

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

MONDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 2018 3PM

DISTRICT CHAMBER , TOWN HALL

- Present:** Cathaoirleach Daire Nolan, Councillors, Shay Cullen, Mary Kavanagh, Irene Winters
- Apologies:** Councillors, John Snell, Gail Dunne
- In attendance:** District Manager Brian Gleeson, District Administrator Joan Sinnott, Senior Executive Engineer Kevin Scanlon, A/Assistant Staff Officer Carmel O'Connor

Cathaoirleach Daire Nolan opened the meeting at 3.12 pm.

Cllr. Irene Winters joined the meeting at 3.20 pm.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON 23rd JULY 2018

It was proposed by Cllr. Shay Cullen, seconded by Cllr. Mary Kavanagh and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes from the Municipal District Meeting held on the 23rd July 2018.

PRESENTATION ON PART 8 PLANNING APPLICATION – 67 NEW HOUSES IN RATHNEW

Senior Executive Engineer Mark Devereux, Senior Executive Engineer Diarmuid McGowan and Executive Architect Emma Hickey made a presentation on the proposed Rapid Delivery Housing Scheme in Rathnew. The proposed development will comprise of 67 Units over 2 Phases. Phase 1 will be Social Housing and will be made up of 16 No. 3 Bed Units and 31 No. 2 Bed Units. The scheme will be similar to the units being presently constructed in Meadowvale, Arklow and they will be predominately timber frame construction. Phase 2 will comprise of 5 No. 3 Bed units and 15 No. 2 Bed units and it is possible that this phase will be a mix of Social and Affordable units.

The preliminary design has been completed by Wicklow County Council to take the scheme to Part 8. Detailed design will then be completed by the successful Contractor who will be sought through the Office of Government Procurement Framework.

Pending the Part 8 Approval and amendments it would be hoped to make the submission to the Department by November 2018 and hopefully commence building July 2019 and have the scheme completed by August 2020.

The members queried as to why there was a preference to provide the 3 and 2 Bed units as opposed to more 4 Bed and 1 bed units. The Senior Executive Engineer Mark Devereux informed the meeting that the housing demand had been looked at and it was determined that there was a smaller demand for 4 bed and 1 bed units.

ENGINEERS REPORT

Kevin Scanlon, Senior Executive Engineer presented his Report:

Housing:

- Work continuing on maintenance and repairs.
- DPG applications processed as submitted.
- Technical support to WCC-Housing Dept:
 - 3 condition surveys issued on potential housing purchases.
 - 0 inspections for Mortgage to Rent scheme (iCare AHB).
 - 3 re-let houses returned to WCC Housing Dept.
 - 7 out of 15 re-let houses have works continuing.
 - Contract documents ready and tenders to be issued for repairs to fire damaged house at Ashwood, Roundwood.

Roads and Footpaths:

- All 4 LIS schemes completed.
- All 4 surface dressing projects completed.
- Road recycling projects to commence 12th September.
- Five road improvement work projects completed. Traffic light timings at Grand Hotel to be finalised in coming weeks.
- Laragh-Trooperstown footpath to be complete this week. Tar and topsoil currently being installed.
- Planning works for Discretionary commenced with two pedestrian crossing and lighting jobs. These jobs will be finalised in the coming weeks.
- Road Opening Licences continue to be processed and agreed. Watermain works at Dunbur Road continuing. Contractor will move to the Castle Avenue, Castle Field and Seaview Road with road closures necessary.

- Children At Play signs have been installed in numerous estates. To be completed soon.

Environment:

- Grass cutting and edge cleaning continues.

Planning:

- Reports on applications and compliance with applications are continuing to be issued.

Playgrounds:

- New roundabout installed and cradle swing ordered for the Ballynerrin playground. Also, swing in junior area being replaced.
- Replacement zip wire and additional sand awaiting delivery for the Murrough playground.
- Additional playground bark awaiting delivery for Ashford and Rathnew playgrounds.

Public Liability:

- 4 new claims submitted to WMD this month.
- Currently working on approx. 15 live claims at various stages.

Members questions and queries

The Members enquired if the replacement of equipment in the playgrounds were due to vandalism. The District Engineer advised that these particular replacements were due to general wear and tear.

The Members raised concerns at the high level of Public Liability Claims and wondered how these compared with other areas of the county. The District Manager advised that the county comparison is similar however, claims in the Wicklow Municipal District are historically high. He also advised that money is being provided over the next five years to tackle these hot spots and it is predicted that €500,000 will be allocated next year. The Members felt that it was great to show that we are proactively working to make the footpaths safe and prevent unnecessary claims.

The Members enquired about the time it takes to re-let houses. The District Administrator advised that the direct labour crew do a number of the re-lets and the others are then contracted out and sometimes there is a delay depending on the availability of the contractor and also dependent on the condition of the property that is being re-let.

The Members asked if there was going to be more Local Improvement Schemes allowed before the end of the year. The District Engineer advised that he will know shortly from the Department if there is to be more. He also advised that there are a number of LIS lined up and ready to go should there be money allocated.

The Members enquired as to why the road closure costs had risen so high this year. The District Administrator said she would enquire and advise at the next meeting.

The Members expressed concern regarding the timing on the traffic lights at the Grand Hotel. The District Engineer advised that they are on a default setting at the moment but sensors are to be installed on them.

The Members pointed out that the bollards and uprights on the pier and the chain links need to be repaired and that the canons and the old anchor at the Black Castle need to be painted. The District Engineer advised that he would consult with the Marine Officers as to who was responsible for the bollard and uprights on the pier.

The Members expressed concern regarding a caravan at the end of the river walk and there are 2 vicious dogs not tied up whom she felt were dangerous. It was requested that the Dog Warden be contacted to make him aware of the situation.

CLIFF WALK

The District Administrator advised that the Disposal Notice had been passed by resolution at the Ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on the 3rd September 2018. The next step would be that an agreement would be drafted to be signed by The Wicklow Golf Club and Wicklow County Council prior to any works commencing on the cliff walk. The District Administrator advised that consultation has taken place with trail consultants, an Ecologist, an Archaeologist as well as our own Heritage Officer regarding the essential works that will be required to be carried out prior to opening the cliff walk.

The Members asked that the 'Friends of the Murrough' be kept in the loop regarding signage on the cliff walk and that the old granite slabs previously extracted from pavements in the town be used on the walk. The District Administrator advised that this would be done.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Other issues were raised by the Members to which the District Engineer would report back on for the next meeting.

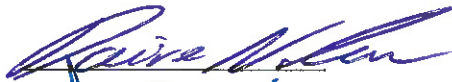
- Lighting on Glenview Road near the playground.
- Lights for the Murrough playground
- Lighting from train station to riverwalk
- Traffic Light project for Newtownmountkennedy
- Poor car parking space in Newtownmountkennedy
- Steps down from Black Castle – barrier required

CORRESPONDENCE

The District Administrator, Joan Sinnott informed the meeting that two letters had been received from the Regatta Festival Committee and the Volvo Round Ireland Yacht Race Committee thanking WMD for its generous contribution towards their events.

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that the next Municipal District Meeting is scheduled for Monday 22nd October 2018 at 3 p.m. The meeting closed at 4.30 p.m.

Signed:



Signed:



Dated:

