

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

MONDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2017 AT 3 P.M.

WURZBURG ROOM, COUNTY BUILDINGS

PRESENT: Cathaoirleach John Snell, Councillors Gail Dunne, Daire Nolan, Shay Cullen, Mary Kavanagh and Irene Winters.

IN ATTENDANCE: District Manager, Joe Lane; District Administrator, David Porter; District Engineer, Paul Byrne; Administrative Officer, Caroline Fox, Wicklow Port; Disability Federation Ireland, Laura English; Assistant Staff Officer, Catherine McCann, Assistant Staff Officer Liam Cullen.

Cathaoirleach John Snell opened the meeting at 3.11 p.m.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON 23RD JANUARY 2017.

It was proposed by Cllr. Gail Dunne and seconded by Cllr. Irene Winters and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District meeting held 23rd January 2017.

ENGINEERS REPORT

Paul Byrne presented the District Engineer's Report:

Glendalough/Laragh Public Lighting

The District Engineer advised the Members the installation of the lights was still on-going. The wrong type of lamp was delivered and Wicklow Municipal District is currently awaiting delivery of the correct lamps and the project should be completed in a couple of weeks.

Public Lighting at Convent Road/Mount Carmel Avenue

The Councillors enquired about two street lighting poles that have been erected opposite Bosun's Rest; however, they are not connected to the electricity supply. The lights were not put up by the ESB. The Members have been advised that it would cost in the region of €3,000 to get the lights up and running. The Members asked about the possibility of the two lights being connected up as it is particularly dark at this location. Mr. Byrne responded by saying he would follow up on this matter.

Newtownmountkennedy public lighting on R772 near Coillte Office

Mr. Byrne indicated that there had been numerous delays in the lighting being connected to the electricity supply. Connection fees and certificates have already been submitted and Mr. Byrne is still waiting for the ESB to arrive on site and carry out the necessary works.

Some Members vented their frustration with the level of service provided by Airtricity and expressed their disappointment that Wicklow County Council has entered a new three year contract with this service provider. The Cathaoirleach said he did not share the same frustration as the other Members present regarding street lighting in the District. He suggested that the Members allow a settling in

period of a month to gauge how the new system with Airtricity will progress. The Cathaoirleach also advised the Members to contact Declan O'Brien, Executive Engineer, Roads Section, should they have any issues with street lighting in the Wicklow Municipal District.

Wicklow Hills Development ~ Playing Pitches Newtownmountkennedy

As discussed at the last District meeting, the Wicklow Hills Development is handing over two playing pitches to Wicklow County Council. Mr. Byrne informed the Members that the drainage issues in relation to the playing pitches do not fall within his remit. He advised the Members that they should contact the Planning Section in relation to drainage issues with both pitches.

R763

Following the Members concerns about the number of accidents at this location, the District Engineer told the Members that this road was included in the Roads Programme as a Roads Reconstruction Project for 2017. Approximately, 1.4km of the road from the Blackhill to the entrance at the Devil's Glen, would be planed followed by the application of a new base and surface. The road would then be surface dressed to complete the job.

Footpath at Ballynerrin Upper, Wicklow

Mr. Byrne up-dated the Members in relation to the footpath at Ballynerrin Upper. He said that repairs had been carried out as requested, however, he emphasised that he will inspect the path regularly as any new cracks that appear could be an indication of a more serious problem.

Roads Programme 2017

The District Engineer informed the meeting that he had submitted the Municipal District's Schedule of Works for 2017 to the Roads Section for approval. The Cathaoirleach added that the Schedule of Works is compiled as a result of the Engineer's investigations carried out on roads in the District. The Cathaoirleach asked if Mr. Byrne could provide an overall percentage of the budget for WMD in comparison to the other Districts.

Paul Byrne undertook to provide this information at the next meeting.

Disability Federation Ireland (DFI)

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Laura English to the Meeting. Ms. English gave a presentation on the Disability Federation Ireland which is the national support organisation for over 130 voluntary disability organisations in Ireland who provide services to people with disabilities and disabling conditions. Ms. English provided the Members with statistics on people with disabilities in Ireland.

Ms. English was contracted to work 2 days a week with Wicklow County Council in order to tackle this issue. She congratulated Wicklow County Council on being the first local authority to provide funding for a community worker whose role is dedicated to empowering people with disabilities and addressing the needs of people with disabilities locally.

Harbour Authority

The Cathaoirleach advised the Members that Paul Ivory, Marine Officer, Wicklow Port, could not attend the meeting and he introduced Caroline Fox, Administrative Officer, Wicklow Port to the Members.

Ms. Fox stated that Wicklow Port is the first Port of Regional Significance to transfer directly into the administration of a local authority. Restructuring of staff took place to include a Senior Marine Officer, Marine Officer and Administrative Officer.

Ms. Fox informed the Members that staff initially needed to look at the Programme of Works required. Of particular concern are Health & Safety issues, traffic management, public access to the Harbour, public lighting in the area, pier voids, the Maritime Business Development and a Dredging Programme.

The Members asked about funding for Wicklow Port. Ms. Fox replied that the Department was not going to fund Wicklow Harbour as this would necessitate funding for four other ports included in the National Ports Policy.

With regard to the amenity groups and leisure facilities in the area, the Cathaoirleach highlighted the case of Vartry Rowing Club. He stated that as most local clubs have a base in the Harbour, he had been offered no explanation as to why the Vartry Rowing Club has not been facilitated in any way. He requested a written or verbal explanation from the Marine Officer, Paul Ivory.

Caroline Fox said she realised that the Harbour Authority needed to look at the whole area and examine facilities for all groups, not just for one group. These groups need facilities which cannot be provided at the moment. Ms. Fox informed the meeting that she will revisit this matter again and discuss with the Marine Officer.

Glenview Park, Kilpeddar

The District Engineer addressed the Members and up-dated them on the situation and drew up costings that would be required to bring the estate's roads and footpaths up to an acceptable standard. It would cost in the region of €100,000 to resurface the section of the estate which needs urgent attention. In order to repair the footpaths, it would cost approximately €20,000. Mr. Byrne informed the Members that there were no plans at the moment to carry out this work; however, if any savings were made on the works for the 2017 Wicklow Municipal District Roads Programme for, he would look at the matter again; however the DE stated that there are a number of other urgent road works projects in the Wicklow Municipal District area that need to be completed and these would also be competing for any additional funding that may come available.

The Members asked if this estate could be earmarked as a priority for 2018 and Mr. Byrne said that this could be considered.

Review of Parking Bye-Laws

Mr. David Porter, the District Administrator, addressed the Members in relation to the Review of the Parking Byelaws. Mr. Porter had provided the Members with a draft copy of the bye-laws and Schedules which were unique to each District.

Mr. Porter informed the Members that the Draft Parking Byelaws would be included on the next Agenda of the full Council Meeting and if passed will go on public display for a six week period.

Estate Development Grants

The Cathaoirleach suggested that the Estate Development Grant cheques will be allocated to the successful estates after the conclusion of the next Wicklow Municipal District Meeting to be held on 27th March next. This was agreed by the members.

St. Patrick Day's Parade

The Members proposed that a contribution of €1,500 be made payable to the Committee as previously agreed.

Marching Band

The District Administrator stated that a marching band, with eighteen members, would be arriving from Germany to take part in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Wicklow. The group would need provision of transport from Dublin Airport to Wicklow and also their return journey to Dublin Airport. The Members agreed to facilitate the cost of transport for the band by contributing €500 from the WMD Twinning Budget for this year.

Community Awards Scheme

The District Administrator informed the meeting that the fund for Community Awards Scheme 2017 will be available as grant aid to successful community groups and local organisations wishing to undertake community projects in their area. He made the Members aware that the closing date for the Awards Scheme is 30th March 2017.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the fact that the Awards would be allocated on a District basis rather than county-wide and would be agreeable to the event taking place in May 2017 once the event could be held in Wicklow Town. The Cathaoirleach asked the District Administrator to seek clarification on the venue for presentation of the Awards.

Roundabouts

David Porter investigated the possibility of promotion of named and advertising on the roundabouts in the District. He revealed that the roundabouts controlled by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) cannot be named as TII policy dictates they must have a geographical name. However, he advised the meeting that there are three viable options available to the Members, i.e., Broomhall, Marlton Road and the roundabout at Ashford House, Ashford Village, as these roundabouts are maintained by Wicklow County Council.

Brittas Bay Car Park - Winter Opening

The Members were of the opinion that it is not a viable option to open the car park during the winter months. The existing operator considered that it was not cost effective to open the car park

out of season. The Members recommended that a common sense approach be used in relation to the car park winter openings at Brittas Bay, i.e. Easter time and Bank Holidays etc.

The Cathaoirleach scheduled the next Municipal District Meeting for 27th March, 2017.

The meeting closed at 16:50 p.m.

SIGNED: _____

SIGNED: _____

DATED: _____