

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

MONDAY 24th April 2017 AT 3 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, Assistant Staff Officer, Liam Cullen

Leas Cathaoirleach Shay Cullen opened the meeting at 3.10 p.m.

Cathaoirleach John Snell joined the meeting at 3.20 p.m.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON 27th MARCH 2017.

It was proposed by Cllr. Gail Dunne and seconded by Cllr. Daire Nolan and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District meeting held 27th March 2017.

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 are currently ongoing. Mr Byrne advised that the project is currently coming in on budget and on time with an expected completion date of between four and six weeks.

Roads Programme 2017

The District Engineer informed the meeting that he is in the process of contacting contractors to work on the roads programme outlined for 2017. Contractor(s) would then be appointed based on the 2017 Wicklow Municipal District Schedule of Rates submissions received from Contractors and works would be expected to commence in the coming weeks. Works will be ongoing during the summer months.

Brittas Bay Beach

Mr Byrne informed the meeting that prior to the busy summer season in Brittas Bay, a check of all life buoys will be carried out to ensure that they are in full working order. Also an inspection will be carried out on the beach to ensure that they meet safety requirements. Lifeguards will be in place for the summer months from June to August. Extra bins and skips will also be provided in the busy months. He noted the recent retirement of the WCC Water Safety Officer, Mr. Phil O'Rourke and informed the meeting that a replacement for Mr. O'Rourke has yet to be appointed.

Public lighting in Glendalough

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

WICKLOW AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr Pascal Burke, Ms. Dianne Sheridan and Mr. Enda Luddy from the newly established Wicklow Town Local Economic Initiative Group addressed the meeting. The group was set up by Wicklow Town & District Chamber in September 2016. This group was setup with a view to maximising the business tourism and social potential of Wicklow Town and the surrounding area. It aims to capitalise on the unique selling points of the area.

The group comprises of members who have considerable national and international business experience. They have vast experience in the Export Industry, Trade Development, Commercial Development, Financial & Management Services, Tourism and Local Government.

In their address to the Members they highlighted the following areas that the Local Economic Initiative Group believes they can capitalise on the unique potential of Wicklow Town, including:

- Wicklow Town Digital Strategy
- Greenway/Blueway
- Park and Ride
- Wicklow Town public Realm and enhancing the visual appearance of Wicklow Town
- Historic Town Status/Heritage Site
- Retail survey

The Members thanked the Local Economic Initiative Group for the comprehensive report and commended them on the work they have done on producing the report "Time to Kickstart Wicklow Town"

A discussion took place on how best to promote new and existing business in the town. The following suggestions were raised as a way of maximising the business potential within the town.

- Anchor Tenant in market square
- Reduced parking fees.
- Promotion and Development of service related business's

Chamber of Commerce request for Funding for Christmas lights

A discussion took place regarding the provision of funding to the Wicklow Chamber of Commerce for the display of Christmas lights in Wicklow Town. The current lights are 8 years old and require considerable maintenance. The Chamber is seeking to redesign the lighting scheme and they have submitted a request to Wicklow Municipal District for additional funding of ten thousand euro for the Christmas lights display in the town. The Chamber is currently in receipt of an annual amount of twenty thousand euro from the Wicklow Municipal District. It was noted that the Chamber are also making an application for funding under the Community Grants scheme.

The Members agreed to discuss the Chamber of commerce's request for extra funding but stated it would be difficult to source extra funding as unlike previous years, all monies collected are allocated centrally. The Members asked for a breakdown of the expenditure on Christmas lights over the last number of years. The Chamber agreed to provide these figures to the Members.

SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS – circulated with agenda

The Members asked Mr David Porter, District Administrator for some clarification on the following figures.

F03 Outdoor Leisure Area Operations

B07 Road Safety Engineering Improvements

Mr. Porter agreed to get a breakdown on these figures and revert back to the Members with the information at the next monthly meeting. The Members also raised concerns over the amount of funding allocated to the Wicklow Municipal District coastal protection budget; they felt the amount was extremely low.

The Schedule of Municipal of District Works 2017 was unanimously accepted by all of the Members.

DISCRETIONARY FUND WICKLOW MD

Wicklow Municipal District Councillors approved the following projects for funding using their 2017 Discretionary Fund:

- Tidy Towns allocation same as 2016 total cost €11,000 as follows:
- Wicklow €5,000,
- Newtownmountkennedy €1,000,
- Roundwood €1,000,
- Ashford €1,000,
- Laragh €1,000,
- Glenealy €1,000,
- Rathnew Active Forum €1,000
- Memorial Garden and two benches on the Murrough €5,000
- Public Lighting Belard Manor, Glenealy, Estimated Cost: €16,000
- Public Lighting Bosun's Rest; Estimated Cost: €3,200
- Public Lighting Playground & Skatepark at the Murrough; Estimated Cost: €4,000
- Public Lighting Sailing Club, Wicklow; Estimated Cost: €2,000
- Public Lighting Merrymeeting Hill, Rathnew; Estimated Cost: €6,000

Some of the above costs were estimated by the Members and were not confirmed by the District Engineer.

Public footpaths at Newtownmountkennedy GAA and Greenhill Court: These two projects will be funded using the Wicklow Municipal District 2017 Local Road Footpath Renewal Code for which €95,000.00 has been allocated. The District Engineer's cost estimates for these projects are

€75,000.00 and €35,000.00 respectively, giving a total estimated cost of €110,000.00. The District Engineer indicated that as much of the project as possible will be completed with the funds remaining after the NTMK project is completed.

A number of other projects are being considered by the Members for funding from the 2017 Discretionary Fund, they are as follows:

- Footpath Lynhams to GAA – no final figure set yet (Cllrs considering making an allocation for 2017 and a further amount in 2018).
- Footpath Roundwood to Soccer Pitch – Cllrs didn't have an estimated cost
- Footpath Merrymeeting Hill Rathnew approximately 50 metres to join up path - no estimated cost
- Resurface Car park Rathnew – estimated cost €6,500
- Road Surface Seaview Heights, Rathnew.
- Footpath at Annamoe (Merrigans Row) contribution of €10,000 was mentioned.

The above estimated costs were again estimated by the Members and were not confirmed by the District Engineer. Mr. Byrne emphasised that delays on deciding on the allocation of Discretionary funding to projects may have consequences on costs and may negatively affect the number of projects that can be carried out during 2017.

TOURISM PROJECTS 2017 ALLOCATION €10,000 see Tidy Towns, Chamber of Commerce submissions enclosed

Leonora Earls from Wicklow Tidy Towns committee addressed the meeting and highlighted their proposed plans for the Black Castle area of Wicklow Town. The Tidy Town committee are requesting funding from Wicklow Municipal District of seven to ten thousand euro for the planned project. These plans included general maintenance, improved signage and landscaping of the area. Ms. Earls advised that these proposed works would greatly enhance what is already an area of outstanding beauty.

The members thanked Ms. Earls for an excellent presentation and commended Wicklow Tidy Towns for the amount of work done around the town by the group; Ms Earls then left the meeting. A discussion took place as to the provision of funding for this project via The Tidy Towns committee or through the Chamber of Commerce. The Members acknowledged that both groups would be worthy recipients of funding for this project but decided that the Tidy Towns were better placed to carry out the work on the upgrading of the Black Castle area. It was agreed to recommend that the Tidy Towns proposal be forwarded to the CCSD SPC for their consideration.

CORRESPONDENCE

Cliff Walk

Mr. David Porter, the District Administrator, addressed the Members in relation to proposed work on the Cliff Walk. Mr Porter advised that Wicklow County Council would not have adequate resources to carry out the required works on the Cliff Walk and that a Consultant would be required to do some of the work and prepare some of the reports required.

Dog Warden

Mr. David Porter, the District Administrator advised the members that he had been in touch with the Wicklow County Council Environment section regarding the availability of Dog Wardens to attend a Municipal District meeting to discuss the issue of dog fouling in the area. He was informed by the S.E.O in the section that the wardens do not attend Council meetings. Cllr. Nolan agreed that in his capacity of Transportation and Environmental SPC Member, he would make further enquiries regarding this matter.

Illegal Dumping of Litter

At the March meeting the members asked a number of questions in relation to both dog littering and illegal dumping. Mr. Porter obtained the relevant information from the Waste Management section and updated the members with answers to their questions.

- What steps does the Council take regarding dumping and littering – illegal dumping?
The alleged offender is invited in for interview to explain how evidence relating to him/her ended up illegally dumped. If no legitimate explanation is forthcoming, the Council proceeds to court and the judge decides. Litter – a Litter Fine is issued with 21 days to pay, if not paid a Final Reminder is issued. If not paid file is referred to Law Department for advice. Law Department usually issues a legal letter. If Litter Fine remains unpaid file is prepared for court.
- How many fines are issued & how many cases go to court?
In 2016 - 213 Litter Fines were issued and 7 went to Court
- How many prosecutions are successful as a percentage?
There were seventeen successful cases in 2017; details of these cases are available in waste management.
- How many sites do the wardens investigate per year?
WCC opened approximately 145 WM files in 2016 – these include various areas where illegal dumping has occurred?
- Are there any initiatives that could be taken in the District in relation to litter and Dog fouling?
Case One - Litter Fine issued re: dog fouling and paid. Case 2 – Litter Fine issued, not paid, above steps taken, Case brought to court, offender did not show up, Judge issued a Bench Warrant, awaiting new court date. Case 3 – Issued two litter fines to same person for 2 witnessed incidents of her dog fouling. Both litter fines unpaid, above steps will be taken. Also - two wardens go out on assigned dates and patrol different walks around the county; they approach dog walkers and advise of their responsibilities under the Litter Act. And finally, WCC designed a poster, which is attached to various litter bins requesting the dog walker to bin the poo, and bin the poo bag.

- Do WCC place CCTV at litter hot spots?
WCC are currently arranging for CCTV to be placed in a litter black spot in Bray and Ballyguile. We also have a mobile CCTV to place at problem bottle banks, where illegal dumping occurs.

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that the next Municipal District Meeting is scheduled for 22th May, 2017. The members agreed that the next meeting should start at 3:30pm.

The meeting closed at 17:00 p.m.

SIGNED: _____

SIGNED: _____

DATED: _____