

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

MONDAY 27TH MARCH 2017 AT 3 P.M.

WURZBURG 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, Breege Kilkenny, Assistant Staff Officer, Liam Cullen

Cathaoirleach John Snell opened the meeting at 3.09 p.m.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON 27TH FEBRUARY 2017.

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

HOUSING – UPDATE AND PRESENTATION ON CONVENT LANDS BY COADY ARCHITECTS

Ms. Breege Kilkenny, Senior Engineer, introduced Mr Tomas Sexton from Coady Architects to the meeting. Coady Architects have been contracted by Wicklow County Council to carry out the design of the proposed development of Convent Lands in Wicklow Town. Ms Kilkenny informed the meeting that the project is being carried out as a (PPP) Public Private Partnership venture. The project is part of a six project bundle to be carried out in five different Local Authorities. Ms. Kilkenny advised that the Part VIII will be presented to the Wicklow County Council Members at the full Council meeting scheduled for the 12th June for their consideration.

Mr. Sexton gave a comprehensive report on the proposed development which contained an artist's impression of the completed project. The presentation included details of the site layout, the various types of dwellings, public spaces and access to and from the proposed estate. Mr. Sexton advised that each unit will comply with energy regulations and will have a minimum BER rating of A3. The development is to consist of the following units.

19- 1 bedroom

22 – 2 bedroom units

10 – 3 bedroom units

Breege Kilkenny returned to the meeting at 4.15 to confirm the number of disability units as three. The members thanked Tomas Sexton for his presentation and expressed their support for the development. A discussion then took place regarding the naming of the proposed development. The Members agreed to adopt the name Radharc na Fairrige as the new estate name.

Breege Kilkenny stated that a Section 85 notice will be put before the members at the next full Council Meeting on 3rd April. She outlined that this is necessary to allow Dublin City Council, the lead Authority on this PPP project, to act on Wicklow County Council's behalf in all matters in respect of this particular development.

ENGINEERS REPORT

Paul Byrne presented the District Engineer's Report:

Public Lighting at Convent Road/Mount Carmel Avenue

The Councillors enquired about two street lights that were erected some time ago opposite Bosun's Rest. The Members were advised that the lights were left unconnected by the Developer and it would cost in the region of €3,000 to get the lights up and running.

Newtownmountkennedy public lighting on R772 near Coillte Office

Mr. Byrne confirmed that the public lighting on R772 has now been connected.

Cllr Winters advised the Members that at the last meeting she informed them that she had seen a Managers Order which stated that Wicklow County Council had extended their contract with Airtricity for a further three years. Cllr. Winters wanted to clarify that following further investigation into the matter, that it was in fact a three month extension to the existing contract. She apologised for any confusion caused by her comments on this matter at the February meeting.

Wicklow MD's Budget for centrally funded roads projects

Following on from a query at the February meeting Mr. Byrne advised the members that WMD has been allocated 19% of the overall Roads budget for centrally funded projects.

Littering problems within the Wicklow MD area

The Members raised concerns about litter pollution and dog fouling throughout the Wicklow Municipal Area. They felt that littering and dog fouling on the streets is a constant problem and it is reflecting very badly on the area particularly when large volumes of people are visiting for events such as festivals. A discussion took place on how best way to tackle the issue and if there were legal measures in place that deal with offenders. The District Administrator agreed to check with Wicklow County Council Environment section as to what procedures are in place to deal these problems. The Members asked about the possibility of the Litter and Dog wardens attending a Municipal meeting to discuss the ongoing issues. The members discussed the provision of funding for extra clean up's on busy weekends and when special events are taking place in the area.

ROADS PROGRAMME 2017

The District Engineer informed the meeting that he had submitted the Municipal District's Schedule of Road Works for 2017 to the Roads Section for approval. Mr Byrne anticipated approval would be granted within the next week. Contractors would then be appointed using the 2017 Schedule of Rates and works are expected to commence after the Easter break. Mr Byrne estimated works on

the Newtownmountkennedy footpath from the GAA pitch to the Moneycarroll Roundabout will cost in the region of €75,000 which will be charged to the 2017 WMD Local Road Footpath Renewal job code. The members raised their concerns regarding value for money on such projects.

CLIFF WALK

Investigations are underway to identify the preferred route on the Wicklow Cliff Walk taking into account Health & Safety and access issues. Before improvement works can take place the Council must enter into discussions with all adjoining land owners. Mr Byrne advised that all available options will be considered before deciding on works to be carried out.

Mr Byrne advised the members that there may be funding available from the Cultural Community Social and Development section of Wicklow County Council. There is also a possibility that other sources e.g. Leader funding might be identified. The Members expressed concerns regarding employing an outside consultant to advance the project and asked it was possible that this work could be carried out in house by Wicklow County Council staff.

The Members also raised the issue of erecting signage to direct walkers away from crossing privately owned land.

DISCRETIONARY FUND WICKLOW MD

This item was deferred to the April meeting

CO. WICKLOW PUBIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

Mr Helen Howes from Wicklow Public Participation Network addressed the meeting. In her presentation Ms. Howes outlined the background and role of PPN in Wicklow. She also highlighted the challenges facing Co. Wicklow Public Participation Network.

Background

Co. Wicklow Participation Network (PPN) was formed in 2014 as a direct result of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 which legislated for the development of PPNs in every Local Authority area. Co Wicklow PPN is made up of a wide range of Community & Voluntary, Social Inclusion and Environmentally focused groups.

Role

The role of the PPN is to provide a structure for Co. Wicklow community groups to nominate community representatives to decision and policy making bodies in the County. It is also to act as a channel for information between various local and national bodies and County Wicklow community groups and support their member groups to grow and develop.

Challenges

Ms Howes asked the Members for their continued support for PPN in Wicklow. She outlined some of the challenges that they are currently facing:

- Lack of Resources

- Awareness rising, Growing Membership, engaging groups
- Developing Linkage Groups
- Developing Municipal PPN's
- Demonstrating that community consultation is valued

The members thanked Ms Howes for her comprehensive report and commended her for the work she is doing in her role as PPN resource worker. They highlighted the valued contribution that PPN members are making to the various committees that they are part of in the community

CORRESPONDENCE

Review of Parking Bye-Laws

Mr. David Porter, the District Administrator, addressed the Members in relation to the adoption of the Parking Byelaws. Mr. Porter informed the Members that the closing date for submissions on the Parking Byelaws was the 18th April 2017.

Estate Development Grants

Mr. David Porter, the District Administrator advised the members that Estate Development cheques would be presented to the successful applicants directly after the meeting.

Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber of Commerce requested an opportunity to meet the members at the May meeting. The Members recommended that the representatives from the Chamber come to the April meeting as Discretionary funding will be decided at that meeting.

Mr. Porter also advised the meeting that the Chamber of Commerce have made a verbal request for extra funding for Christmas lights. Current lights are 8 years old and require a lot of maintenance. The Chamber is seeking to redesign the lighting scheme and is making an application under the Community Grants scheme.

Vandalism of parking meters in Wicklow Town.

Mr Porter informed the Members that the parking meters in Wicklow Town have now been cleaned and repaired following the recent vandalism. Garda investigations into the damage are ongoing.

Ashford Heritage Group

Ashford Heritage Group has requested funding from Wicklow Municipal office for their upcoming J. M. Synge festival.

Town Centre Health Check

The District Administrator confirmed that the advertisement seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified Consultants should appear in the next few days.

The Members expressed their support to the Martin family from Rathnew whose children are currently undergoing treatment for serious illness. They encouraged the public to support the planned fundraising events which will be taking place for the family.

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that the next Municipal District Meeting is scheduled for 24th April, 2017.

The meeting closed at 16:55 p.m.

SIGNED: _____

SIGNED: _____

DATED: _____