

## **MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING**

**MONDAY 28th May 2018 3PM**

**DISTRICT CHAMBER , TOWN HALL**

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

**Apologies:** Daire Nolan

**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 3.05pm.

Cllr. Mary Kavanagh joined the meeting at 3.03pm

District Engineer Paul Byrne left the meeting at 3.32

### **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018**

It was proposed by Cllr. Gail Dunne, seconded by Cllr. John Snell and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District meeting held 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018.

The Cathaoirleach and Members welcomed the New District Manager, Mr. Brian Gleeson and the new District Engineer, Mr Kevin Scanlon to Wicklow Municipal District. The Members wished them well in their new roles.

Mr Gleeson and Mr Scanlon thanked the Members for their warm welcome and said that they look forward to working together in the future, for the benefit of Wicklow Municipal District.

Tributes were also paid to the outgoing District Manager Mr. Joe Lane and the outgoing District Engineer Mr. Paul Byrne. They were thanked and commended for their hard work and diligence during their time working in Wicklow Municipal District.

### **ENGINEERS REPORT**

Mr. Paul Byrne presented the District Engineer's Report:

#### Capital Funded Road works Programme:

District Engineer Mr Byrne informed the meeting that the procurement process for the capital funded road strengthening and reconstruction projects (Restoration Improvement budget) has now been completed with Kilsaran and Plazamont being the successful companies in the tender process.

Mr Byrne advised that the footpath repair works has already commenced at Glenview Park housing estate in Kilpedder, in advance of planned road resurfacing works.

Mr Byrne advised that the majority of the road recycling and overlay works are due to commence at the end of June in the District once all four Local improvement Schemes have been completed.

#### Resurfacing at Marlton Road/Abbey Street

Mr. Paul Byrne District Engineer informed the Members that resurfacing works at Marlton Road/Abbey Street junction will commence on the 5<sup>th</sup> June. This project is due to be completed within five to seven days weather permitting. The works will involve the raising of the levels of existing road gullies, manholes as well as the installation of new road markings and a traffic light system upgrade. During the works a traffic management system will be in place which may cause some delays during busy times, this will be monitored and reviewed if necessary.

#### Footpath from Trooperstown to Laragh on the R755 road:

An information letter was issued to all residents & businesses located along the route of the proposed footpath from Trooperstown to Laragh on the R755 road. Works commenced on the 8<sup>th</sup> May and are currently ahead of schedule with an estimated completion time of four months. Mr Byrne advised that the feedback received on this project was very positive.

#### Local Improvement Schemes

Mr Byrne informed the meeting that Wicklow Municipal District has four successful applications for the Local Improvement Schemes. Mr Byrne advised that the Hawkstown project is almost complete with the other projects due to commence within the coming weeks. He advised there has been very positive feedback from residents of Hawkstown Lane where the work has been carried out. The four Wicklow Municipal projects approved are as follows.

- Hawkstown Upper
- Slanelough
- Church Lane, Calary
- Tomdarragh

#### **Councillor's questions and queries**

##### Traffic lights at Grand Hotel junction

The Members queried if there was a problem with the sequence of the traffic lights at the Grand Hotel junction, as number of motorists reported that they were experiencing delays with the lights changing. Mr Byrne advised that a review and upgrade of the traffic light system will be carried at the beginning of June as part of the project to resurface this junction.

##### Dates for Discretionary works completion

The Members queried if there was an expected completion date for the discretionary works that were agreed at the April Municipal meeting. They felt that these works would greatly enhance areas

that are involved in tidy town projects. Mr Byrne expects work on the projects to commence in the coming weeks with the majority of the projects to be completed by the end of the summer.

#### Bins overflowing

The Members raised concerns that the bins in Wicklow Town and surrounding villages have recently been overflowing with waste. They felt that this is very unsightly particularly in the height of the tourism season. Mr Byrne advised that a big part of this problem is the amount of people using the public bins to dispose of domestic waste.

A discussion took place about the provision of bins with smaller openings and bins that are solar powered where the rubbish can be compacted into the bins. Concerns were raised that these bins would not be suitable as the excess weight of the bins may make it difficult for staff to empty them. Also the cost of purchasing these bins was thought to be excessive.

#### Condition of road at Callowhill/Knockfada

The Members raised concerns about the condition of the road at Callowhill/Knockfada. The road is in extremely bad repair due to works being carried out to install/repair pipes at the Vartry Water Works project. Mr Byrne advised that a road opening licence had been obtained by the contractor and he assumed that repairing of roads damaged as result of the works would be part of the conditions in granting the licence. Mr Byrne advised that he would clarify this and revert back to the Members with the relevant information.

#### Upgrading of road signage within Wicklow Municipal District.

The Members asked if a review of the provision and maintenance of road signage within Wicklow Municipal District could be carried out particularly at on the N11, the roundabouts and slip roads approaching villages and towns. Mr. Byrne advised that all signage on the N11 and relevant slip roads and roundabouts was the responsibility of the T.I.I. He advised that Wicklow Municipal District constantly monitor the upkeep of signage throughout the District

### **DISCRETIONARY FUND 2018**

The following projects listed below have been approved for funding from the 2018 Discretionary Fund. The District Engineer advised that work on obtaining quotations is ongoing. He expects work on the projects to commence in the coming weeks with the majority of the projects to be completed by the end of the summer

- Traffic Calming measures in Glenealy Village
- Footpath at Ballybeg, Rathnew
- Road surface repairs at Old Village, Rathnew
- Public Lighting at top of steps, Sailing Club, Wicklow
- Two picnic benches at outdoor gym/skatepark, Wicklow
- Repairs to zebra crossing, Dunbur Road  
The crossing may be relocated due to road safety issues
- Traffic calming measures at Ballinastoe Crossroads, Roundwood
- Traffic lights and road safety measures at Dunnes Stores, NTMK
- Public Lighting installation at River Walk, Wicklow

- Previously agreed Tidy Towns allocation
- Back lighting for Wicklow Town Team projects for historical sites

### **CLIFF WALK**

The District Engineer informed the meeting that he and the District Administrator had met with members of the Wicklow Golf Club over the reopening of the cliff walk .He advised that the discussions were of a positive nature. Mr. Byrne advised that consideration must be given to the safety of the walkers to ensure that they are not hit by golf balls and that also that there must be reasonable area of space for people to walk far enough away from the actual cliff edge. Mr. Byrne said that he was hopeful that the discussions with the Golf Club would result in a positive conclusion.

The Members asked if it was possible for the District Engineer and District Administrator to progress this project through and stated that great credit was due to the stakeholders for working together for the benefit of the whole town.

### **TOWN TEAM**

The Cathaoirleach advised that the sub-committees of the Town Team are still working away diligently on progressing a number of projects. The sub groups are as follows.

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

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### Discussion paper on reserve functions.

A discussion paper on Reserved Functions that may be performed in respect of a Municipal District by Wicklow County Council or by the Members of the Municipal District had been previously circulated to the Member.

At a recent Council meeting, it was suggested in the context of the matters on the Agenda for that meeting, that the Council might reasonably consider delegating certain reserved functions presently exercised by the full Council to the five Municipal Districts which constitute Wicklow County Council. This Discussion document has been prepared to assist the members of the Council in considering this proposal.

The District Manager requested that the Members review the documentation circulated advising them that at this point they had nothing to decide, however that the item would be on the June Agenda for discussion.

To consider Wicklows Schedule of Municipal District works for 2018

After reviewing the schedule of Municipal District Works expenditure for 2018 under the various programme groups, the following points were raised at the April Wicklow Municipal District meeting. The District Manager Mr Brian Gleeson issued the following replies to the queries raised.

Question.E09 – Burial Grounds – More burial grounds in Wicklow however very little difference in funding?

Answer. Funding allocations are based on demands made to the Environment Department during the annual budget process. Some other Municipal Districts allocations included one off jobs which would have inflated their allocation for this year. Notwithstanding this, the Wicklow Municipal District received the highest allocation within the county.

Question .G03 – No allocation

Answer. The budget allocated in 2017 was based on a small amount of GO wages charged in 2016. However there was no payroll costs charged to that code in 2017 and therefore no expenditure budgeted for 2018. It should be noted that any major costal protection works will come under the Capital Budget rather than the Revenue Budget.

Cllr. Snell asked whether an application for EU Funding had been made previously in respect of coastal protection for the Murrough area, and if so what was the status of the application. The District Manager Brian Gleeson stated that he would enquire into the matter and revert to the members with an answer at the June meeting.

Question .D04 - Industrial and Commercial Facilities –

Answer. This relates to the running costs of Clermont. This is centrally administered expenditure within the Wicklow Municipal District area.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

District Administrator Joan Sinnott read out a letter received from Wicklow Rugby Club. The letter thanked Wicklow Municipal District for their support and contribution towards the hosting of the 2018 Towns cup final. The financial assistance and work the carried out by the WMD outdoor staff was very much appreciated b the club.

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that the next Municipal District Meeting is scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 3 p.m. The meeting closed at 4.10 p.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_