

**MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY 9TH JUNE 2015 10am
COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY BUILDINGS**

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

In attendance: District Manager Loraine Lynch, District Administrator David Porter, District Engineer Paul Byrne, Deirdre Whitfield, Patricia Reilly from community Culture and Social Development, Clerical Officer Caroline Lynch.

Cllr. Irene Winters opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

Cllr. Shay Cullen arrived at 10.14a.m. Cllr. Pat Kavanagh arrived at 10.15a.m.

Cathaoirleach Pat Casey arrived at 10.25a.m. and took over as chair.

LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN – PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED

Deirdre Whitfield apologised that the socio-economic report was not ready. The consultants have yet to finalise it. She had previously circulated some statistics. She asked the Members for their thoughts. The following points were raised by the members:

- . Put more emphasis and give more support to local smaller businesses.
- . Protect the Rail Link
- . Cycle Lanes NTA and NRA should not dictate the provision of Cycle lanes as the topography of Wicklow is not suitable and 1% use bicycles.
- . How to bridge gap in disadvantaged areas like Rathnew. What resources are we putting in ?
- . Issue of carers and in particular their workplace conditions.
- . Disability – how many houses are allocated to people with a disability?
- . Is there other funding to target?
- . Single people – positive discrimination – may never get housed.
- . Hospital services – no A&E service in whole of county.
- . Increase in preschool – make provision for services along commuter belt.
- . Tourist accommodation – lack of hostel, B&B, 5 star accommodation.
- . Don't utilise the coastline – waterbus.
- . Carers – lack of skills when person they have been caring for dies. Also lose carers allowance, so income is reduced. Look at training and how to integrate that person back into society.
- . Is health and special needs included in the disability category?

- Look at facilities for those affected. Look at housing for people who may wish to live independently.
- Indigenous industries – space for shared crafts, shared kitchens.
- Advertising for business – N11 – proper signs.
- Claremont as a full level 3rd level college.

Ms. Whitfield thanked the Members for their feedback and will report back to the members when the report is more advanced. She left the meeting at 10.10am.

Paul Byrne arrived at 10.57a.m.

FEILE 2015 – MEMBERS TO REPORT

The Members discussed the contribution to each of the five GAA clubs in the district taking part in the Feile. The sum of €1,500 was agreed to be divided equally between the clubs. It was suggested a letter be sent to each of the clubs advising them the Municipal District fully supports them and wishes them well.

STREET CLEANING

The Members referred to the budgets provided for by Wicklow Town Council. They assumed that the same level of service would remain after the merging of the Municipal District. David Porter advised that the weekend street cleaning was provided for by the Town Council for the summer months only. The Members asked how much this would cost. Paul Byrne advised it costs €240 for 2 employees for 2 hours on a Saturday morning.

The Members suggested if the town was swept every second day. Mr. Byrne advised this is not always possible as every week is different. The members stated that street cleaning was not needed on a Monday and that the weekends were a much higher priority. Mr. Byrne agreed to look into this. Lorraine Lynch advised there are other areas in the district. There is a set schedule for the roadsweeper which is now also used in Roundwood and Laragh.

The Members asked if Gateway workers could do this work. Mr. Porter advised that the Gateway workers cannot carry out any work undertaken by council staff. There is an agreement in place with the unions. It was asked how many litter fines are issued. Mr. Porter advised not many fines are issued. Offenders do not leave evidence in bags.

The Members asked why the budget for street cleaning was reduced by €12,000. Lorraine Lynch advised she did not have the figures. What can be done for this year? Ms. Lynch advised that the street cleaning will be done after the festivals i.e. Taste of Wicklow, Regatta and for the summer months. She advised that only so much can be done with the resources available. The Members asked if the Gateway workers can litter pick. Paul Byrne advised that litter picking is not permitted by Gateway employees. There is agreement with the unions as to what work can be undertaken. The Members asked that the street cleaning budget be included as an agenda item for the next

meeting. It was suggested money is transferred from the discretionary fund to street cleaning to cover the cost of street cleaning on a Sunday for the summer months. The Members agreed to take €1,000 from community and €1,000 from promotion.

Cllr. Pat Kavanagh wishes to record her apologies for being late for the meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.21a.m.

SIGNED:

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

SIGNED:

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE:
