

**MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING
MONDAY 27th APRIL, 2015 10 AM
TOWN HALL**

Present: Cathaoirleach Pat Casey, Councillors Daire Nolan, Shay Cullen, John Snell, Irene Winters.

Apologies: Cllr. Pat Kavanagh

In attendance: District Manager Loraine Lynch, District Administrator David Porter, District Engineer Paul Byrne, Assistant Staff Officer Catherine McCann, Clerical Officer Caroline Lynch and three members of the public.

Cathaoirleach Pat Casey opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON 23RD MARCH 2015**

Proposed by Cllr. Shay Cullen. Seconded by Cllr. Daire Nolan.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Paul Byrne presented the District Engineer's Report.

- Sand in new playground at The Murrough:
Paul Byrne advised this is part of the design. It will be kept under review. Some Members expressed the view that this is not a suitable material for a playground. Mr. Byrne advised he will refer their comments back to Community and Enterprise.
- Junction at Ballinalea, Ashford:
Mr. Byrne advised he is still waiting for a reply.
- Public lighting at Bayview Road:
The lights are now repaired.
- Taking Estates in Charge:
Mr. Byrne advised that a list was given to the Members with the Agenda.

- Playground at Newtownmountkennedy:

David Porter gave an update on the playgrounds in the district. He advised that land acquisition is underway for the Newtownmountkennedy Playground. The tenders have been assessed and the successful tenderer will be advised within the next two weeks. He advised that the Murrough Playground was opened to the public on Friday 24th April. With regard to the Rathnew Playground, the land acquisition is complete. The tenders have been assessed and the successful tenderer will be advised within the next two weeks.

- Brittas Bay car park:
Funding is not available to open the car park earlier in the year. The Members asked when it opens to which Mr. Byrne advised 1st May. The Members suggested perhaps it would open on school holidays, weekends and during spells of exceptional weather. David Porter advised that the contract expires in September. This is a matter for Environment.
- Entrance to school in Newtownmountkennedy:
Mr. Byrne advised the Members he would look at this. There is a question of funding. He will discuss the matter with the principal.
- Garden Village Drive – damage to road, potholes:
Mr. Byrne advised that the pot holes are not bad. He will continue to monitor the situation and will repair as needed.
- Sewerage plant, The Murrough, Wicklow Town – smells emanating from the plant:
Mr. Byrne advised that Environment had checked with Veolia. There was a minor issue that has been resolved. No complaints have been received since. Complaints regarding odours should be directed to Irish Water.
- Traffic congestion at Gaelscoil:
Mr. Byrne advised that the principal replied to the letter sent by David Porter. The school is working with the Gardaí and are open to suggestions. It was suggested a second entrance be made so the traffic would go in one gate and out the other. It was recommended this option be suggested to the school.
- Traffic calming on Laragh to Roundwood road:
Mr. Byrne advised that this could be combined with the drainage works at Annamoe.
- Council container beside Castle Street flats, Wicklow:
Mr. Byrne advised that this has been removed.
- Footpaths and road markings in Wicklow Town:
Mr. Byrne advised that he will look at this under the works programme for this year.
- Diving board on The Pier:
Mr. Byrne advised that David Porter had an update on this.

- Pedestrian safety at Merrymeeting, Rathnew:
Mr. Byrne advised that this is underway.
- Sign at High Street/New Street:
Mr. Byrne advised that this has been replaced.
- Access from Glebemount opposite Lidl/Heatons:
Mr. Byrne advised that the most favourable option would be to petition the residents. He suggested contacting the Residents Association.

Cllr. John Snell arrived at 10.19 a.m.

The following issues were raised by the Members:

- Emptying bins at Brittas Bay.
- Lack of toilet facilities at the Black Castle, Wicklow Town.
- Traffic Management in Ashford – any plans to reinstate the bollards?
- Litter bins at bus stops in particular Ashford.
- No toilet facilities in Annamoe.
- Footpaths outside the Gaelscoil – in very poor condition.
- R772 – Newtown to Coilte road – can the footpath be widened?
- Can a footpath be installed on the Ballinahinch road near the GAA pitch?
- Trees blocking light from residents of Garden Village Court – can these be cut?

Paul Byrne gave an update on the Ashford Traffic Management. Following the continued vandalism of the bollards it was decided to remove them. It has been noticed that drivers are gradually slipping back into old habits of making a u-turn in the vicinity of the school. The bollards will not be put back in unless all interested parties are in support and their effectiveness secured. The Members sought clarification on the cost of these bollards. Of the total cost of the traffic management works €5,000 - €6,000 were spent on the bollards. The issue is driver behaviour and it was suggested the Council write to the Gardaí.

IRISH HORSE WELFARE TRUST UPDATE

David Porter advised the Members that, Council officials and staff from the Irish Horse Welfare Trust had met with representatives of the residents groups on Friday 17th April. At that meeting the residents expressed their concerns regarding the project. They were informed that funding has not yet been secured and it was suggested some of the residents could join the management company. The Members contributed to the discussion on this matter. They felt that €250,000 was an excessive amount to spend on this project for 15 horses. They voiced their disappointment with the lack of information given and interaction with the residents. They feel the road which is a private road is unsuitable and asked if alternative lands could be sourced which would not impact on residents and tourism potential. The Members are prepared to issue a

Section 139. Loraine Lynch advised that the information has been passed to the Members. She confirmed that the project is in its initial stages and no funding has been secured. She advised that she will request a more detailed report from Housing. They asked if the process can be stalled. Ms. Lynch advised that she can make recommendations to Housing.

ALLOCATION OF DISCRETIONARY FUNDS €84,375

Cathaoirleach Pat Casey presented the proposal for the discretionary fund. The proposal was distributed to all the Members for consideration. The Cathaoirleach outlined the proposal. He proposed to allocate €25,000 towards lighting, a total of €20,000 towards the Tidy Towns groups, €10,000 to footpath repairs and €10,000 to speed ramps. He proposed €2,000 towards festivals and €13,000 towards miscellaneous projects. The remaining sum of €4,375 is to be held for unforeseen items.

One Member was not in agreement. He felt he should have had an input into the allocation. He suggested the proposal be withdrawn until there is consultation with all the Members. Cllr. Irene Winters seconded the proposal of the allocation of discretionary funds as presented by Cathaoirleach Pat Casey.

The Members discussed the proposal. The following items were mentioned:

- There is no issue with the allocation of €10,000 towards the speed ramps assuming the residents are in agreement. It was noted that there is additional funding for signage.
- Tidy Towns groups were allocated different amounts,
- Carrig Court, Rathnew, is not included on the list for speed ramps,
- Rathnew Forum is not included,
- Questioned why a lesser value was put on the Men's Sheds,
- Ashford Heritage Centre,
- Taste of Wicklow,
- Footpaths,
- Wicklow Arts Festival were also discussed.
- A query was raised in relation to the inclusion of the Cliff Walk and it was noted that the €5,000 is a provisional sum made towards any solution.

A vote was taken on the distribution of the discretionary fund as presented by Cathaoirleach Pat Casey and the result is as follows:

| FOR | AGAINST | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Daire Nolan | John Snell | | Pat Kavanagh |
| Shay Cullen | | | |
| Irene Winters | | | |
| Pat Casey | | | |
| | | | |
| TOTAL 4 | TOTAL 1 | | |

It was decided to defer the allocation of the €20,000 until the next meeting.

COASTAL EROSION

David Porter advised that the Department informed him that OPW should deal with this. The costing from RPS is €100,000 and work on the revetment will cost €50,000. Mr. Porter advised that the technical staff are preparing the formal application which should be submitted by the end of the week. He noted that this issue has been referred to Minister Simon Harris. The issue of an environmental fund of €60,000 was raised and Loraine Lynch agreed to look into this.

CLIFF WALK

Paul Byrne advised that there has been no reply from the Golf Club. The Members suggested that the two sea arches at the end of Wicklow Head could be a potential tourist attraction. Perhaps the Council could look to Failte Ireland for funding.

TOWN HALL

David Porter advised that there has been a change of responsibility with regard the Town Hall. Joe Lane is the new head of Corporate Estate and is reviewing the whole process. Mr. Porter hopes to have an update for the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

David Porter had distributed a list of an update of estates taken in charge with the agenda. The Members clarified that the owner of the property (not the occupier) must make a request for the estate to be taken in charge. Over 50% of residents must be in favour of the application. The Members requested this matter be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

David Porter advised that a survey on car parking is being undertaken by Wicklow County Council. The survey will be available online on Survey Monkey and also in paper format. The survey is to assess the parking needs in the county.

David Porter advised that a letter was received from Friends of Wicklow Community Services looking for funding.

Mr. Porter advised the Members of an email in relation to the 2016 Commemoration. The closing date for submissions is Friday 22nd May. Jenny Sherwin from the Arts Office is dealing with this. There is €20,000 available. The application form should be on the Co. Council website.

The Members raised the following matters:

Parking machine near the Black Castle is not working.

It was decided to hold the next meeting in the Town Hall at 3pm on 25th May, 2015.

The meeting closed at 12:00.

SIGNED: _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: _____