

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

MONDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2017 11.30am

SEMINOLE ROOM, COUNTY BUILDINGS

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

Apologies: Cllr. Irene Winters

In attendance: District Manager Joe Lane, District Engineer Paul Byrne, District Administrator Joan Sinnott, Assistant Staff Officer, Liam Cullen

Cathaoirleach Shay Cullen opened the meeting at 11.35am

It was agreed by the Members of the meeting to change the order of the agenda in order to facilitate a presentation from Mr Dave Shannon, Wicklow Town Team

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD July 2017

It was proposed by Cllr. Gail Dunne and seconded by Cllr. John Snell and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District meeting held 24th July 2017.

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! The District Administrator gave a detailed report on each application and how each residents association propose to spend the funding if successful with their application. 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.

Cllr John Snell proposed that 50% of the allocated funding be provided to the estates that applied under the grant scheme with the remaining 50% to be allocated to upgrade works in other Local Authority estates within the Wicklow Municipal District. The estates that applied and that have not previously received grants in 2017 are to be allocated €1000 per estate with the remaining applicants to be allocated €250 per estate. The breakdown of Cllr. Snell's proposal are as follows.

- Ashwood/ Vartry Heights – Roundwood- €1000
- Ballinalea – Ashford - € 1000
- Carrig Court – Rathnew - €1000
- Mountainview – Newtownmountkennedy - €250
- Sycamore Drive – Newtownmountkennedy - €250
- Glean Chill – Glenealy - €250
- Hillview – Wicklow - €250

Cllr. Snell's proposal was seconded by Cllr. Dunne and unanimously agreed by the Members.

ENGINEERS REPORT

Paul Byrne presented the District Engineer's Report:

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

Work on the second stage of the footpath project has commenced, the new footpath will link Laragh village to Beechwood housing estate, Laragh GAA grounds and the Green Road walkway. Agreement has been reached with Laragh GAA club to extend the footpath through their grounds, linking up with the Green Road walkway. Work is expected to be completed on the project within the coming weeks.

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

Works are expected to be completed within the coming days on the footpath that will link Roundwood village to Vartry soccer grounds and also the Reservoir walks. Mr. Byrne advised that there will be a delay in installing the traffic lights on this project due to ESB connection issues.

Resurface car park in Rathnew

Mr Byrne advised that this project has now been completed.

Greenhill Court footpath

Mr Byrne advised that this project has now been completed.

Line Marking - Wicklow MD

Mr Byrne advised the meeting that the Line Marking works have now been completed within the Wicklow Municipal District. Line Marking was carried out in the following areas in Wicklow MD

- Newtownmountkennedy
- Wicklow
- Ashford
- Anamoe
- Roundwood

- Tomiriland
- Rathnew
- Wicklow Gap road up to Turlough Hill

Public Lighting

Mr Byrne advised the meeting that a number of Wicklow MD public lighting projects are scheduled to commence in the coming months. Purchase Orders have been issued to SEE airtricity and we are awaiting confirmation of start dates on the following projects.

- Belard Manor – Glenealy
- Bosuns Rest – Wicklow Town
- Merrymeeting Hill – Rathnew
- Skate Park – Wicklow Town

It is envisaged that these projects will be completed by early 2018. A discussion took place regarding the provision of Public lighting outside Wicklow Sailing Club. Mr Byrne indicated that the cost of civil works on this project would be high and will cost in the region of seven thousand euro to provide one light in the area. The Members felt that this would not represent value for money and unanimously agreed not to proceed with this project.

Memorial Garden

Cllr. Kavanagh informed the meeting that she has sought LEADER funding for this project and has also been in discussion with a landscape architect with a view to designing a memorial garden at a site at the Murrough. An application for LEADER funding will be submitted before the end of 2017 and it is envisaged that funding would be drawn down in early 2018. It was unanimously agreed to that the €5000 allocated to this project from the 2017 discretionary be ring fenced and the work be carried out in 2018. Mr Byrne agreed to the installation of two new benches at the Murrough which will be charged to the parks and open spaces budget 2017.

Local Improvement Schemes

Mr Byrne advised the meeting that €310,000 in funding has been secured for Local Improvement Schemes in Wicklow. The funding will allow for the repair and improvement of small roads and laneways which lead to local people's homes and businesses that are not under the normal maintenance of the local authorities.

Mr Byrne advised that Wicklow Municipal District has four applications for this grant scheme which have been carried over from 2014, the last time the scheme was in place. Approval has been received for three of the projects with the other project subject to approval from the Department.

- Drummin Lane
- Ballard Lane
- Knockraheen Lane
- Kilmullen Lane

CLIFF WALK

The District Engineer, Mr Byrne advised that RPS Consultants have completed the Coastal Erosion Study & Protection survey for Glen Beach. 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, subject to funding availability and assuming that any required Part 8 Public Consultation procedure is undertaken in a timely manner. The RPS proposal also allows for consultations with Wicklow Golf Club and the Friends of the Murrough group regarding any concerns they may have during the design development phase, prior to approval of the final design.

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.

PRESENTATION FROM Mr. DAVE SHANNON – WICKLOW TOWN TEAM

Mr. Dave Shannon chairperson of Wicklow Town Team addressed the meeting. He updated the meeting on the structure of the Town team and what their goals and objectives are. He highlighted a number of projects that the Town Team would like to get up and running in the near future such as the back lighting of some prominent historical and tourist sites in the town, and also the regeneration of the Market Square area of the town. He felt if they could get these projects up and running it would highlight the work being done by the Town Team and encourage public participation future projects.

“Time to Kickstart Wicklow Town” Report will form the basis of the work of the Town Team initially. These areas are

- Wicklow Town Digital Strategy
- Greenway/Blueway
- Park and Ride
- Wicklow Town Public Realm/Historic Town
- Retail Survey
- Fitzwilliam Square/Courthouse

Team Leaders have been appointed to the above six areas to establish working groups. A Member of Wicklow Municipal district will sit on each of the six working groups.

- Six team leaders
- Chairperson ,
- Vice Chairperson
- Representative of Wicklow Municipal Council(Chairperson or Representative)
- David Porter (Town Team Administrator)
- Christine Flood (Advisor/Full Member)

A.O.B

Rathnew cemetery

The Members expressed their disappointment and concerns over the recent incident that took place at Rathnew cemetery. A recent funeral was delayed for over an hour while a new grave had to be dug. The Members felt this delay was totally unacceptable and caused undue distress to the family of the deceased. The Members requested a letter be written to the Senior Executive Officer of the Environment section to express their frustration and anger that this incident occurred

District Administrator position

The Members requested that the incoming Wicklow Municipal District Administrator, Ms Joan Sinnott be appointed to the position on a full time basis as soon as possible. They felt with the position being left vacant, there was nobody to manage and progress projects within the Wicklow Municipal District

CORRESPONDENCE.

Wicklow Court House

The District Administrator Ms Joan Sinnott informed the meeting that she received correspondence from Deputy John Brady and Deputy Simon Harris regarding the scheduling of a meeting between the Minister with responsibility for Court services and the five Wicklow T.D's. Both of the T.D's have been in contact with the Minister and are awaiting confirmation of a date for the meeting. The Members requested that another letter be sent to the five T.D's asking for collective approach in scheduling this meeting.

Burial Ground questions

At a previous Wicklow Municipal meeting the Members asked that a number of questions be submitted to MS. Helena Dennehey, Senior Executive Officer, Environment Section regarding procedures in place for burial grounds in the Wicklow Municipal District. The Members were circulated a written response to these questions by the District Administrator.

Christmas lights in Wicklow Town

The District Administrator read out a letter that was received from the Chamber of Commerce requesting extra funding to be provided by Wicklow Municipal District for the provision of Christmas lights in Wicklow Town. Having already given €20,000 the Members felt that it would be difficult to come up with extra funding from the 2017 budget. The members asked the district Administrator to enquire how other Municipal Districts provide for funding within their districts.

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that the next Municipal District Meeting is scheduled for 3pm, 23rd October 2017.

The meeting closed at 1pm.

SIGNED:

SIGNED:

DATED:





