

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

MONDAY 25th JUNE 2018 3.20PM

DISTRICT CHAMBER , TOWN HALL

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

In attendance: District Manager Brian Gleeson, District Administrator, Joan Sinnott, District Engineer Paul Byrne, District Engineer, Kevin Scanlon, Assistant Staff Officer, Liam Cullen

Cathaoirleach Shay Cullen opened the meeting at 3.25pm.

Senior Engineer Paul Byrne left the meeting at 3.45

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD 26th MARCH 2018

It was proposed by Cllr. Gail Dunne, seconded by Cllr. Shay Cullen and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District meeting held 28th May 2018.

The Members agreed to rearrange the scheduling of the items on the agenda.

CLIFF WALK

Senior Engineer Mr Paul Byrne updated the meeting on the proposed development and upgrade works on the Wicklow Cliff Walk. He advised that following a number of recent meetings with the Secretary and senior Committee members of the Wicklow Golf Club and a number of site visits to the Cliff Walk, Wicklow Golf Club have agreed in principle to the transfer of strip of land along the coastline bordering their property to Wicklow County Council.

This strip of land has a total area of approximately 3.647 acres and extends down to the existing shore line along the coast, it contains the Public Right of Way that forms the Cliff Walk as shown in the Wicklow Town - Rathnew Development Plan 2013-2019.

In exchange for this transfer of 3.647 acres of their land to Wicklow County Council, the Wicklow Golf Club are looking for Wicklow County Council to agree to the disposal of 7.50 acres of Wicklow County Council owned land at Dunbur Head which will be transferred to the ownership of Wicklow Golf Club. This 7.50 acres is to be used to enable the construction of a new hole on the Wicklow Golf Club course. This however would be subject to the final agreement by the Members of Wicklow County Council at their September meeting.

Mr Byrne highlighted the benefits of this Land Disposal for Wicklow County Council as follows:

- Wicklow County Council would own the land on which this section of the Public Right of Way is located, thus enabling the installation of secure boundary fencing between the Golf Club lands and the Cliff Walk, the provision of a safe all year round access to the Cliff Walk at Glen Beach
- It would allow the implementation of essential works to improve safety at dangerous sections of the Cliff Walk. Directional, Informational and Warning Signage would also be installed following completion of these works, thus allowing the Cliff Walk to be formally reopened to the Public.

Mr Byrne advised that Wicklow Golf Club have agreed in principle to allow access over their lands for staff, materials and plant to enable these works to proceed, which will result in significant cost savings to Wicklow County Council, when compared with the alternative of having to transport all staff, materials and plant down the narrow and steep path from the Glen Turn Car Park to the Glen Beach.

The Members thanked Mr. Byrne for his update and welcomed the news that negotiations are progressing well with Wicklow Golf Club. They felt that when the works on the cliff walk are complete it will be a fantastic tourism attraction for the town as well as providing a beautiful walk way for the local community. The Members thanked Senior Engineer Mr. Paul Byrne and District Administrator Joan Sinnott for the work they have done in progressing the project to this point.

Senior Engineer Paul Byrne left the meeting after presenting the report on the Cliff Walk

ENGINEERS REPORT

Mr. Kevin Scanlon presented the District Engineer's Report:

Housing

- Work continuing on maintenance and repairs.
- 2 DPG applications processed. 1 gate entrance done.
- Re-lets continuing. Approx. 3 houses completed and 6 commenced.
- Alan/Aidan continuing with technical support and backup to WCC-Housing Dept.

Roads

- All 4 LIS schemes completed.
- Laragh -Trooperstown continuing. Kerb installed and verge prepared. Gullies and chambers being installed.

- Planning works for Discretionary commenced with 2 pedestrian crossing and lighting jobs. These jobs will be finalised after time-critical LIS and DOT jobs are finished. Next 2 months.
- 1 of the drainage jobs was completed at Tongelee.
- 4 Road Improvement jobs done at Glenview Park, Ashford-Roundwood Rd, Mount Usher and Oldtown. Laragh is planned for this week.
- Works at the Grand were delayed due to issue with existing ducting, upgrades to lights and Contractor finishing off other jobs. There was a risk of not being finished for this weekend, so it was decided it would be best to start next week.
- Road Opening Licences continue to be processed and agreed. There's lots of works going on around the District with Virgin and Irish Water.

Environment

- Grass cutting and cleaning continued. Crew worked late last week to get Marlton Road junctions cut.
- Bins continued to be emptied but problems arising in areas where rubbish not being put in bins and domestic rubbish being put in others. KS talking to WCC to discuss options.

Planning

- Reports on applications and compliance with applications are continuing to be issued.
- Rosehill estate has been snagged with WCC in preparation for Taking in Charge.

Councillor's questions and queries

The Members raised concerns about the number of road opening licences being granted around the town particularly to Irish Water, their concerns related to the lack of notice given to residents in the area when water services is being reduced or turned off completely. Concerns were raised that these openings appeared to be classified as emergency openings rather than planned or scheduled. They also highlighted that there are significant traffic delays as a result of the road works. District Engineer Kevin Scanlon said that when road opening licence applications are being granted, rules and regulations must be adhered to. Mr Scanlon said that he would check what conditions were required on the granting of these road opening licences and revert back to the members with this information at the next meeting.

The Members asked for an update on the repair works to the house in Ashwood, Roundwood which was damaged in fire last year.

The Members asked for an expected start date on the pedestrian crossings at Dunbur Road and Glenealy and also when the works at the car park in Glenealy are due to commence. They advised the Tidy Town committees were keen to get the jobs completed before the tidy towns judging commenced. Mr. Scanlon advised that both jobs will commence in July and be completed in August.

The Members raised their disappointment that the Lighthouse had not been painted and also that the railings and signage at the Black Castle needed to be painted. They felt these issues should have been addressed earlier in the summer particularly with the Round Ireland yacht race starting in the town next weekend.

The Members advised that the footpath from Wicklow to Rathnew is dangerous due to overgrown hedges and the grass verges encroaching on to the path.

The Members enquired why footpaths that have recently been laid in the town have now to be dug back up in order to install cables , they questioned if the building contractors could put in some provision to prevent this. A question was raised as to why the water pressure at Yachmans Point was so low and could the matter be investigated.

Cllr. Gail Dunne apologised for a comment he made at the May meeting where he complained about the bins at the Greenhill Road carpark not being emptied. He has since been informed that there are no public bins at this carpark.

Cllr.Irene Winters thanked the Wicklow Municipal District staff for assisting in putting arrangements in place to accommodate the recent open Sea Swim that took place in Wicklow Town. This event brought a large number of people into the town and arrangements had to be made for car parking.

ESTATE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS 2018

District Administrator Joan Sinnott gave the following report on the Wicklow Municipal Estate Development Grants allocation for 2018.

Fourteen Applications received.

A number of applications were returned as they were incomplete.

All were returned with the exception of three and we have failed to contact them by telephone since.

One didn't supply the requested information and said they were ok for this year as they had received funding last year.

Another application came in as a group – BBH Group (Ballyguile, Broadlough & Hillview) – however we asked that they submit as individual applications. This was done and we received one from Hillview and Ballyguile (no Broadlough).

This left us with 10 complete applications and based on:

The Size of the estate, how many houses are in the estate, what planned maintenance/improvement works they had in mind for the year and the funds they already had available to them

We recommend the following allocation:

Drumkay, Rathnew ,Residents Association,	€1500
Sycamore Drive, Newtownmountkennedy,Residents Association	€800
Hillview, Wicklow Town,Residents Association	€1500
Mountain View, Newtownmountkennedy,Residents Association	€1500
Ballyguile, Wicklow Town,Residents Association	€1000
Seaview Heights, Wicklow Town,Residents Association	€600
Grahams Court, Wicklow Town,Residents Association	€350
Springfield Heights, Newtownmountkennedy,Residents Association	€300
Gleann Chill, Glenealy, Residents Association,	€300
Mount Carmel, Wicklow Town, Residents Association	€150
Total Allocation	€8000

Cllr. Irene Winters proposed to allocate the recommended amounts on the above list to the successful applicants. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. John Snell and unanimously agreed by all the Members.

TOWN TEAM

Mr. Dave Shannon addressed the meeting and gave a comprehensive update on the progress of each of the Working groups attached to the Town Team. Mr. Shannon detailed each of the projects that sub groups are currently working on.

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

Mr. Shannon thanked Wicklow County Council and in particular Wicklow Municipal District for their continued financial support and commitment to the ongoing projects.

Digital Strategy

Mr. Shannon stated that the team are still pursuing a suitable premises to set up a digital hub to attract small start up type business to locate in Wicklow town.

Greenway

Tender documents have been prepared and sent out for a Feasibility Study on the greenway from Greystones to Wicklow. Funding has been secured to carry out the study.

Park & Ride

Mr. Shannon felt that the Town was becoming isolated as extra trains are not being put on and the DART is not going to be extended to Wicklow. The motorway is becoming more difficult for commuters to navigate each morning and evening due to the congestion. He informed the meeting that a landowner has been identified to provide a Park & Ride site and is happy to sell or lease.

Public Realm

The team have applied under LEADER for funding to enable lighting of the heritage sites in Wicklow. The Geophysical surveys have now been completed on the Black Castle and the Abbey Grounds and there are plans to map the historical walks.

Retail

A Retail Survey has just been completed and the feedback from this is awaited.

He expressed his frustrations that some projects were not progressing as quickly as the town Team would have liked. Mr. Shannon had particular concerns at the lack of progress on the Fitzwilliam Square project in the town. The Members also raised their concerns with the delays in getting this project off the ground. The sourcing of funding was highlighted as the main reason for the delays. The Members asked the District Manager Mr. Bryan Gleeson for a breakdown on the percentage of levies collected in the town, that go directly back into developing the infrastructure in the town. Mr. Gleeson said that he was unsure of the exact figures but would revert back to the Members with an answer at the next meeting. The Members requested District Administrator to include "Town Levies" on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Shannon left the meeting at 4.55pm

REVIEW OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL BURIAL BOARD POLICY

A discussion took place on the review of the Wicklow County Council Burial Ground Policy and how this policy would impact on the graveyards in Wicklow Municipal District. There was some confusion by the Members as to what the exact proposals were that they were asked to vote on. They decided that they would need clarification on a number of issues before they would vote on any change to the existing policy. The Members agreed that they would email any queries they had regarding the review of the Burial Ground policy to District Administrator Joan Sinnott who would then contact Wicklow County Council Environment section for answers to their queries. Ms. Sinnott said that she would revert back to the Members at the next Wicklow Municipal District meeting with answers to their queries

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. Gail Dunne requested that a representative from the I.D.A be invited to a Wicklow Municipal District meeting to discuss the I.D.A's proposals for job creation business development in Wicklow Town.

Cllr. Mary Kavanagh asked about the possibility of sourcing a site for Vartry Rowing Club to keep a container in order to store their rowing equipment.

District Manager Brian Gleeson responded to a question at the May meeting by Cllr. John Snell.

Q. Has an application been made for EU funding for Costal Erosion Protection at the Murrough, Wicklow Town

A. No application has been submitted for EU funding for the Murrough. However, progress has been made with a study to establish the exact rate of erosion, mechanism etc with a view to applying for funding from the OPW. Irish Rail have published an advertisement for Consultants to progress this study in partnership with Wicklow County Council. These tenders are due back to Irish Rail now and consultants will be appointed in the coming days. A meeting with the OPW and Wicklow County Council is planned.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that the next Municipal District Meeting is scheduled for 23rd July 2018 at 3 p.m. The meeting closed at 5.45 p.m.

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Dated: _____