

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

MONDAY 26th FEBRUARY 2018 3PM

WURZBURG ROOM, COUNTY BUILDINGS

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

Apologies:

In attendance: District Manager Joe Lane, District Administrator Joan Sinnott, A/District Engineer Alan Martin, Assistant Staff Officer Liam Cullen

Cathaoirleach Shay Cullen opened the meeting at 3pm

Cllr. Irene Winters arrived into meeting at 3.12pm

Cllr. John Snell arrived into meeting at 3.20pm

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD 11th DECEMBER 2018

It was proposed by Cllr. Gail Dunne, seconded by Cllr. Daire Nolan and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District meeting held 22nd January 2018.

ENGINEERS REPORT

Mr Alan Martin presented the District Engineer's Report:

Road Schemes 2018

The A/District Engineer Mr. Alan Martin informed the meeting that a list road projects for 2018 has been submitted to the Wicklow County Council Roads department. He advised that following consultation with the General Service Supervisors and taking account of the number of jobs to be carried over from the Roads Programme 2017, a number of projects have been identified to be undertaken in 2018.

Pedestrian Crossings

A/District Engineer Mr. Alan Martin informed the meeting that a review of all upgrade works required for pedestrian crossings in the district will commence in the near future. Upgrade works on

the crossings will then be carried out where deemed necessary. The pedestrian crossing on Dunbur road was highlighted as being in particular bad repair.

Wicklow Lighthouse

A/District Engineer Alan Martin advised the meeting that correspondence had been received from Wicklow Harbour Master Paul Ivory confirming that the lighthouse at the end of the pier would be painted during the summer of 2018. It is intended to have the lighthouse painted prior to the Round Ireland yacht race.

Development at Ballinahinch Ashford

Mr Martin advised that following consultation with a group of Ashford residents concerned about the development, Wicklow Municipal district revised the traffic management plan to limit the use of local roads to local access only and will be monitored as required.

Hedge cutting – Hedgerows

A/District Engineer Alan Martin said that the Council have sent out an increased number of hedge cutting notices in 2018. He said the notices were sent out to notify people of their obligations to cut hedges on the roadside of their property. The Members felt that hedge cutting is a very contentious and serious issue but improvements have been made this year in the number of landowners adhering to hedge cutting notices. They highlighted the fact that it is bone of contention in rural areas where some people don't cut back their hedges.

Children at play signs

A discussion took place regarding the provision of children at play signs in Wicklow municipal district Housing Estates. €4000 has been set aside from the 2017 Wicklow Municipal budget for the provision of signs. The possibility of erecting the signs on existing poles was discussed, A/District Engineer advised that this would depend on the height of the existing poles. The District Engineer agreed to survey and obtain costs for the proposed signage and revert back with same to the Members at the March meeting.

Speeding in estates

A discussion took place about the ongoing problem of speeding in housing estates within the district. The provision of speed ramps was discussed but the Members were in agreement an onus must be put on residents to adhere to the existing speed limits within the estates. It was pointed out that new speed limit signs have been recently erected in all estates in Wicklow Municipal District.

Town Hall Re-opening

A/District Engineer Alan Martin informed the meeting that Wicklow Town Hall is due to reopen in the coming weeks. Refurbishment works have been carried out by Wicklow county Council direct labour crew, Mr Martin commended the crew for the excellent job that they are doing. District Manager Joe lane advised the meeting that Wicklow Municipal offices will be located on the ground

floor, with floors two and three available for further office space if deemed necessary. The Members requested further elaboration over how it is proposed to use the rest of the building.

Upcoming storm/frosty weather

A/District Engineer Alan Martin informed the meeting that Wicklow Municipal District is well prepared for the predicted cold snap facing the country. New deliveries of grit have been received in depots throughout the County. Plans are in place to grit as many roads in the district as possible, priority will be given to primary and major roads to ensure access maintained into and out of all towns and villages within the district.

Glenealy graveyard

The Members requested gravel for the graveyard in Glenealy. The District Engineer Alan Martin agreed to this request.

ST. PATRICKS DAY PARADE

The District Administrator Joan Sinnott advised she is currently a member of the Wicklow Town St. Patricks Day Committee. The committee have been meeting recently on Monday evenings in preparation for the upcoming festivities. The committee are seeking funding from Wicklow Municipal District for to help with associated costs.

Cllr. John Snell proposed to allocate €2300 to the Wicklow Town St. Patricks Day committee, €800 of which is to cover the cost of the proposed road closure. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Irene Winters and unanimously agreed by the Members.

TOWN TWINNING

District Administrator Joan Sinnott advised the meeting that the Wicklow Twinning committee have made an application to Wicklow Municipal District requesting funding. The funding is required for the provision of travel of visitors to and from the airport and for the hosting of visitors who are partaking in the St. Patricks Day Parade in Wicklow Town. Details of the numbers of visitors to the town are as follows:

Eichenzell – Germany – 30 people

Montigny – France – 20 people

Cllr. Mary Kavanagh proposed to allocate €4200 to Wicklow Town Twinning committee, this proposal was seconded by Cllr. Irene Winters and unanimously agreed by all Members.

DISCRETIONARY FUND 2018

A discussion took place about the allocation of the Wicklow Municipal District Discretionary fund 2018. It was proposed to allocate funding from this code to the Wicklow Municipal Tidy Town Committees and to defer the decision to allocate the remainder of the funding until District Engineer returns from Annual leave. Cllr. Irene Winters proposed to allocate funding to the following tidy towns committees as set out below, this proposal was seconded by Cllr. John Snell and unanimously agreed by all Members.

Newtownmounkennedy & District Tidy Towns Assoc.	€1000
Wicklow Tidy Towns Committee	€5000
Glenealy Tidy Towns committee	€1000
Rathnew Active Forum	€1000
Laragh Tidy Towns Committee	€1000
Roundwood Tidy Town Committee	€1000
Ashford Tidy Town Committee	€1000

The Members requested that District Administrator make enquiries to other districts as to how they support tidy town groups in their areas.

COMMUNITY GRANTS/ESTATE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

District Administrator Joan Sinnott circulated details of the Community Grants/Estate Development Grants to the Members. The closing date for both schemes is the 15th March. She also highlighted that the LIS scheme is now open for applications with a closing date of the 15th March also.

NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY AREA PLAN

A discussion took place regarding the Newtownmounkennedy Development Plan 2018-2024. The Members raised concerns that the plan did not provide for adequate recreational and open spaces and they also felt that there was a lack of emphasis on employment opportunities in the area.

The deadline for submissions was Friday the 23rd February. The meeting were informed that there were not many submissions to the plan but that there were a few big submissions with a large number of signatures.

Members highlighted the fact that many local community groups were worried about the direction that Newtownmounkennedy was going in.

CLIFF WALK

A discussion took place about the €75,000 allocated to works on the Cliff walk from the Outdoor Recreational Scheme. Concerns were raised by the Members that if works do not commence before the costal erosion work takes place that this funding may be withdrawn.

The Cathaoirleach felt that there was no danger of the money being lost for this project. The plan is to maximise the funding available in order to fully complete the job.

The Members requested an updated report from District Engineer Paul Byrne on the Cliff walk/Glen Beach project.

A.O.B

Graveyards policy and procedures

A discussion took place about the policy and procedures in place when purchasing a plot in graveyards within the Wicklow Municipal District. The Members highlighted a number of cases recently where families have been left very stressed and frustrated when trying to obtain a plot close to other family plots. The members agreed to that graveyard policies and procedures should be included as an item on the agenda of the next meeting.

Fitzwilliam Square

The District Administrator asked if the Members were agreeable to fund the costs associated with the closure of Fitzwilliam square

that took place during the Christmas shopping period. The Members agreed that this was very worthwhile exercise and that Wicklow Municipal District should cover road closure costs.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Funding request from Wicklow Rugby club

Wicklow Rugby Club submitted a letter requesting financial support from Wicklow Municipal District to help with the hosting of the upcoming Towns Cup final 2018. A discussion took place about the provision of funding for the event but the Members decided to defer their decision until they meet to discuss the funding of other projects from their discretionary fund.

Refurbishment or Demolition of public toilets in Roundwood

A letter was received from Deputy Pat Casey regarding either the possibility of refurbishment or the demolition of the public toilets in Roundwood. The Members agreed that the toilets were in a bad state of repair but that any future work on the toilets would depend on the availability of funding.

PRESENTATION FROM Mr. DAVE SHANNON – WICKLOW TOWN TEAM

Mr. Dave Shannon chairperson of Wicklow Town Team addressed the meeting. He updated the meeting on the structure of the Town team and what their goals and objectives are. He highlighted a number of projects that the Town Team would like to get up and running in the near future such as the back lighting of some prominent historical and tourist sites in the town, and also the regeneration of the Market Square area of the town. He felt if they could get these projects up and running it would highlight the work being done by the Town Team and encourage public participation future projects.

“Time to Kickstart Wicklow Town” Report forms the basis of the work of the Town Team. These areas are

- Wicklow Town Digital Strategy
- Greenway/Blueway
- Park and Ride
- Wicklow Town Public Realm/Historic Town
- Retail Survey
- Fitzwilliam Square/Courthouse

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that the next Municipal District Meeting is scheduled for 26th March 2018 at 3pm.

The meeting closed at 4.45pm.

SIGNED:

SIGNED:

J. D. [Signature]

DATED:

16th May 2011