



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14th JUNE 2017

Present: Cllr. Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Pat Kennedy
Cllr. Mary McDonald
Cllr. Miriam Murphy

Officials Present: MS. Helena Dennehy, A/District Manager
Ms. Linda McDonald, District Administrator
Mr. Jack Kelly, District Engineer
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, Assistant Staff Officer

Ms Darragh Genocky, GOCAR presentation
Ms Sorcha Walsh, Senior Planner
Ms Lisa Rothwell , Assistant Planner

Item 1 - Vote of Sympathy:

The Members expressed votes of sympathy to the families of the following, who recently passed away:

Margaret McCarthy, June Wynne, Declan Kelly, Kiron Choudhury, Dorothy Sharpe, Michael Arthur.

Cllr McDonald asked that we remember the family of Patricia O'Connor whose remains were discovered in the Wicklow mountains.

A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2 – Confirmation of Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Meeting, held on the 10th of May 2017.

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Meeting held on the 10th May 2017 were proposed by Cllr Bourke and seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald.

Item 3 – Matters Arising:

Cllr Bourke referred to last month's minutes and if there was anything further on the vandalism at Kilbride Graveyard. Jack Kelly DE said that the maintenance of the graveyard was not the responsibility of Wicklow County Council. Ms McDonald said that a land registry search revealed that the owners of the land are now in Liquidation. Ms Dennehy said that it is a closed graveyard and that no maintenance will be carried out there – Wicklow County Council would not usually get involved in repairing headstones and this is the responsibility of the families. Cllr Fitzgerald asked if they are in receivership can we purchase the site and Ms Dennehy confirmed that this is not possible when the company is in liquidation and even if a CPO was possible WCC would not be in a position to maintain the site and would be of no benefit. Cllr Annesley said it could be a possible mapping error and Ms Dennehy said that regardless of who the owner is WCC will not maintain a closed graveyard. Cllr Annesley said that it is a national monument full of local heritage. Ms Dennehy said that there seems to be an ongoing issue with security at the graveyard and WCC have not been in a position previously to carry out any repairs. Cllr Murphy said that as AMD have been involved with the small committee that the responsibility should be shared. Jack Kelly DE said that AMD cannot get involved in all worthy projects in the district. Cllr Bourke said he would contact the Liquidator and get more information and will report back at the next meeting.

Cllr McDonald requested a suspension of standing orders for 5-10 minutes at the end of the meeting to discuss dumping in Kilcarra. All present agreed.

Item 4: To receive a presentation from Mr. Darragh Genockey, Sales & Operations Manager, Go-Car Ireland.

Mr Genockey gave a powerpoint presentation on the concept of car-sharing. The company was established in 2008 and have a pilot scheme running with Cork City Council. The company started off with 3 cars and now have 215 operational in the Dublin region. EU mobility week is coming up in September and this could be an opportunity to try out a pilot scheme and you would need one location in the town to start the scheme.

Cllr Murphy said this was a very interesting concept but how would it sell in a more rural setting. Mr Genockey said that the concept was easier to sell when the Local Authorities came on board and we would also use other groups such as PPN and Tidy Towns groups to advertise the scheme. The demand for the service will increase once the cars are in place and we would need 25-30 trips/users per month to make it viable and it is working across Europe.

Cllr Fitzgerald asked if Go-Car facilitated families of 7-8 and Mr Genockey said that at the moment they only had smaller hatchback/saloon cars in the scheme with some electric cars

in Dublin and vans also. The average journey time return would be 3 hours. Cllr Fitzgerald said it might not be attractive to people who had access to public transport as it would be costly. Mr Genockey said that a trip from Dun Laoghaire to City Centre would be in the region of €24.00 and the risk would all be on the company but it is working in Lucan and Rathcoole. We also have a provisional scheme ready to go in Carlow. Cllr Fitzgerald said he would support it and Cllr Murphy asked if parking would be an issue. Mr Genockey said that it would up to AMD to consider allocating a space.

Cllr McDonald asked if there were any restrictions on use time and Mr Genockey said no but that over 50km would incur a cost per km – not intended to be the same as car hire. Cllr Kennedy asked if there were any plans to expand to outlying towns and villages and Mr Genockey said that they have liaised with LEADER and the Rural Transport section in the NTA about a submission to the 2018-2022 plan and would hope that within 5 years the scheme would cover smaller towns and villages.

Cllr Annesley asked what happens if there are issues with the car and Mr Genockey said that they are a new fleet and there should not be any issues but they would have back up cars available as well as a refund amount in the value of the taxi fare if required. He also added that the scheme is open to holders of full driving licences and must be over 21 years of age.

Ms Dennehy said that submissions have been made under the current review of the parking bye-laws for this type of scheme and that the districts need to allow for designated parking spaces to accommodate any future scheme of car sharing.

Cllr Annesley asked about fuel and Mr Genockey confirmed that the car comes with a Topaz fuelcard and the user is required to return the car with minimum of a quarter of a tank of fuel.

Cllr Annesley thanked Mr Genockey for his presentation and wished him well in business.

Ms Dennehy said that the district should bear in mind that there are other providers of the same service and these could also submit a tender to operate the scheme.

Item 5 : To discuss the report on the submissions received to the Speed Limit Review (Report posted to members.)

Cllr Annesley asked if anyone had any issues with the report.

Ms Dennehy said that this is carried out over a 4-5 year cycle and can be reviewed and the proposed speed limit bye-laws need the member's approval and this is required to move it along. Cllr Bourke asked if the speed limits for the bus travelling the N11 route can be enforced and Ms Dennehy said the purpose of this item on the agenda was to support this version of the bye-laws. Jack Kelly DE said that a stretch of road would need a certain number of entrances onto it to be suitable for speed zoning and certain rural criteria would designate what changes could be made.

Two areas were discussed one on the R750 and one on the L2190 and Ms Dennehy said that these will be referred back to Wicklow County Council and that in the meantime the document as a whole needed agreement. Cllr Bourke said that the issue of enforcement can be brought up at the next JPC meeting. Ms Dennehy said that if it is not in this presented document it will not be included but that could be referred back to Wicklow County Council, Roads Section.

All agreed on the draft document as presented and the referrals back to Wicklow County Council.

Item 9: To receive an update on the Vacant Site Levy.

Ms Walsh handed out an information document on the Vacant Site Levy to be implemented under the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015. This is a short document outlining the headline issues around the levy and this presentation is given to let the Municipal Districts know what is planned for the county.

The VSL will act as a kick-start for developers and will be implemented in higher level settlements initially. The sites need to be residential and serviced – it would not be fair to levy unserviced sites. The levy scheme will not be rolled out in the Arklow Town area until the issues with IW are resolved.

It is hoped that the scheme will stimulate development and there will be a long lead in time to give the opportunity to render the site non-vacant. Other criteria will also need to be met – having the potential for a successful planning decision. There has been no specific timeframe set as yet. Staff should familiarise themselves with the levy so that any questions from the public can be answered.

Cllr Fitzgerald said that IW has been lenient at times so how can we exclude AMD sites with this uncertainty with when works will start. Ms Walsh said that IW will not give a definite timeframe and we could expend a lot of resources in implementing the levy scheme in Arklow without knowing if a planning decision is certain. Regeneration is the vision and IW need to provide a definite answer as it is potentially unfair and a waste of resources.

Ms Rothwell gave an overview of the process. Cllr Murphy said that we are again held to ransom by IW and that the Main St needs regeneration and 6 Councillors and Wicklow County Council are helpless. Cllr Bourke said there may be some ambiguity around the term “serviced lands”. Ms Walsh said that this is covered in the Local Area Plan and that is in the hands of the members. The LAP can be reviewed over the next consultation cycle and landowners may look to have lands de-zoned while keeping in mind that Wicklow needs a required bank of zoned land. Jack Kelly DE asked if LA lands would be subject to the levy and Ms Walsh confirmed that they would.

Ms Walsh confirmed that at this stage full planning and valid commencement would be required to avoid the levy. By starting with town centres first we will learn a lot and will hope to implement the levy on green field sites after the first year. Cllr Bourke asked if a figure could be put on the potential income and Ms Walsh said that it was too early to

estimate and that a map would be left in district offices. Cllr Kennedy asked where would the income be used and Ms Walsh said it would go toward local housing and town centre regeneration.

Item 6: To discuss report on Woodlands Grove (1-9) following receipt of submissions in relation to traffic calming.

Ms McDonald circulated a copy of the letter issued to the residents and said that 3 submissions had been received on foot of the letter, 2 for and 1 against. A Garda report has been requested for the area. Cllr Fitzgerald suggested waiting for the Garda report and to move the item to the July agenda. All agreed.

Item 7: To receive an update on the Roads Programme for 2017.

Jack Kelly DE gave his report for the district. Cllr Bourke asked how many CIS schemes were approved and Jack Kelly DE there was one in the District and Ms Dennehy confirmed that no other applications were received to date. Cllr Annesley asked when the works on Main St would be starting and Jack Kelly DE said in the next week the work at the PO was due to start and July for the re-surfacing. Cllr Annesley said that there is a lot of works being carried out by external contractors and he questioned the quality of reinstatement works. Jack Kelly DE said that they were mostly ok and any reported issues have been noted. There are 3 different firms currently working in the town and this is a good sign showing how busy the town is.

Cllr Fitzgerald said the cobble locking in places was not properly re-instated. We invited the works into the town and in the long run it will benefit us all.

Item 8: To receive an update from Cllr Fitzgerald on the work of the SPC burial Ground Sub-Committee.

Ms Dennehy said that 5 urn walls are to be erected throughout the county and it could be proposed that Arklow Graveyard would be second to receive one. Cllr Kennedy supported this as the rural demand for an urn wall was not there. Cllr Fitzgerald questioned the 8km policy and Ms Dennehy said that this had been agreed by the SPC and that the pricing policy would remain in place and will be reviewed in 2019. There will also be a common signage policy with new standard signs showing registrar contact information.

Cllr Kennedy asked if the document could be circulated. Ms Dennehy said that the document will be circulated after the SPC meeting and the 8km policy would be further discussed and where there was limited availability other measures may apply.

Cllr Kennedy said that more flexibility may be required for certain areas like the uplands. Ms Dennehy said that the 8km policy was proposed as a standard to fit all and if there are instances where this policy cannot apply they can be discussed. Cllr Kennedy said that tradition was being ignored.

Cllr Bourke asked why only certain graveyards had a water supply and Ms Dennehy said that no new supplies would be made. Cllr Bourke asked if this could be reviewed at Castlemacadam and Barndarrig, Jack Kelly DE said he would assess both.

Cllr Murphy said that Arklow Graveyard was in a state – especially the general maintenance around the graves that were no longer visited. Cllr Kennedy agreed and asked if it was possible to give some of the income earned from plots to committees to maintain these areas and Ms Dennehy said that this income is not ring fenced and is treated as general income. Cllr Fitzgerald asked if the Annual MD Burial Ground maintenance budget could be increased at budget time and Ms Dennehy said this was a matter for the members.

Cllr Murphy asked if there were any more community schemes coming up and Jack Kelly DE said that there were none planned in the short term.

Cllr Annesley said that there was no respect shown for the green lawn graves – the grass cuttings are not picked up. Jack Kelly DE said that the area cannot be manicured all year round.

Item 10: To receive updates on the following projects.

Ms McDonald handed out an update on the following and said that if anyone had any questions to come back to her.

Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

WCC and OPW are still working towards submitting an EIS to an Bord Pleanála this year. The main activity at the moment is attempts to align the Flood scheme with Irish Water's Arklow sewerage Scheme, to limit the effect of having construction on both Schemes at the same time. A Marine Site Investigation will take place in the coming weeks, and ecology surveys have taken place in recent weeks.

Arklow Sewerage Treatment Plant

Work is continuing on the Arklow Sewerage Scheme. A number of surveys have been carried out recently. These include flow/load, ecology and archaeology of the bay. There are a number of surveys planned for the coming weeks. These include hydrodynamic modelling of the bay. The marine site investigation contract is currently being assessed and is expected to start in June/July. Design of the interceptor sewers and treatment plant building is well advanced.

IW and the OPW are discussing options for integration of the flood scheme and the sewerage scheme where possible. It is planned to lodge the planning application and associated documents in late 2017.

Arklow Town Team

5 meetings have been held at this stage and 5 subcommittees have been established. A Work Flow Action Plan is currently being prepared for the circulation at the next meeting. Orders have been received for 170 baskets and we now have a waiting list for the final delivery of baskets.

Arklow Courthouse

Rob Mulhall has been appointed Project Manager for this upgrade. He is currently obtaining quotations and following same a meeting will be held with the Court Services.

Coastal Protection Works on the North Beach

No change to this application

Arklow Christmas Festival

3 meetings have been held to date this year. Dates have been agreed for the festival which will run over 2 days – Saturday 25th November and Saturday 9th December. A third event will take place on the evening of Tuesday 19th December which will be a prize giving night.

Arklow Halloween Festival

Work is continuing on the planning of this festival and it is hoped to announce details in the month.

Arklow on Ice

Negotiations are still taking place on this venture for Arklow and a public meeting will be held on Thursday 6th July to inform businesses and interested parties about the event and to get buy in from them.

Item 11: Correspondence.

Ms McDonald said that K O'Byrne was requesting a meeting with the Councillors in relation to a Solar Farm proposal. Following a discussion on same it was agreed that Cllrs. Bourke and Annesley would meet with Mr. O'Byrne.

Ms McDonald said an application had been received for festival funding from Pier Leonard – Pottery – All agreed to put the festival funding on the August agenda.

Cllr Annesley invited all present to the launch night of the Seabreeze in the Bridge Hotel.

Ms McDonald said that notification of funding had been received from BIM in the amount of €253,000.00, to be spent on the following –

- Storage units at the Harbour
- Refurbishment of the Lightship Lantern
- Hoist for the fishermen

Cllr Bourke asked who put in the application for funding and Ms McDonald said the Environment Section.

Jack Kelly DE said that placement of the lantern would need public consultation and it would be a shame not to have everyone in agreement and we need public buy-in.

Cllr Annesley said it would need to be a prominent feature in the town and that a public consultation process took place previously – before AMD was established.

Item 12 : Any Other Business.

Cllr McDonald raised the issue of the fly tipping in the Kilcarra – this seems to be happening consistently in the same spot, it is a county wide issue but it's happening a couple of times a week in this particular spot. Cllr McDonald suggested the putting CCTV up in the area may break the habit. It is not household rubbish and there is a lot of recyclable materials and could be house clearances etc., possibly a business with no permit. We need to educate the public on who they are giving their waste to.

Cllr Kennedy agreed and said the same happened this week in Knockananna – a lorry load. Ms Dennehy said that to keep the chain of evidence the dumped material should not be touched and a call made to the Environment Office. There is already a media campaign out there and we have tried to get the message across but community commitment is also required.

Cllr Fitzgerald said that a further €50,000.00 approx had been secured for the works on the Parade Ground coming from historical ground rents.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 12th July 2017.

Signed: *Cllr. Tommy Annesley, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.*

Signed: Ms. Linda McDonald, Arklow Municipal District Administrator