

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

MONDAY 22nd May 2017 AT 3.30 P.M.

SEMINOLE ROOM, COUNTY BUILDINGS

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

IN ATTENDANCE: District Manager, Joe Lane; District Administrator, David Porter, District Engineer, Paul Byrne; Senior Engineer, Assistant Staff Officer, Liam Cullen

Ms Christine Flood, Administrative Officer joined the meeting at 16.05

Cllr. Irene Winters left the meeting at 16.15

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON 24th April 2017.

It was proposed by Cllr. Shay Cullen and seconded by Cllr. Daire Nolan and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District meeting held 24th April 2017.

It was agreed by the meeting to change the order of the agenda, item no. 4 Discretionary fund Wicklow Municipal District was moved up to no. 2 on the agenda.

DISCRETIONARY FUND WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Cathaoirleach John Snell advised the meeting that the Wicklow Municipal District Discretionary fund budget for 2017 is €168,750 with an additional €12,500 to be accrued from the 2016 Discretionary fund budget. The Cathaoirleach outlined the following projects that the Wicklow MD councillors had agreed to fund through the 2017 Discretionary Budget.

A footpath to be constructed from Lynhams pub in Laragh village to Laragh GAA grounds.

This footpath will link the village to, Beechwood housing estate, Laragh GAA grounds and the Green Road walkway which runs from Laragh to Glendalough. It was agreed by all that this project will greatly benefit locals and also to the large number of tourists visiting the area. The estimated cost of this project is €58,000

A footpath to be constructed from Roundwood village to Vartry Soccer Grounds on the kilmacanogue Road.

This footpath will link the village to Vartry soccer grounds and also the Reservoir walks. It is envisaged that this project will create safe access for locals and tourists visiting Vartry soccer grounds and the Reservoir walks. The estimated cost of this project is €58,000.

Resurface car park in Rathew

The Members agreed that funding will be provided for the resurfacing of the car park in Main Street Rathew, which is currently in bad repair. Cathaoirleach John Snell estimated the cost of this project to be in the region of €10,000

Memorial Garden Murrough, Wicklow Town

A memorial garden is to be constructed at the Murrough consisting of a small garden and two benches. The estimated cost of this project is €5,000.

Co. Wicklow Voluntary

Funding of €1000 was sought by County Wicklow Voluntary Organisation from each Municipal District. The Cathaoirleach asked the District Administrator to invite County Wicklow Voluntary Organisation to the Wicklow Municipal District June meeting to discuss their proposal.

The Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that funding has also been allocated from the 2017 Wicklow Municipal District for the following projects.

- Public Lighting projects in Wicklow Municipal District - €31,000
- Tidy Towns Committee in Wicklow Municipal District - €11,000

The Members acknowledged that it was a difficult process in choosing projects as there were many proposed projects in the District that were also very deserving of funding. The members asked the District Engineer that any savings on the proposed projects be allocated to other projects that were considered by the Members.

ENGINEERS REPORT

Paul Byrne presented the District Engineer's Report:

Newtownmountkennedy Footpath

Mr Byrne informed the Members that work on the construction of a footpath from Moneycarroll Roundabout to Newtown GAA is expected to be completed in the coming weeks. Mr Byrne advised that the project is currently coming in on budget and on time.

Roads Programme 2017

The District Engineer informed the meeting that he is in the process of contacting contractors taking into account the Municipal District's Schedule of Works for 2017. A contractor would then be appointed and works were expected to commence within the coming weeks. Works will be ongoing during the summer months.

Brittas Bay Beach

Mr Byrne informed the meeting that the summer season in Brittas Bay will commence on the 1st June 2017. A check of all life buoys has been carried out to ensure that they are in full working order.

Also an inspection of the beaches has been carried out to ensure that they meet safety requirements. Lifeguards will be in place for the summer months from June to August. Mr Byrne informed the meeting Mr Michael McNamara, Administrative Officer, Environment section is currently the Acting Water Safety Officer until this position is filled permanently.

Public lighting in Glendalough

Mr Byrne advised the Members that correct coloured black lighting will be installed within the coming weeks.

The Members raised the following issues relating to roads in the Wicklow Municipal District.

South Quay

A cyclist was recently involved in accident whereby he collided with a pothole and came off his bike resulting in a number of injuries to the cyclist. Mr Byrne advised that the pothole has been filled and further investigation into the cause of the damage to the road will be carried out.

Junction at High Street and New Street

The Members highlighted that the junction between High Street and New Street has no road markings and is very dangerous. Mr Byrne advised that he would carry out an inspection of the junction and report back to the Members.

Junction at Ballinahinch Ashford

The Members highlighted that the Junction at Ballinahinch Ashford has no road markings and is very dangerous. Mr. Byrne informed the meeting that this junction will be included in the white lining programme which is due to be rolled out in the coming weeks.

Cleaning of road signs

An issue was raised regarding the cleaning of Road signs in towns and villages. The Members have been receiving enquiries from Tidy Town committees about signs that are not properly visible. Mr Byrne advised that the local crews respond to any reports of signs that are not clearly visible to the public on local and regional roads. Mr. Byrne encouraged the reporting of any such situations.

The Members queried the timescale on the public Lighting projects in Wicklow Municipal District. Mr Byrne advised the committee that he would check this matter with Declan O'Brien and report back to the Members at the June meeting with an update.

The Members commended Mr Paul Byrne for the road works that were carried out on the Devils Glen road. It was acknowledged that these works have greatly improved the quality of this stretch of road.

PARKING BYELAWS SUBMISSIONS

The District Engineer informed the meeting that Each MD is requested to review submissions as they affect their area and make recommendations for specific submissions to be included or excluded in final byelaws. Mr. Porter advised that there were fifteen submissions to Wicklow Municipal District byelaws.

Information or proposed new changes introduced after consultation period may not be included. Final Bye-laws are proposed to be presented to full council for approval and adoption June meeting 12th June 2017. Municipal Districts have been asked to revert, with final amendments and recommendations prior to Wednesday 31st May 2017. One combined submission from each Municipal District Administrator, on behalf of the members is required.

Where a Municipal District recommends approval of Parking Byelaws for their district this will be brought to a meeting on 12th June 2017 for final consideration and overall adoption of County wide Parking Byelaws.

A discussion took place regarding The Wicklow Municipal submissions.

Mr. Joe Lane made the following recommendation to which the Members were in agreement with.

The draft parking byelaws as advertised be agreed subject to the following

- Legalities of not having residential only parking be examined
- That limited parking for active retirement only, be looked at regarding the legal and engineering flexibility of providing same.
- The future financial effects of subsidising the fees as per submissions be examined

DEVELOPMENT OF WICKLOW TOWN – KICK START FOR WICKLOW TOWN

Ms Christine Flood, Senior Executive Officer, Enterprise & Corporate Services gave a presentation on the Framework for Town Centre Renewal and how it may link in with the Wicklow Local Economic Initiative's recently published plan "Time to Kickstart Wicklow Town". Ms. Flood outlined what is included in the Framework for town Centre Renewal. It provides a structure for collaborative partnership among stakeholders to achieve a successful town renewal. The three key steps are as follows.

Stakeholder Engagement and Health Check.

This involves understanding your town and the key stakeholders, identifying strengths and weaknesses, challenges and opportunities

Establish a Town Centre Management partnership or "Town Team"

This will have the support of all the stakeholders involved at step one.

Prepare and implement a Town Centre Plan.

The plan should clearly express the vision for the town, the actions required and who is responsible for what,

The Members thanked Ms Flood for a comprehensive report and outlined the many benefits of having a successful town action plan in place. Ms Flood agreed to put together some recommendations for a town plan for Wicklow Town and revert back to the Members.

CORRESPONDENCE

Schedule of Municipal District Works Queries:

The Members raised queries in respect of the Schedule of Municipal District Works Report. Mr David Porter, District Administrator reported back to the Members with answers to the following enquiries.

F03 Outdoor Leisure Area Operations – Breakdown as follows:

- Glendalough Car Park Maintenance €1,000
- Maintenance Parks & Open Spaces €204,377
- Maintenance Wicklow Playgrounds €30,000
- Blue Flag Upkeep Brittas Bay €16,194
- Maintenance Brittas Bay €128,277

B07 Road Safety Engineering Improvements :

Confirmation has been received from the Director of Services, Roads Department, that the budget of €200,000 was incorrectly included in the WMD Centrally Administered section of the Schedule. The amount is for works in Calary.

Update on plans for Wicklow Courthouse

Mr Porter has written to Chief Executive of the Court Service and requested an update on their plans for Wicklow Courthouse.

Clinics for Irish Water

Wicklow MD is scheduled for 9:30 -10am on Monday 12th June (sweep up session 12:15 – 1:00 for any who could not make earlier session). Irish Water has requested that all queries/issues are forwarded to the DA no later than Friday 26th May to aid the productivity of the meeting.

Regional Biosolids Storage Facility

Irish Water seeking feedback on developing a Regional Biosolids Storage Facility – Stage 2 Public Consultation. Closing date for submissions is 5pm 15th June 2017. The consultation is primarily looking for feedback on the 5 sites selected.

Audio Devices installed on the Murrough

Audio Devices warning people to pick up their dog litter were installed on the Murrough on 9th May near the playground. I understand that Tidy Towns have been asked to assist with monitoring the area.

Estate Development Grant 2017

Estate Development Grant 2017 Advertisement will appear in this week's Wicklow People. Closing Date for receipt of completed applications is **4.00 pm on Friday 16th June 2017.** Budget is €8,500

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that the next Municipal District Meeting is scheduled for 3.30pm 26th June, 2017. The Annual General meeting will take place prior to this meeting at 3pm.

The meeting closed at 17:00 p.m.

SIGNED: _____

SIGNED: _____

DATED: _____