



**Wicklow County Council  
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

**ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

**Present:** Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach  
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke  
Cllr. Tommy Annesley  
Cllr. Pat Kennedy  
Cllr. Peir Leonard

**Apologies:** Cllr. Miriam Murphy

**Officials Present:** Mr. Colm Lavery, District Manager  
Mr. John Bowes, District Engineer  
Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator  
Mr. Marc Devereux, Senior Engineer  
Mr. John Daly, Executive Engineer  
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, Assistant Staff Officer

Cllr Fitzgerald notified the meeting that Marc Devereux SE and John Daly EE would be attending the meeting to give the members an update on the Arklow Flood Defence Scheme at 4.30pm – added item to the meeting agenda.

**Item 1 : Vote of Sympathy:**

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

Bridget Lillis, Peter Cully, Joey Boyle, Maureen McDonagh, Vera Lambert, Bridget Fitzgerald, Breda murray, Paddy Clarke, Hugh Gildea, Laura Clarke, Sally Kenny, Rosaleen McCormack, Eather Wolohan, Michael Canavan, Michael Klyne, Dorota Egan, Olive Canavan, Marie Brown, Johnny Byrne, Norah Ellison, Derek Breen, Dixie Kenny, Kathleen Sheridan, Maragret Conroy, Dorothy Doyle, Tommy Busher, John Smith, Tom Kelly, Brid Gaffney, Liam O Cochláin.

A minutes silence was observed.

## **Item 2 : Confirmation of Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting, held on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

Amendments to the minutes of meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019 were discussed and approved by the members (amendments attached). Concerns were raised that discussions around adopting the minutes at each meeting would make the meetings run inefficiently. Members agreed that the minutes would record unanimous agreement where appropriate.

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019 were proposed by Cllr. Kennedy and seconded by Cllr. Bourke.

## **Item 3 : Matters Arising**

No matters arising.

## **Item 4 : John Bowes, District Engineer to discuss –**

- *Roads Programme 2019*

DTTAS Restoration Improvement Programme 2019 road strengthening works in 7 locations were completed in June 2019.

DTTAS Restoration Maintenance Programme 2019 surface dressing works in 7 locations were completed in July 2019.

- *Discretionary Works*

Nine projects are at varying stages of progression, with the following still to be completed –

Traffic calming – Fairgreen. The scope of works has changed following consultation with residents. Bollards will now be installed to prevent through traffic.

Tree cutting/pruning/removal works in Arklow Town Area.

Carpark at Mill Rd, Arklow.

Brookmeadow, Arklow, footpaths and tree pruning.

- *Footpaths/IPB Remedial Works*

Seven projects are at varying stages of progression, with the following works still to be completed –

St. Michael's Close (No.1-No.16) – snagging to be done.

Avalon – works partially completed due to issues with unducted cables and other services

- *Low Cost Safety Schemes*

Three pedestrian crossing schemes approved for 2019 –



L2900 Emoclew Rd – due to start on wed 18/9.

L2172 Redcross –.delayed, issue with electricity connection.

R754 Avoca - going out to tender

- *LIS & CIS Road Works*

Thirteen applications were received for LIS works – Two were shortlisted. Resident contributions have been received and works have commenced on the Kilqueeney stretch and works have finished on the Kilballyowen stretch.

One application was received in 2019 under the CIS scheme – Killacoran, Aughrim. One application has been received for the 2020 & 2021 CIS scheme.

Cllr Annesley asked if the closing date had passed and John Bowes DE confirmed it had. Concerns were raised by Cllr Fitzgerald that there had not been much notice given about the closing date and Cllr Bourke was concerned that it only takes one person to veto an application made by many. Cllr Kennedy said that people were afraid that they would be responsible for the road if they made an application under CIS scheme. John Bowes DE confirmed that the Council would continue to be responsible for roads under the CIS scheme as these were public roads and as the LIS scheme works are done on private roads the residents would retain responsibility for these. Cllr Leonard asked if there would be any further opportunity to apply and John Bowes DE stated it may be possible for other applications to be made.

Cllr Bourke asked if remaining funds from the Fairgreen works could be used for lighting in Rathdrum, Colm Lavery DM said that it would be a relatively small amount and the works are not costed. The funds would cover footpath works and Aughrim (180m shortfall approx.) would be the best fit. The members discussed a project on which to spend the money – Heritage Lights Rathdrum, following the discussion Cllr Kennedy proposed the footpath works at Aughrim be carried out and Cllr Fitzgerald seconded this, all members agreed. John Bowes DE advised the members that it would not be possible to complete the full stretch of footpath as the width of Rednagh Bridge was insufficient to accommodate a footpath.

Cllr Bourke said that residents in Avoca were unhappy with the positioning of the pedestrian crossing. John Bowes DE advised that these works were already at tender stage and are time constrained as they are grant funded. A delay would not be advisable. Cllr Leonard asked about the cost of the works. John Bowes DE confirmed that the works would cost €30000 and said that he had met with a resident yesterday to address any concerns they might have. Cllr Bourke asked if the DE would speak to residents again to allay any concerns. John Bowes DE said he would and requested contact details. Cllr Leonard said that communication would allay any fears about the location of the crossing.

Cllr Kennedy enquired if there was any possibility that the design for heritage lights on the bridge could be done in-house. Colm Lavery DM said he would check if this was possible.

Cllr Fitzgerald stated that there had been incidents on the Main St. footpaths and an audit of footpaths in the town was required, particularly on Lower Main St. Cllr Annesley commented that this has been raised on numerous occasions and that Cllr

Murphy has been saying that footpaths on Ferrybank are treacherous in spots especially for wheelchair users.

Cllr Leonard asked if the residents could submit details through FixMyStreet. She suggested that bollards could be used along the Quay – Cllr Fitzgerald said that was tried before and did not work. John Bowes DE said he wasn't familiar with that area and asked for details on the location.

**Item 5 : To receive a report on public lighting in Arklow Municipal District.**

John Bowes DE updated the members on Public lighting in the district. Cllr Fitzgerald said the delay in repairs to lights in Lamberton Grove was disgraceful. Colm Lavery DM indicated that the contractor had been asked to prioritise repairs and that the delay related to the type of works involved. He also confirmed that AUS would continue to provide maintenance services until a new contract is in place.

Cllr Bourke commended MD staff for getting lights sorted in Avoca. Cllr Annesley asked what the situation was with Oakwood Court, Cllr Fitzgerald confirmed that they are not on the PL network.

John Bowes DE gave the status report for lighting and Arklow has 55 outstanding repairs. Cllr Kennedy said that this has been an issue over the last number of years. Colm Lavery DM confirmed that it is a countywide issue and that upcoming changes should improve matters.

**Item 6 : To receive an update on Local Authority Housing Construction Schemes within Arklow MD.**

No further update from last month.

**Item 7 : To discuss parking issues at St. John's National School, Coolgreaney Road.**

Cllr Fitzgerald said that the Gardaí took some action last week and there was no issue once the area was policed and cannot understand why up to 20 motorists park there when the Gardaí are not there. Cllr Leonard said that it was a problem at the school and that town traffic will only get worse and suggested that a school bus scheme be introduced – this would alleviate the problem of volume of traffic and help environmentally. Cllr Kennedy suggested introducing a bike scheme. Colm Lavery DM informed the members that the district would be piloting an initiative to get school children to walk/scoot or cycle to school during EU Mobility Week. If the pilot is successful the MD would hope to roll it out to all schools. Cllr Annesley supported the initiative and said it should help.

It was agreed to keep this on the agenda.



## **Item 8 – Notices of Motions**

### **In the name of Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald**

*'That a resurfacing of the road in Woodview Park, Avoca is included in future plans. The residents are also seeking further car parking which can be facilitated by cutting into the green area in the estate'. (Received 31st May 2019)*

Report by John Bowes DE/SEE: -

- Woodview Park Avoca is an estate of 50 houses
- Comprises local tertiary roads L-77522-0 to L77527-0
- Approximately 408m in length
- In fair/poor condition but does not have extensive potholes and is adequate for residential environment
- Would not be a priority in current or future DTTAS grant allocations for local roads.
- Could be considered for inclusion for discretionary funding
- Estimated cost approximately €42,000
- There is sufficient parking available both off and on street. A reduction in green space to facilitate additional parking would not be recommended.

Cllr Fitzgerald suggested looking at this when discretionary spending was on the agenda and proposed the motion which was seconded by Cllr Kennedy. The steel barrier supported by wooden posts needs to be repaired. Cllr Annesley said that up to 100 cars could attend matches held in Rooster Park and agreed that the works needed to be done. Cllr Bourke said that the area had been chosen for an upgrade 12 years ago but timing was off. Cllr Leonard also supported this motion.

### **In the name of Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald**

*'That Arklow Municipal District investigates the effects on public health of 5G broadband' (Received on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2019)*

Cllr Bourke asked that WCC be more proactive about informing the public, Cllr Leonard agreed and suggested that independent presentations be made to the members. Cllr Fitzgerald quoted an ICS report that there was no evidence that 5G had an effect on public health. Colm Lavery DM said that following discussions at the recent Town Team meeting, a document would be drafted to include information on 5G from reputable sources.

### **In the name of Cllr. Sylvester Bourke**

*"That Arklow Municipal writes to the Minister of the Environment asking him to introduce a deposit refund scheme for plastic bottles and cans. We need an initiative to stop members of the public from littering the countryside." (Received 25th June 2019).*

Cllr Bourke said that the plastic bottles and cans make up most of waste littering along rural roads and paths. All members unanimously supported this motion.

**In the name of Cllr. Sylvester Bourke**

*'That Arklow Municipal District plant trees throughout the town of Arklow to mark the success of the Tidy Town Committee this year. I suggest that a certain year in the history of Arklow is chosen and that number of trees would be planted. Similar schemes were implemented in Kilcoole, with a tree for every child in the village, and Gorey, where 400 trees were planted to mark their 400th anniversary'. (Received 25th June 2019)*

Report by John Bowes DE/SEE: -

Gorey Tidy Towns and Wexford County Council celebrated Gorey400 by giving away trees to 400 households to plant in the Gorey/Kilmuckridge electoral area. (May 20<sup>th</sup> Facebook)

Applications were made through the Council's Gorey office with trees due to be distributed in late October. Applicants were advised to select a tree to suit the space available and to take into account the eventual size of the tree. A similar scheme could be run by Arklow MD where trees are distributed for planting in private areas. Estimated cost range €1.50 to €15.00 per tree based on supply of 400 trees.

The Engineer over the Kilcoole area was not aware of any scheme run in that area.

All members supported this motion.

**In the name of Cllr. Sylvester Bourke**

*"That Arklow Municipal District investigates the feasibility of installing a disabled persons parking bay at Aughrim School (Received 26th June 2019).*

Report by John Bowes DE/SEE: -

- Due to the inadequate width available it is not feasible to install a disabled person parking bay on the public road outside Aughrim school that would comply with the relevant standard.
- The preferred width of a disabled person parking bay is 3.6m (TSM Aug 2019) whereas the width available is 1.9m parking bay and 1.25m footpath.
- A disabled person parking bay would not be recommended within the roadside set down area as this would be sub-standard and would not be wheelchair accessible.
- The drive through set down area within the school grounds would be a more appropriate location if the requirement for this space is school related.

Cllr Kennedy seconded the motion – John Bowes DE suggested that it would be appropriate to approach the school about the possibility of using the bus bay. Cllr Fitzgerald asked if Cllrs Bourke and Kennedy would follow up on this.

**Item 9 - Correspondence**

A petition from the residents of Glenview Avenue was received supporting a request for traffic calming measures in the estate. John Bowes DE said that this could be considered next year.



### **Item 10 – Any Other Business**

Opposition to the annual pig race (Seabreeze Festival) was discussed. Cllr Leonard stated that it presented a bad image of the town and it needed to be stopped. Cllr Annesley agreed to bring the request to the next committee meeting and would update the members.

Cllr Leonard proposed that a green area near Harbour Court could be designated as a community garden to tie in with the Autism Ireland initiative – safe space. Questions were raised about the ownership of the land and it was agreed to verify the ownership as a first step.

Cllr Bourke requested that the transfer request in relation to old Kilbride Graveyard would also be considered.

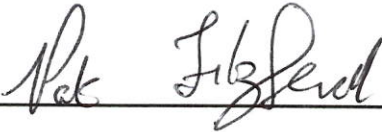
Cllr Annesley commented on how being on the Drugs Task Force opened his eyes to the remit of the group – making users safe. It is time for WCC to do something about preventing anti-social behaviour. Cllr Fitzgerald suggested that the DM and the DE get to know the areas in the town that are known for anti-social behaviour. Cllr Leonard agreed that it was a good idea and that the MD needed to take ownership of the problem.

Cllr Kennedy said that ditches bordering Coillte lands along rural roads need to be cut back. John Bowes DE confirmed that notices relating to hedge cutting will issue next week and an advert will go in the paper also.

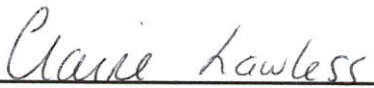
John Bowes DE gave an update from IW in relation to trial holes from Woodenbridge to Aughrim in advance of the upgrade scheme for Aughrim Village.

Marc Devereux SE and John Daly PM on the Arklow Flood Relief Scheme gave the members an update on the project. A number of studies to inform the design of the scheme are ongoing with works on the scheme anticipated to start after 2021. The members raised their concerns around suggested design elements of the scheme (public realm) and Marc Devereux confirmed that the final design cannot be decided until the study results were received. He confirmed that a further public information day would be held. He also agreed to consult with the members as the project proceeds. He noted that there would be limited scope for change once the ABP application was made.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

Signed: 

Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: 

Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District

**ITEM 6 – Minutes 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

**COUNCILLOR LEONARD AMENDMENT NO. 1 –**

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Fitzgerald

**SECONDED:** All members

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

To remove "Marc Devereux"

**REPLACE WITH:**

"Mark Devereux"

**COUNCILLOR LEONARD AMENDMENT NO. 2 –**

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Fitzgerald

**SECONDED:** All members

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

To amend wording "Cllr. Leonard queried a photo montage of the development"

**REPLACE WITH:**

"Cllr Leonard asked if a photo montage was available"



**ITEM 8 – Minutes 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

**COUNCILLOR LEONARD AMENDMENT NO. 1 –**

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Fitzgerald

**SECONDED:** All members

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

To record the following "Cllr Leonard suggested that a record be kept of environmental waste disposal costs going forward regardless of where the funding comes from."

**ITEM 10 – Minutes 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

**Notice of Motion – (b) In the name of Cllr Pat Fitzgerald**

**"That resurfacing of the road leading into Tower Avenue, Avoca is carried out at the earliest opportunity" (Received 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019)**

**COUNCILLOR LEONARD AMENDMENT NO. 1 –**

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Fitzgerald

**SECONDED:** All members

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

To record the following "The motion was supported unanimously."

**ITEM 10 – Minutes 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

**Notice of Motion – (c) In the name of Cllr Pat Fitzgerald**

**“That resurfacing of a section of the road that runs into Blackberry Glade from Abbeyville is carried out when funding allows” (Received 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019)**

**COUNCILLOR LEONARD AMENDMENT NO. 1 –**

**PROPOSED: Cllr Fitzgerald**

**SECONDED: All members**

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

To record the following “The motion was supported unanimously.”

**ITEM 11 – Minutes 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

**COUNCILLOR LEONARD AMENDMENT NO. 1 –**

**PROPOSED: Cllr Fitzgerald**

**SECONDED: All members**

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

To record the following “The members supported this unanimously.”



**ITEM 12 – Minutes 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

**COUNCILLOR LEONARD AMENDMENT NO. 1 –**

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Fitzgerald

**SECONDED:** All members

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

To record the following "Cllr Peir Leonard requested that a full set of drawings for the flood relief scheme and presentation be given to elected representatives including 3d models."

**ITEM 14 – Minutes 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

**COUNCILLOR LEONARD AMENDMENT NO. 1 –**

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Fitzgerald

**SECONDED:** All members

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

To remove "Cllr. Leonard to give contribution of €300 to Aisling Nolan, Pound Fitness towards the cost of organising a Wellness Festival on the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2019"

**REPLACE WITH:**

"Cllr Peir Leonard proposed that funding of €550 be given to support the Release Wellness community wellness festival on the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2019. Members agreed that €300.00 be given towards this year's festival.

**COUNCILLOR LEONARD AMENDMENT NO. 2 –**

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Fitzgerald

**SECONDED:** All members

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

To amend wording "Reception for Arklow Tidy Towns in recognisance of their recent success."

**REPLACE WITH:** "Holding a reception for all involved with Arklow Tidy Towns in recognisance of their recent success was proposed by Cllr Leonard."