

**MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING**

**MONDAY 24<sup>th</sup> JULY 2017 11am**

**WURZBURG ROOM, COUNTY BUILDINGS**

**Present:** Cathaoirleach Shay Cullen, Councillors Gail Dunne, John Snell, Irene Winters

**Apologies:** Cllr. Mary Kavanagh, Cllr. Daire Nolan

**In attendance:** District Manager Joe Lane, District Engineer Paul Byrne, District Administrator David Porter, Joan Synnott Staff Officer, Theresa O'Brien, Administrative Officer CCSD, Liam Cullen Assistant Staff Officer,

**Cathaoirleach Shay Cullen** opened the meeting at 11.10am

It was agreed by the meeting to change the order of the agenda in order to facilitate a number of presentations.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD JUNE 2017**

It was proposed by Cllr. John Snell and seconded by Cllr. Gail Dunne and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Annual General meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

**AOB**

**Community Facilities Fund**

Theresa O'Brien, CCSD, outlined that Wicklow County Council received notice in early 2017 from the Department of Housing Planning Community and Local Government about a Community Facilities Fund – Each Local Authority were receiving a total of 64,500.00. Wicklow County Council advertised this scheme with a closing date of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017

A total of 77 grant applications were received – 10 of which were deemed ineligible under the terms of the scheme

WMD –

15 grants approved

3 grants not eligible

**TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANTS - €14,150.00**

Proposed by Cllr. John Snell and seconded by Cllr Gail Dunne and supported by all the district members present. Theresa O'Brien left the meeting.

**ESTATE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS**

A spreadsheet was circulated to the Members, listing the Local Authority Estates that have applied for the Estate Development Grant. There are seven valid applications in total. A discussion took place on how best to distribute the allocated funding. Concerns were raised that a number of Local Authority estates are not availing of the opportunity to apply for grants and as a result are missing out on much needed funding.

Mr Joe Lane advised the meeting that due to lack of funding there is no longer Estate Development Officers for Local Authority estates and as a result they rely on the estate development grants.

Following from discussion on the same, It was unanimously agreed to defer the allocation of grants to the next Municipal meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> September.

**ENGINEERS REPORT**

Paul Byrne presented the District Engineer's Report:

Ballinalea Estate

Mr Byrne advised the meeting that the road repair works are now complete in Ballinalea Estate, Ashford.

Season Park Estate

Mr Byrne advised the meeting that road repair works are now complete in Season Park Estate, Newtownmountkennedy.

Balinteskin Road

Mr Byrne advised that Road recycling works is now complete on the Balinteskin Road.

Footpath from Lynhams pub in Laragh village to Laragh GAA grounds.

Work has commenced on the footpath project that will link Laragh village to Beechwood housing estate, Laragh GAA grounds and the Green Road walkway. Mr Byrne informed the meeting that work on relocating the boundary wall at 13 Beechwood is almost complete and advised that the slip form kerbs will be installed within the next week. He advised that works on this project will be monitored on an ongoing basis as the cost of the project may exceed the amount of funding allocated from this year's Wicklow Municipal District Discretionary Fund budget. Mr Byrne advised that if the cost does exceed the funding provided for in the budget, a temporary footpath surface will be laid and it is hoped that work will be completed next year from funding provided for in the 2018 budget.

Footpath from Roundwood village to Vartry Soccer Grounds on the Kilmacanogue Road.

Footpath from Roundwood village to Vartry Soccer Grounds on the Kilmacanogue Road.

Works will commence in the coming days on the footpath that will link Roundwood village to Vartry soccer grounds and also the Reservoir walks. It is envisaged that this project will take approximately six weeks to complete.

Resurface car park in Rathew

Mr Byrne advised that this project has now been completed.

Greenhill Court footpath

Mr. Byrne informed the meeting that the repairs to the footpath on the Greenhill road will hopefully commence next week. Funding for this project will be allocated from a combination of any cost savings that were made on the Newtownmountkennedy footpath project and the balance remaining in the 2017 Wicklow Municipal District Local Road Footpath Renewal fund.

The Members raised the following queries with the District Engineer.

Line Marking - Wicklow MD

The Members queried as to when the road line marking will commence in the Wicklow Municipal District. Mr Byrne advised the meeting that these works are currently being priced using the approved public procurement procedures. Locations will be assessed and works undertaken based on a road safety priority basis. There may not be adequate funds to undertake all road marking works that were requested by Members.

Public Lighting at Sailing Club

The Members queried the cost for the provision of public lighting on the road outside Wicklow Sailing Club. Members raised their concerns that the estimated cost for the provision of public lighting outside the Sailing Club has risen from two thousand to six thousand euro. The members enquired if solar lighting could be an alternative and cost effective option.

The Cathaoirleach requested an update at the next meeting on the situation from Mr. Declan O'Brien, Executive Engineer, Roads Section. It was agreed to include Public Lighting at Sailing Club as an item on the agenda for the September meeting.

**CLIFF WALK**

The District Engineer, Mr Byrne advised that RPS Consultants have been contracted to carry out the Coastal Erosion Study & Protection System Design Proposal for Glen Beach. Mr. Byrne indicated that the topographical, bathymetric and ecological surveys proposed by RPS can only be safely undertaken during the summer months when there is minimal risk of storms and high seas. The timeline for the RPS activities shows completion in early 2018, which would mean that construction activities could start in Spring or Summer of 2018, assuming that any required Part 8 procedure is undertaken in a timely manner. RPS proposals allows for their staff to consult with Wicklow Golf Club regarding any concerns they may have during the design development phase.

Mr Michael Nicholson, Director of Services, CCSD has previously indicated to Mr. Byrne that there is sufficient funding in the CCSD budget to cover the estimated costs of Coastal Erosion Study & Protection System Design Proposal for Glen Beach.

RPS have indicated that the preliminary indicative cost of constructing a coastal erosion protection system at the Glen Beach would cost in the region of €500,000 (based on similar projects completed). A more exact cost will be determined once the study and design work is completed. When the accurate estimated cost of the project is known, construction stage funding will need to be applied for and secured before the project can be completed.

The Members welcomed the news that a study will take place on the coastal protection at the Glen Beach and urged Mr. Byrne to ensure that the study will be completed in a timely fashion so that the next stage of the restoration of the Cliff walk can be carried out. They highlighted the many tourist benefits to the town by having the Cliff walk open.

#### **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM WICKLOW TIDY TOWN**

Mr. Andrew Lawless from Wicklow Tidy Towns addressed the meeting and updated the committee on the Black Castle project. He advised that members of their committee met with Professor Graeme Warren, Head of UCD School of Archaeology in late May. Mr Warren is very enthusiastic about the project and indicated that that he would have the resources of a PHd student, Susan Curran and an expert on castles Mr. Tadhg O'Keefe to assist on the project.

He recommended carrying out a Geo survey of the area and this could be incorporated into a community style day, whereby the community could come and see how the survey is done and carry out some of the survey work. He felt it would generate interest in the project. He indicated that the PHd student would carry out the main work in relation to the project. He suggested carrying out this survey in early September as this would be the best time. The cost of the survey is approximately €2,500.

Once the survey is done and the information is obtained from Tadhg O'Keefe Wicklow Tidy Towns committee will go about design and signage for the castle. They hope to avail of the services of Uto Hogerzeil, artist, to carry out the work for them in relation to the sign. He has done similar works in Kilkenny, Wexford and Waterford among other places. It is envisaged that the sign etc. will be in place by the end of the year.

The Members thanked Mr Lawless for his presentation and praised the work that the Wicklow Tidy Town Committee continue to do around the Town. They acknowledged the committees work in enhancing the cleanliness and beauty of the town and they looked forward to the completion of the Black Castle project.

Cllr. Irene Winters entered the meeting at 12am (during Mr Lawless's presentation)

## **BURIAL GROUND REVIEW POLICY.**

The Cathaoirleach advised the meeting that the policies contained in the Burial Ground Review Policy have previously been agreed by a Burial Ground Sub Committee and also Water & Environmental Services SPC.

The policies were discussed at the monthly Wicklow County Council Meeting held in July 2017. At the full County Council meeting in July the Members agreed that the policies should be referred back to each Municipal District for review. Each MD is requested to review the policies listed and revert to the Environment Section with suggested amendments.

Suggested changes should be returned on each individual policy and should relate to all Council Graveyards within that specific MD. A return report is requested from each MD by mid September at the latest as it is proposed that the matter will again be included on full council agenda for the Council meeting in October

The Members raised their concerns regarding the effects of the following proposed policy changes.

- Definition of Locals only
- Capacity of existing graveyards in Wicklow MD – Glenealy, Rathdrum, Barndarrig & Three Mile Water
- Advanced Purchase – Double Graves at time of burial /purchase
- Part Lawn Cemetery graveyards – requirements in relation to removal of illegal surrounds etc.

The Members decided to schedule a meeting in August to further discuss The Burial Ground Review Policy. Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2017 was suggested as a date for the meeting.

## **DEVELOPMENT OF WICKLOW TOWN – KICK START FOR WICKLOW TOWN**

The Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that there was no update on the “Kickstart Wicklow Town” No meeting has taken place of the Kick Start team since the last Municipal meeting in June.

The Members agreed to sit on the following working groups.

Wicklow Town Digital Strategy – Cllr. Shay Cullen

Greenway/Blueway – Cllr. Mary Kavanagh

Heritage Forum – Cllr. John Snell

Fitzwilliam Square – Cllr. Gail Dunne

Park and Ride –Cllr. Irene Winters

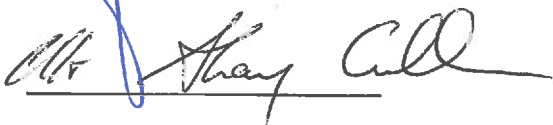
Retail Survey – Cllr. Daire Nolan

This item will remain on the agenda for the September meeting.

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that the next Municipal District Meeting is scheduled for 3pm, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

The meeting closed at 17:00 p.m.

SIGNED: 

SIGNED: 

DATED: 25/9/2017