

## MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

*Tuesday 29<sup>TH</sup> September 2015 at 3 p.m.*

**PRESENT:** Cathaoirleach Irene Winters, Councillors Daire Nolan, Shay Cullen, Pat Kavanagh.

Councillor John Snell arrived at 3.10 p.m. and Councillor Pat Casey arrived at 3:20 p.m.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** District Manager, Loraine Lynch; District Administrator, David Porter; District Engineer, Paul Byrne; Assistant Staff Officer, Catherine McCann, Co-ordinator Wicklow 2016 Steering Group, Brendan Martin.

Cathaoirleach Irene Winters opened the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

### **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2015-09-29**

**Proposed by:** Councillor Pat Kavanagh

**Seconded by:** Councillor Daire Nolan

### **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON 27<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2015.**

**Proposed by:** Councillor Pat Kavanagh

**Seconded by:** Councillor Daire Nolan

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

Paul Byrne presented the District Engineer's Report:

#### **Wicklow Town Sewerage Treatment Plant**

David Porter advised that the contract for the Wicklow Sewerage Treatment Plant was with Irish Water and all waste water and odour complaints should be reported directly to the Irish Water Help Desk.

#### **Drainage and Flooding Issues in Springfield Heights, Newtown.**

The District Engineer reported that the Housing Department have been contacted in relation to this problem and the Municipal District have requested that the Housing Section issue approval and funding for a detailed investigation and survey of the drains to be carried out.

#### **Estate Signs at Bramble Glade, Ashford and O'Neill Park, Newtown**

Mr. Byrne informed the meeting that that Planning Section will provide funding for these signs by the end of the year.

#### **Tree cutting at Garden Village exit off the N11**

Paul Byrne informed the members that the matter of tree cutting was under the control of MMARC Contractor, GSJ Maintenance. Mr. Byrne said he would forward any contact details to Councillor

Nolan in order that residents at Garden Village could seek permission from the Contractor to carry out tree cutting at this location.

### **Risk of Flooding at Season Park, Newtown**

The Engineer reported investigations had shown there was a section of drain obstructed and that initially the Municipal District would arrange to remove the obstruction. This could possibly affect another part of the estate, if that was the case, the Municipal District would look at an alternative solution to the problem.

### **Port Access to Fitzwilliam Square Cycle Route**

This project was passed by the members on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014. Funding for this venture is highly likely to be provided by the NTA before the end of the year. The Engineer advised members that he could provide them with a copy of the drawings if they so wished. Mr. Byrne said he would look at the necessity for rumble strips outside the recycling centre while this project was being carried out.

### **WICKLOW 2016 STEERING GROUP:**

Cathaoirleach Irene Winters welcomed Brendan Martin, Co-ordinator, Wicklow 2016 Steering Group to the meeting. Mr. Martin gave a short presentation on projects and funding to commemorate 1916 in County Wicklow.

The Wicklow Plan is to be launched by Minister Simon Harris on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at the Ashford Heritage and Community Centre. Mr. Martin reported that funding for Wicklow 2016 has been received from the Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht who provided €30,000 in 2015 with a further €100,000 anticipated in 2016. Department of Arts have allocated €30,000, IPB have made available €30,000 and, finally, Mr. Martin confirmed that Wicklow County Council have approved €40,000 towards the commemoration.

The Steering Group has been meeting since February this year and have been overseeing the programme for Wicklow County Council to commemorate 1916. As part of this, the steering group have compiled the following projects:

- App being developed that will give weekly reports from Wicklow newspapers of "100 years ago today. This should commence in January 2016.
- Granite from McEvoy's Quarry, Ballyknockan, used to rebuild the GPO after 1916, will be celebrated in the oral history of the area.
- Concert, through song and poetry, planned with Wicklow schools to commemorate 1916.
- Silent film "Irish Destiny" to be show in Mermaid in April. The film is set during the war of independence and was filmed in Enniskerry.
- Curation day – public will have opportunity to bring memorabilia for recording and assessment (the materials will be a mix from 1916 and World War I.

Mr. Martin informed the meeting that the closing date for applications from community groups has already passed. Mr. Martin advised the meeting that there was €70,000 approved in principle for community projects in 2015/2016. However, he added that there was a miscellaneous amount of €5000 still available for a good project on 1916 that would appeal to everyone.

Mr. Martin suggested that each municipal district might choose a site/area within their own district in which they could make some mark to commemorate 1916. He hoped the Municipal Districts would have identified a site by the end of the year. Such an exercise would be co-funded by the Wicklow 2016 Steering Group.

Mr. Martin completed his presentation and at that point left the meeting.

## **MARKET SQUARE**

Paul Byrne wanted to bring his concerns to the members about the cobble lock paving at Market Square. The original construction supervision of the paving was not satisfactory and was not carried out in line with the design at the time. It appears that the cobble lock was never installed properly and there were problems with the sub-base. The Transportation and Roads Section were anxious to remove the paving and replace with an asphalt surface which in the long term would look better and be easier to maintain. New paving would involve major works and costs. Wicklow Municipal District will apply for funding for this work from Regional Roads and Local Roads Grants for 2016.

Mr. Byrne said that he was liaising with Deirdre Burns, Heritage Office, in relation to the type of road surface to replace the paving.

Mr. Byrne added that if the cobble lock was removed, it would be re-used where possible and cost effectively, by the Municipal District.

The Engineer advised that the works will require some road closures and cause traffic disruption in the Market Square.

All the members were in agreement that the cobble lock was not suitable for purpose and that there have been many issues throughout the years as a result. They suggested that an asphalt surface would provide a more functional road and would be the preferred option.

## **UP-DATE ON WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT PROJECTS**

### **Town Hall**

The District Administrator advised the members that there was no decision as yet in relation to the Town Hall. He informed the members that this was a decision for the Chief Executive and Housing and Corporate Estate to make.

The members expressed concern that the Town Hall still remains vacant. They asked if could have a decision on the Town Hall for the next meeting. If no decision is forthcoming for the October meeting, the members requested that the Director of Services, Housing & Corporate Estate or the Chief Executive attend the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015 to explain why the building is unoccupied.

### **FCA Hall**

David Porter informed the meeting that the FCA Hall had now been purchased by the Council. The Hall is currently being assessed and surveyed by the Council's technical staff. Some minor checks are required in relation to the fire alarm system and locks.

Mr. Porter added that some community groups had already expressed interest in using the hall.

The members asked the District Administrator if it would be possible for them to view the hall. It was agreed this would be arranged.

### **Vartry Rowing Club**

The possibility of providing the Vartry Rowing Club with a site to store the 30ft container which houses the Club's boat, was raised by the members. One suggestion was The Murrough Car Park. The District Administrator said the matter would receive consideration.

### **Assembly Hall and Parochial Hall**

The members asked if they could be issued with a report on usage of the two halls. Mr. Porter undertook to provide this information at the next meeting.

### **Cliff Walk**

The members were advised that potential funding for works on the Cliff Walk would not be available until 2016.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

#### **Coastal Protection and Erosion Works**

David Porter advised the members that the OPW and Department of Environment were written to regarding funding for coastal protection and erosion works. Both OPW and the Department contacted the Council seeking further clarification as to whether the work was new or if it was repair work. This has now been clarified, in writing, by Marc Devereux, Senior Engineer. No reply has been received as yet and the matter is now with Minister Harris.

The District Administrator also informed the members that Iarnrod Eireann have no money to allocate to the works.

#### **Provision of Bus Stops & Bus Shelters in Wicklow Municipal District**

The Wicklow Municipal District is included for approval on Bus Eireann's 2016 programme for provision of Bus Stops. The Municipal District has also applied for two Bus Stops at the new Wicklow Primary Health Care Centre.

The members reported that Bus Eireann have removed three stops, The Beehive, Ballinacor and Jack Whites Cross from Route No. 2 discommoding three communities in the process. The members asked if the Municipal District could add their support to have these stops re-instated, by writing to both, Bus Eireann and the National Transport Authority.

The District Administrator advised that there was to be provision of a bus shelter in Kilmacanogue, however, due to technical, and health and safety difficulties, installation of the bus shelter has not commenced yet. There are no provisions for bus shelters in Wicklow Municipal District for 2015.

#### **Notice of Motion: Cork City Council**

The members unanimously adopted the following motion to be included on the Agenda for the full County Council Meeting in October:

*"That this Council would adopt this resolution in support of Cork City Council in its actions against the proposed merger of Cork City and County Councils, and further supports its challenge to the Local Government Reform programme, which undermines the European principal of subsidiarity."*

The passing of this motion is to be notified to the Wicklow County Council Meetings Administrator so that the motion can be included on the next Wicklow County Council Agenda.

#### **Hedgecutting**

The members asked if the Wicklow Municipal District Overseers could provide a list of landowners who repeatedly ignore requests to cut back overgrown hedges, etc., on their land. They also suggested that the letters issue to repeat offenders on an annual basis. Paul Byrne informed the members that the Municipal District is currently sending out reminder hedgecutting letters.

#### **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

The following votes of sympathy were recorded at the meeting:

1. James Walker, Ballinahinch, Ashford.
2. Ena Byrne, Tomriland;
3. John Wheatley, Sunnybank, Kilpeddar.

The members and those in attendance at the meeting stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect for the deceased and their families.

The meeting closed at 4.25 p.m.

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

