

**MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT  
MEETING  
MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2016 3 PM  
TOWN HALL**

**Present:** Cathaoirleach Irene Winters, Councillors Shay Cullen, Pat Casey, John Snell.

**In attendance:** District Manager Loraine Lynch, District Administrator David Porter, District Engineer Paul Byrne, Executive Engineer Alan Martin, Director of Services CCSD Michael Nicholson, Clerical Officer Caroline Lynch.  
Sam Conway (member of the public)

**Apologies:** Cllr. Daire Nolan.

**Cathaoirleach Irene Winters** opened the meeting at 3.01 pm.

The Members passed a vote of sympathy to the family of Cllr. Pat Kavanagh. The Members and those in attendance at the meeting stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2015**

It was proposed by Cllr. Shay Cullen, seconded by Cllr. Pat Casey and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2015.

**PRESENTATION OF DRAFT LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP) FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE MEMBERS**

Michael Nicholson gave a presentation on the draft LECP. He advised the Members that under the Local Government Reform Act 2014 the county development boards were abolished. They were replaced by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDC). One of their roles is to produce a 6 year plan which replaces the Outlook 10 year plan. There are two elements to the plan – economic and community. An advisory group was set up. Public consultations were held and hundreds of written submissions were received. Mr. Nicholson advised it is a high level plan which will be brought to the five Municipal Districts and then to the main Council meeting in March. and they are currently working on 2016. Ten high level goals were developed, five of which are economic and five are community. There are 129 actions in total.

He stated that the plan produced some interesting facts i.e. 27% of people are living in rural areas and there will be an 18% increase in preschool children. The information gathered will inform the plan.

He advised that the County Development Plan which will be adopted this year may or may not have an impact on the LECP. The Action Plan for Jobs may also impact on the plan. The LECP may have to be adopted again to conform with the Development Plan. He advised that if the Members were happy with the plan the Chair and the District Administrator would sign a statement. He offered to answer any questions the Members had and thanked the public who made submissions.

The Members thanked Mr. Nicholson for the presentation and everyone involved. They acknowledged the huge amount of work involved. It was noted that it was important that the plan is flexible. Mr. Nicholson confirmed that there had been considerable consultation with Planning.

The statement was signed by the Cathaoirleach and District Administrator.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed a member of the public, Sam Conway to the meeting. She said that his particular concern was in relation to the equine development at Wicklow Head. She asked if there was any update on this matter.

David Porter advised that Joe Lane, Director of Housing, had informed him the land would be used for grazing only for approximately 10 to 12 horses. The contact number for the Horse Welfare Manager would be made available. He further advised that there would be no education and no viewing of the animals at the Wicklow Head lands all other functions of the Trust would continue to be carried out at their Woodenbridge facility.

The Members felt there were some unaddressed issues such as safety, access to and from the site and the length of the lease. The members were concerned that the Irish Horse Welfare Trust met with senior management and concerned groups however they were not contacted.

Lorraine Lynch advised that the Director of Housing and Chief Executive had recently met with residents groups.

The Members asked for a meeting with the Irish Horse Welfare Trust and David Porter agreed to contact them and arrange a meeting.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Paul Byrne presented the Engineer's Report.

- Road Markings on Wicklow Gap:  
Mr. Byrne advised that this work is of reasonable cost and therefore possible.

- Surface Water at Annamoe:  
Mr. Byrne advised that funding has been applied for.
- Stop Sign at top of Black Hill:  
Mr. Byrne advised this has been done.
- Deer crossing rural roads:  
Alan Martin commented that this is a widespread issue. Signage would be costly. He advised he will speak to Jackie Carroll in regard to putting a message in the Countywise magazine warning drivers.

Mr. Byrne advised the cycle track is almost complete. Street furniture is to be installed and lights are to be connected. The Members commented on the new steps at the river bank and thanked the Council.

### **WINTER STORMS UPDATE E.G. THE MURROUGH, CHURCH BANKS**

Alan Martin advised that since the last Council meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> December the situation at The Murrough has changed and therefore the plans must be reconsidered. Mr. Martin advised that the Council will have redesign the proposed works, previously approved by the OPW, to incorporate the emergency works carried out by Iarnrod Eireann. Paul Byrne interjected that Declan Marnane has received preliminary drawings from the Consultants RPS. The Cathaoirleach advised she had been talking to Minister Simon Harris and he had indicated drawings had been submitted. The Cathaoirleach stated her understanding that the rock armour would now have to continue past the emergency works by Iarnrod Eireann and then change direction inwards.

The Members asked how long it will take to complete these works and how the works will impact on access for the public. They feel it is imperative to get the long term plans in place and apply for funding as soon as possible.

**Church Banks** – David Porter advised a lease had been produced by the Vicar however at the time of the meeting he had not reviewed this document. The Members asked who is going to remove the tree(s) from the river. Paul Byrne replied that in normal circumstances if a tree was impacting on Council property the Council would remove the tree to protect the council asset however in this circumstance the river is not impacting on Council property. He advised that the access to the bank is on very sandy soil and feels a temporary road may need to be put in place. He agreed to look at the options and the costs.

**Swimming Pool** – Paul Byrne informed the Members that he was in touch with the contractor. The permanent roofing should begin next week. He estimates it should be completed within two to three weeks, weather permitting.

**Gym** – Alan Martin told the Members the re-opening of the gym is on course for the 5<sup>th</sup> February. There were some clean up works and internal repairs to be carried out.

**The Weir in Ashford** – Alan Martin advised he had looked at this. He feels it is safer to leave the broken weir as it is. The Cathaoirleach advised that the Department of

Fisheries do not want the weir replaced and will object to any plans to replace it unless it is fish friendly.

The Members thanked Alan Martin and the staff for their work over the course of the bad weather. The matter of issuing sandbags to the public was raised.

## **FCA HALL**

David Porter advised that the Housing Section will use this building as an emergency cold weather facility for the next few months. He told the Members the Pipe Band wrote a letter expressing their interest in using the hall for their practice.

## **GLOR NA CASCA 1916 COMMEMORATION – DECISION ON MONUMENT TYPE**

David Porter advised the Members of the three options available, which had been circulated to the Members prior to the meeting. Brendan Martin had requested that a decision be made so that he could place an order for the monuments. The Members discussed the options and felt the boulder was the most practical option as it will fit into any landscape. They agreed to proceed with this option with the inscription in dual language. A decision in relation to the site for the monument was deferred to the next meeting.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

David Porter presented the IBAL Anti-Litter certificate to the Cathaoirleach which recognises Wicklow Town as cleaner than European norms. She congratulated the staff and Tidy Towns.

Mr. Porter distributed a list of groups the Council had given money to.

The Members raised the following issues:

- Potholes after the recent bad weather.  
Paul Byrne advised that temporary patching will continue for the moment and permanent repair works will start in the summer.
- Replacement of cobblestones in Market Square, Wicklow.  
Mr. Byrne advised that the Heritage Officer should have no objection to the replacement of the cobblestones with tarmac. He has documents ready to issue to four to five contractors. He hopes work will commence in the summer when the schools are out. He informed that the overseer regularly checks the road and patches the road. The Members pointed out that there are more tourists around especially going to the Gaol.
- Smells from Ballynagran landfill.

The Members raised the issue of the smells emanating from the landfill. It was agreed to write to the EPA.

- Recent break down of traffic lights at Grand Hotel, Wicklow.
- Election posters  
It was remarked that Glenealy Tidy Towns are appealing for no posters to be erected by candidates in the upcoming general election.

The members wished Cllr. Pat Casey good luck in running for the general election.

The meeting closed at 4.44 p.m.

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_