20th NOVEMBER 2017 3PM

SEMINOLE ROOM, COUNTY BUILDINGS

- Present:** Cathaoirleach Shay Cullen, Councillors Gail Dunne, John Snell, Daire Nolan, Mary Kavanagh,
- Apologies:** Cllr. Irene Winters
- In attendance:** District Manager Joe Lane, District Engineer Paul Byrne, District Administrator Joan Sinnott, Assistant Staff Officer, Liam Cullen

Cathaoirleach Shay Cullen opened the meeting at 3pm

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD 20th NOVEMBER 2017

It was proposed by Cllr. Mary Kavanagh, seconded by Cllr. John Snell and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District meeting held 23rd October 2017.

ENGINEERS REPORT

Mr Byrne presented the District Engineer's Report:

Local Improvement Schemes

Mr Byrne advised the meeting that €310,000 in funding has been secured for Local Improvement Schemes in Wicklow. The funding will allow for the repair and improvement of small roads and laneways which lead to local people's homes and businesses that are not under the normal maintenance of the local authorities.

Mr Byrne informed the meeting that Wicklow Municipal District has four applications for this grant scheme which have been carried over from 2014, the last time the scheme was in place. Mr Byrne advised that the Ballard Lane project is now fully completed and he expects the other projects to be completed in the coming weeks. Mr Byrne advised that there has been very positive feedback from residents of the lanes where the work is being carried out. The Cathaoirleach and Members thanked the District Engineer, Paul Byrne, General Service Supervisor, Seamus Timmins and all their staff for the excellent job they have done on all four projects. The projects included in the scheme are as follows.

- Drumeen Lane
- Ballard Lane
- Knockraheen Lane
- Kilmullen Lane

Glen Beach

The District Engineer, Mr Byrne advised that RPS Consultants have completed the Coastal Erosion Study & Protection Preliminary Design for Glen Beach. The timeline for the RPS activities shows completion of the design & consultation process in early 2018, which would mean that construction activities could start in Spring or Summer of 2018, assuming that funding is available and that any required Foreshore Licence is granted and that any required Part 8 Planning Procedure is undertaken in a timely manner. Mr Byrne presented a copy of the preliminary design drawings to the Members. The District Engineer has arranged a meeting with Wicklow Golf Club to discuss the project, RPS will be in attendance at this meeting to discuss any concerns that the golf club may have with the proposed design. Friends of the Murrough will also be consulted at this stage in the process.

RPS have indicated that the preliminary indicative cost of constructing a coastal erosion protection system at the Glen Beach would cost in the region of €500,000 (based on similar projects completed). A more exact cost will be determined once the study and design work is completed. When the accurate estimated cost of the project is known, construction stage funding will need to be applied for and secured before the project can be completed.

Footpath from Lynhams pub in Laragh village to Laragh GAA grounds.

Work on the second stage of the footpath project is due to be completed within the next week, it will link Laragh village to Beechwood housing estate, Laragh GAA grounds and the Green Road walkway. Mr Byrne informed the meeting that there has been very positive feedback with regard to this project from the local community.

Fitzwilliam Square

The District Engineer informed the meeting that an application has been received from Wicklow Town Team requesting the closure of Fitzwilliam square to traffic during part of the Christmas shopping period. The dates for the proposed closure were the 16th to 23rd of December. He advised that to date there has been no objections from the public to the proposed closure of the square

Councillors Concerns/Comments

Cllr. Kavanagh thanked the District Engineer for the provision of the two new benches at the Murrough. She felt that they would be a great facility to have for people visiting the Murrough area.

Public Lighting

The Members enquired about the provision of public lighting outside the Sailing Club. They highlighted the fact that there have been a number of accidents in the area due to the lack of

lighting and it has now become a health and safety issue. Mr Byrne advised the meeting that there is no funding in the 2017 budget to carry out work on this project but it would be considered in the schedule of works for 2018, however he also expressed concerns about the relatively high cost (approx. €7,000.00 plus VAT) involved for providing one public light at this location.

Estate Development Grants

At the September Municipal Meeting the Members agreed to allocate 50% funding to the estates that applied under the grant scheme with the remaining 50% to be allocated to upgrade works in other Local Authority estates within the Wicklow Municipal District. The estates that applied and that have not previously received grants in 2017 are to be allocated €1000 per estate with the remaining applicants to be allocated €250 per estate.

A presentation of the cheques will be made to the following estate development committees after the Municipal meeting has concluded.

- Ashwood/ Vartry Heights – Roundwood- €1000
- Ballinalea – Ashford - € 1000
- Carrig Court – Rathnew - €1000
- Mountainview – Newtownmountkennedy - €250
- Sycamore Drive – Newtownmountkennedy - €250
- Glean Chill – Glenealy - €250
- Hillview – Wicklow - €250

A discussion took place on how best the remaining €4000 could be spent on upgrade works in Local Authority estates. The Members suggested that this money be considered to go towards the provision of children at play signage, littering signage and dog fouling bins, however the members agreed that due to the already overstretched resources of the Wicklow Municipal District that if the provision of the dog fouling bins was to take place then the residents would have to take charge of emptying and maintaining them. The District Engineer agreed to obtain costs for the proposed signage and revert back with same to the Members at the December meeting.

CHRISTMAS PARKING

The District Administrator, Ms Joan Sinnott circulated details of the Proposed Christmas parking arrangements in Wicklow town to the Members. The proposal included 3 hours free parking which will apply to all Pay and Display parking areas in Wicklow Town from Friday 1st December to Monday 1st January inclusive with the exception of Loading Bays or Disabled Parking Bays. The Traffic wardens will continue to monitor and enforce parking during this time.

A printed message will be left on the parking machines to let motorists know about the three hour rule. New traffic bye laws applying from 28th August 2017 sees free parking in Wicklow Town from 9am to 10am. There will also be a 15 minutes official grace period allowed and free parking throughout the town on Sundays.

The Members felt the revised parking arrangements would be of huge benefit to the traders in Wicklow Town as well as the public who wish to shop in the town. The Cathaoirleach and Members

of Wicklow Municipal District encouraged the public to support local businesses and traders in Wicklow town while also enjoying the many festive activities on offer in the town over the Christmas period. The Members requested that the District Administrator issue a press release to inform the public of the Christmas Parking arrangements.

Cllr. Daire Nolan proposed the revised Wicklow Town parking arrangements for Christmas, the proposal was seconded by Cllr. Gail Dunne and unanimously agreed by all The Members.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTINING

The Members highlighted their continued support to Wicklow Town & District Chamber of Commerce in promoting the Christmas activities and events in Wicklow Town. They felt that Wicklow Municipal District has a long standing relationship with The Chamber and provide an annual contribution of €20,000 towards the Christmas lights in the town. The Members felt this was a very generous contribution which comes out of the Wicklow Municipal budget. They highlighted the fact that it is not widely known by the public that Wicklow Municipal District makes such a large contribution. They would like the public to be made aware of Wicklow Municipal District's role in the funding of the Christmas lights in the town. The Members requested that the District Administrator issue a press release to inform the public of the support and contribution that the Wicklow Municipal District make towards the provision Christmas Lighting in Wicklow Town each year.

WICKLOW TOWN TEAM

A discussion took place about the possibility of engaging a number of qualified & experienced Consultants to partake in a design competition for improving the public realm within Wicklow Town Main Street and surrounding areas. The Members were generally open to this idea but wanted all affected stakeholders to be involved in the design selection process. They felt that in doing so, a positive impact can be made to the way in which Wicklow both looks and functions, with benefits for local residents, businesses and visitors. The Members felt that for this to be a success, a co-ordinated approach would be needed with a buy in from Planners, Heritage Officer, Community Cultural & Social Development Section and the general public.

The District Engineer agreed to prepare a Draft document and a Terms of Reference for undertaking the design competition process and revert back to the Members with the same at the next Municipal District meeting. The District Engineer also reminded the meeting that this is a long term project to be implemented over a number of years in stages and that significant funding, in the millions of Euros, will be required in order to implement it. The District Engineer referred to the experience of Clonakilty in Co. Cork where similar large scale public realm improvements were recently completed over an 18 month construction period at a cost of €2.4 million.

A.O.B

Reopening of Wicklow Town Hall

The Members queried when the Wicklow Town Hall will be reopened, they felt that it would of benefit to the town to have the Wicklow Municipal district offices based in the Town Hall building. The Town Manager, Mr Joe Lane advised the Members that it would be reopened in the near future.

Wicklow Courthouse

The Members raised the issue of the ongoing closure of Wicklow Courthouse and the current dilapidated state the building has fallen into. The Members felt that it would be of huge commercial benefit to the town to have the court services back operating in Wicklow Courthouse. The Members vented their frustration that nothing has come of their requests to meet with the court services and the five Wicklow TD's, to discuss the possibility of reopening the courthouse. The Members also highlighted the backlog and delays being experienced in Bray Court House due to the high volume of cases having to be heard there now due to the closure of Wicklow Court House.

The District Administrator Joan Sinnott informed the meeting that she would make further efforts to schedule a meeting between the Court Services, Wicklow Municipal Members and the five Wicklow TDs to discuss the possibility of getting the court services back operating in Wicklow Courthouse. Ms Sinnott also agreed to write to the Minister directly to request a meeting as it was felt by the Members that the Wicklow Dail Deputies were not making any progress with this matter.

Town Twinning

The Members raised the issue of Town twinning and enquired as to what are the benefits to Wicklow town. Wicklow Town is currently twinned with the following towns.

Eichenzell - Germany

Montigny - France

Porthmadog – Wales

The Members requested that we ask the town twinning committee for an updated report on their activities for 2017. The District Administrator agreed to contact a representative from Wicklow twinning committee and request a report of their activities.

CORRESPONDENCE.

No correspondence

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that the next Municipal District Meeting is scheduled for 11th December 2017.

The meeting closed at 4.40pm.

SIGNED:

elb Hay Call

SIGNED:

J. S. D.

DATED:

12-01-18.