

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

MONDAY 23rd JANUARY 2017 AT 3 P.M.

WURZBURG ROOM, COUNTY BUILDINGS

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

Councillor Irene Winters joined the meeting at 3.35 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE: District Manager, Joe Lane; District Administrator, David Porter; District Engineer, Paul Byrne; Senior Engineer Housing, Breege Kilkenny; Assistant Staff Officer, Catherine McCann.

Cathaoirleach John Snell opened the meeting at 3.11 p.m.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON 19th December, 2016.

It was proposed by Cllr. Daire Nolan, seconded by Cllr. Gail Dunne and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District meeting held 19th December, 2016.

ENGINEERS REPORT

Paul Byrne presented the District Engineer's Report:

Paul Byrne informed the Members that general road maintenance works on drains and gullies were being carried out as the Municipal District has not yet received its Roads Budget for 2017. The Engineer stated that he is currently planning road works for the year ahead.

Glendalough/Laragh Public Lighting

The District Engineer advised the Members that the ESB were currently on site and should have works completed within the next two weeks. The Members had previously highlighted their concerns regarding school children running from the School down to the pedestrian crossing and asked if a barrier had been erected for safety reasons at this location. In addition, the Members added that there was a pole in the middle of the footpath at the crossing which was hampering people with buggies, etc. The District Engineer informed the meeting that he would double check on both of these issues.

Public Lighting at Convent Road/Mount Carmel Avenue

The Councillors enquired about two street lighting poles that have been erected opposite Bosun's Rest, however, they are not connected to the electricity supply. The lights were not put up by the ESB. The Members have been advised that it would cost in the region of €3000 to get the lights up and running. The Members asked about the possibility of the two lights being connected up as it is particularly dark at this location. Mr. Byrne responded by saying he would follow up on this matter.

Newtownmountkennedy public lighting on R772 near Coillte Office

Mr. Byrne indicated that there had been a number of delays in connecting these lights to the electricity supply. Connection fees and certificates have already been submitted and Mr. Byrne is waiting for the ESB to arrive on site and carry out the necessary works.

Wicklow Hills Development ~ Playing Pitches Newtownmountkennedy

Wicklow Hills Development is handing over two pitches to Wicklow County Council. The Councillors felt that it would be vitally important that the Council ensure that a proper and effective drainage system has been installed on both pitches otherwise Wicklow County Council could be handed a facility that may not be fit for purpose.

The Members said they would be interested in seeing any reports on the drainage system in relation to both pitches.

R763 Road at Ashford/Devils Glen

The Members spoke of their concern in relation to the stretch of road on the R763. The surface is well worn and the road markings need to be renewed. They pointed out that there have been some patching works carried out on the road; however, it still needs urgent attention as a motorist had crashed into an old stone wall at this location only this morning.

The District Engineer advised the Members that he would inspect the area and report back to them on this issue.

Footpath at Ballynerrin Upper, Wicklow

The Members advised the District Engineer that the tarmac has cracked on the new footpath at Ballynerrin Upper and is dangerous.

Coastal Protection Works

The Members welcomed the fact that steps down to the beach at The Murrough had been installed.

CONVENT LANDS

Breege Kilkenny, Senior Engineer Housing, up-dated the meeting in relation to the proposed social housing development for the Convent Lands. As reported at a previous meeting, Ms. Kilkenny, informed the Members that the Design Team had to significantly redesign the access in relation to the lower end of the site at Convent Lands. There are constraints on the site given the topography and geography. There is a high gradient road through Crinion Park, the road entrance to the site would be 1 in 7.5 and the Senior Engineer advised that current road gradient standards are 1 in 10. This would result in a sub-standard road which Wicklow County Council would be responsible for resurfacing.

Breege Kilkenny indicated that the current design would mean there would be a huge amount of road in the development which, in turn, would require a huge amount of excavation works thus creating big drops at the rear of the houses. This would have potential as a dumping ground in the

area. She has asked the Consultants to review the design and revert to double access and not permit snaking access into the development.

Ms. Kilkenny's recommendation to overcome this issue, would be to install the road as a "haul road". Following construction Wicklow County Council would take it over and resurface. The road would still have a slope of 1 in 7 which is still steep.

The Senior Engineer advised the Members that the major road works will be done as part of the Scheme; however, there will be a cost to the Municipal District for resurfacing works. She estimated though that this would not be a huge cost.

Finally, she added that the Consultants' report will address the road objective issue, they will also prepare the pre-planning pack, however, the haul road is the crunch issue.

The Members were in agreement that the design of the development should proceed as per the Senior Engineer's recommendations.

Breege Kilkenny left the meeting at 3.43 p.m.

Review of Parking Bye-Laws

Mr. David Porter, the District Administrator, addressed the Members in relation to the Review of the Parking Byelaws. Mr. Porter had provided the Members with a draft copy of the bye-laws and Schedules which were unique to each District. Following on from this, a number of queries were raised by the Members, in particular, the provision of a breakdown on parking in Wicklow Town.

Mr. Porter provided the Members with a handout indicating the top three areas for parking fines in the town and this also included the top four parking offences. This also detailed the number of fines issued and paid in 2015/2016, with separate figures for fines issued for the top three areas, i.e., Abbey Street Car Park, Church Street Car Park, Main Street/Lower Mall.

The District Administrator pointed out that the only real change to the Parking Byelaws would be at Dominic's Road and Monkton Row. There are real parking difficulties at these locations and they are not covered under the current Byelaws.

The Members recognised that a lot of residents in the Town had problems with lack of parking outside their homes.

Mr. Porter informed the Members that the Draft Parking Byelaws would go before the full Council Meeting in February or March 2017 and then go on display for a six week period.

The Cathaoirleach and Members agreed that they would allow the Draft Byelaws to go on public display, await feedback from the public and then assess the data collected. The members want the document returned to the Municipal Districts for consideration after the public consultation phase is completed so that they can consider the submissions made by the public before the Byelaws are presented at a full Council meeting.

The Members concluded that they would convene a meeting to discuss the review of the byelaws amongst themselves so that they can agree a Wicklow MD response for the full Council Meeting.

Estate Development Grants

The District Administrator reminded the Members that an advertisement was placed in the paper for Estate Development Grants in November 2016. The Wicklow Municipal District issued a more detailed application form to the interested resident association groups. WMD received seven application forms from groups wishing to avail of the grant.

The District Administrator said that €8,000 had been made available to the Municipal District and it was agreed to discuss this at the Meeting. He added that there were a number of options to consider:

1. The grant could be divided equally between the seven applicants.
2. Agree to pay three of the lowest grant applicants the money they requested and pay the remaining applicants approximately €1,387 each
3. Or the members may have their own suggestions as to how the funds should be distributed

The Cathaoirleach proposed that it was appropriate that the money should be divided equally amongst the seven applicants and this was seconded by Cllr. Gail Dunne and unanimously agreed by the Members.

Discretionary Fund 2017

The District Administrator advised the meeting that the Discretionary Fund was put on the Agenda to allow the Members to start thinking of projects they wish to spend the money on during the year.

Mr. Porter pointed out that the budget was likely to be in the region of €160,000 with a separate fund of approximately €95,000 which was allocated at the main Budget meeting towards Local footpath Renewal.

The Councillors mentioned Wicklow Municipal District's commitment to donating €10,000 towards the Wicklow Hospice. The District Administrator informed the Members that there were some monies remaining from the works carried out on the footpath at Centra in Rathnew and he advised that the outstanding money would be included as part of the Discretionary Fund for 2017.

Paul Byrne asked the Members if they could arrange to have any projects agreed by 1st May, 2017.

The Cathaoirleach asked if it would be possible for the Municipal District to provide the Members with a breakdown as to how the Discretionary Fund Grant was allocated in 2016.

CORRESPONDENCE

St. Patrick Day's Parade

Mr. David Porter advised the Meeting that the St. Patrick Day's Parade Committee had lost their main sponsor for the Parade. The Committee have asked for a guarantee from the Members that they will receive their annual contribution of €1,500.

The District Administrator informed the Members that the money is used by the Committee for insurance costs, advertising, provision of high viz. jackets and bunting etc.

The Members agreed to give a guarantee to the Committee that they would receive a €1,500 contribution towards the event.

Marching Band

The District Administrator stated that a marching band, with eighteen members, would be arriving from Germany to take part in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Wicklow. The group would need provision of transport from Dublin to Wicklow and also their return journey to Dublin. Mr. Porter suggested that the Members might consider funding for this at their next Municipal District Meeting.

Glor na Casca 1916 Commemoration

Mr. Porter up-dated the Members in relation to correspondence received from Patrick Power and David Owens who are seeking expenses for attending the Wicklow 1916 Commemorations in full period costume. The 1916 Steering Group have agreed to reconsider this application for funding.

Wicklow Tidy Towns Committee

The District Administrator informed the Members that following on from the Town's excellent performance in the 2016 Tidy Towns Competition Wicklow Town has been entered into Ireland's Best Kept Towns Competition for 2017. The adjudicating process for this competition takes place in May commencing at least a month earlier than the Tidy Towns judging therefore the committee will have to mobilize earlier this year. Wicklow Tidy Towns Committee will be looking for assistance from the Wicklow Municipal District during 2017.

The Cathaoirleach commended the work of the Tidy Town Committee and invited the group to attend the next Municipal District Meeting to discuss how the Members can support them.

Roundabouts

Mr. Porter investigated the possibility of promotion of named roundabouts in the District. He revealed that any roundabouts that are controlled by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) are maintained under contract and cannot be considered for promotional purposes. He also confirmed that TII policy is that those roundabouts can only be named on a geographical basis. However, he pointed out that the Members are free to consider for use any of the roundabouts in the District which are maintained by the Council.

The Members requested that the District Administrator look into how many roundabouts are maintained by the District with a view to commemorating historical figures from the area by naming the roundabouts.

Notice of Motion-Cllr. Gail Dunne "That Wicklow Municipal District provides a general operative to work two days a week in the Glendalough/Laragh area".

Councillor Gail Dunne addressed the meeting and stated that there were over a million visitors to the Glendalough/Laragh area each year and the local community are keen to have a Council employee placed at this location for a two day period every week.

The District Engineer explained that the Municipal District outdoor staff cannot be posted exclusively to this area and that, during the course of their duties, the crew would already be working in Laragh and Glendalough. Mr. Byrne felt that there would be no particular need for a general operative to work there two days a week.

The other Members present expressed the view that the local community should explore the possibility of securing the services of an operative through Tus and Community Employment Schemes.

Imminent Closure of Laragh Post Office

The Members expressed their dismay in relation to the impending closure of Laragh Post Office. The Cathaoirleach said that An Post did not consult with the local community to allow the public have their say in the matter. The closure will have a huge impact on every age group in the area.

Local Dog Warden

The Members asked the District Administrator if he would invite the Dog Warden to attend the next Municipal District meeting. The Councillors have been contacted by members of the public in relation to the number of stray and unaccompanied dogs in the town and the resultant dog dirt on the footpaths.

Mr. Porter said he would make the request.

The Cathaoirleach scheduled the next Municipal District Meeting for 27th February, 2016.

The meeting closed at 16:51 p.m.

SIGNED: _____

SIGNED: _____

DATED: _____