

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

MONDAY 23rd JULY 2018 3PM

DISTRICT CHAMBER , TOWN HALL

Present: Cathaoirleach Daire Nolan, Councillors Gail Dunne, Irene Winters, John Snell, Mary Kavanagh.

Apologies: Shay Cullen.

In attendance: District Manager Brian Gleeson, District Administrator Joan Sinnott, Senior Executive Engineer Paul Byrne, District Engineer Alan Martin, Senior Engineer Declan Marnane, Senior Executive Officer Lorraine Gallagher, Senior Executive Officer Theresa O'Brien, Assistant Staff Officer Anne Marie Kelly, Assistant Staff Officer Liam Cullen.

Cathaoirleach Daire Nolan opened the meeting at 3.03pm.

Cllr. John Snell entered the meeting at 3.11pm.

Senior Executive Engineer Paul Byrne left the meeting at 3.11pm.

Senior Engineer Declan Marnane left the meeting at 3.20pm.

Senior Executive Officer Lorraine Gallagher entered the meeting at 3.30pm and left at 4pm.

Senior Executive Officer Theresa O'Brien entered the meeting at 3.58pm and left a 5pm.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING HELD 25th JUNE 2018

It was proposed by Cllr. Gail Dunne, seconded by Cllr. Mary Kavanagh and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes from the General Wicklow Municipal District meeting held 25th June 2018

CLIFF WALK

Senior Executive Engineer Mr Paul Byrne updated the meeting on the proposed development and upgrade works on the Wicklow Cliff Walk. He advised that a recent meeting had taken place with Friends of the Murrough in order to update them on proceedings. The group had some concerns regarding the proposed upgrade works to the

walk mainly on environmental issues such as planting and fencing. They also felt that some parts of the walk were dangerously close to the cliff edge.

Mr Byrne advised that he intended to schedule a meeting with Wicklow Golf Club to highlight the concerns of the Friends of Murrough group. He said that he will mark up on a map, the concerns that have been raised by Friends of the Murrough, this was requested by the Golf Club. Mr Byrne agreed that he would present these drawings to the Golf Club at their next scheduled meeting. Once agreement is reached with the Golf Club it is intended to move ahead with the fencing of the land currently owned by the Golf Club.

Mr Byrne informed the meeting that a land disposal to Wicklow Golf Club is due to go before Wicklow County Council Members at the September monthly meeting. If the said land disposal is agreed and signed off on, Wicklow Golf Club have agreed to transfer a strip of land to Wicklow County Council (approximately 3.647 acres). This strip of land contains a public right of way that forms the Cliff Walk as shown in the Wicklow Town – Rathnew Development Plan 2013 -2019. This would allow the implementation of essential works under the guidance of the National Trails Office to improve safety at dangerous sections of the Cliff Walk. Directional, informational and warning Signage would also be installed following completion of these works, thus allowing the Cliff Walk to be formally reopened to the Public.

The Members thanked Mr. Byrne for his update and welcomed the news that negotiations are progressing well with Wicklow Golf Club. They felt that when the works on the cliff walk are complete it will be a fantastic tourism attraction for the town as well as providing a beautiful walk way for the local community.

Senior Engineer Paul Byrne left the meeting after presenting the report on the Cliff Walk

PROPOSED PART 8 BALLINTESKIN

Senior Engineer from the Housing section Mr Declan Marnane presented details of a proposed part 8 application for the construction of three houses adjacent to Balinteskinn Halting Site. When completed the development will have its own entrance. Mr Marnane said that the three houses in the scheme would house three families who are currently living in temporary accommodation at the halting site, these families are all originally from Balinteskinn.

The Members had no objections to the Part 8 and indicated that they would support the development when it goes before the full Council meeting in September.

ENGINEERS REPORT

Mr. Alan Martin presented the District Engineer's Report:

Housing:

- Work continuing on maintenance and repairs.
- DPG applications processed as submitted.
- Technical support to WCC-Housing Dept:
 - Eight condition surveys issued on potential housing purchases.
 - One inspection for Mortgage to Rent scheme (iCare AHB).
 - Four out of eight re-let houses returned to WCC Housing Dept.
 - Consultant appointed to prepare contract documents for repairs to fire damaged house at Ashwood, Roundwood.

Roads and Footpaths:

- All 4 LIS schemes completed.
- Four surface dressing projects to commence 24 July 2018.
- Five road recycling projects to commence 20 August 2018.
- Five road improvement work projects completed at 1) Glenview Park, 2) Ashford-Roundwood Rd, 3) Mount Usher, Ashford, 4) Oldtown, Roundwood and 5) Grand Hotel Junction Wicklow Town (additional gullies and line marking outstanding).
- Road improvement works at Laragh, preparatory works complete.
- Laragh-Trooperstown continuing.
- Planning works for Discretionary commenced with two pedestrian crossing and lighting jobs. These jobs will be finalised after time-critical LIS and DOT jobs are finished. Next two months. No change from June 2018 Report.
- Road Opening Licences continue to be processed and agreed. Watermain works at Dunbur Road to continue for approximately three weeks then the contractor will move to the Castle Avenue, Castle Field and Seaview Road subject to licence agreement.
- Repair works to footpaths along prom prior to Regatta.
- Three damaged manhole/footpath repairs at Hillview Estate and Dunbur Road.

Environment:

- Grass cutting and edge cleaning continues.
- Three additional bins to be installed at South Beach Car Park as part of Environment Dept. 'anti-dumping initiative'

Planning

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

Playgrounds

- New roundabout and cradle swing ordered for the Ballynerrin playground.
- Replacement zip wire and additional sand ordered for the Murrough playground.

- Additional playground bark currently being priced for Ashford and Rathnew playgrounds.

Public Liability

- Eight new claims submitted to WMD this month.

Councillor's questions and queries

The Members raised concerns about the number of public liability claims made against Wicklow Municipal District and highlighted the large amount of false claims currently being made nationally. District Manager acknowledged the high numbers of claims but advised that Wicklow Municipal District does not receive a greater number of claims in comparison with other towns of similar size

The Members asked for an expected start date on the road works at Glenealy and also when the works at the car park in Glenealy are due to commence. They advised the Tidy Town committees were keen to get the jobs completed before the tidy towns judging commenced. Mr. Martin advised that both jobs will commence in the coming weeks depending on availability of contractors.

The Members asked for letters to be sent out to landowners who have hedges and trees on their land overhanging onto public footpaths and roads. They mentioned how difficult it is for people who are visually impaired to walk on footpaths when branches and bushes are encroaching onto the paths.

The Members asked for an update on repair works to the equipment at Ballynerrin playground. Acting District Engineer Mr Martin advised that the works will be carried out in the near future, he explained that the delay in the repair works was caused by difficulty in sourcing parts for the play equipment.

The Members raised concerns about the state of surface on the Dunbur Road. District Engineer explained that this is a temporary surface and it has not yet been fully reinstated.

The Members enquired about the required works that are needed on the South Quay. Mr Martin advised that he would arrange for this work to be carried out as soon as possible.

The Members highlighted a problem with the frequency of the traffic lights changing at the Grand Hotel junction at Wicklow town. Mr Martin advised that this was a software problem and that arrangements have been made to resolve this issue.

The Members queried about the construction of a footpath at Merrymeeting Hill in Rathnew. District Engineer Mr Martin agreed to this request and said he would arrange for contractors to price this job.

RESERVED FUNCTIONS THAT MAY BE PERFORMED UNDER SECTION 131 (A) (1) (B) PART 2 IN RESPECT OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

Ms. Lorraine Gallagher, Senior Executive Officer, Enterprise & Corporate Services addressed the meeting to discuss the paper as circulated on Reserved Functions that may be performed under section 131(A) (1) (B) part 2 in respect of Municipal Districts .

At a recent Council meeting, it was suggested in the context of the matters on the Agenda for that meeting, that the Council might reasonably consider delegating certain reserved functions presently exercised by the full Council to the five Municipal Districts which constitute Wicklow County Council. This Discussion document has been prepared to assist the members of the Council in considering this proposal.

The Members felt that Municipal Districts would be best placed to address issues that impact on their District rather than have these local issues brought to full Council meetings.

Cllr. Snell proposed to support the adoption of the draft policy document as presented with the provision to exclude the examples as outlined in item 7 (4) of the document – to now read as follows – where the matter is of strategic importance to the County as a whole. Cllr. Gail Dunne seconded this proposal and it was unanimously agreed by all Members.

FUNDING SOURCES

District Manager Brian Gleeson presented the Members with details of a new Rural & Urban Regeneration and Development Fund which was announced as part of project Ireland 2040. This funding is to support the growth and sustainable development of Ireland's towns and cities. There is a total of €500, million Exchequer funding allocated to the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund over the years 2019–2022 with €100 million of expenditure available in 2019. The closing date for funding applications for 2019 is 28th September 2018.

Mr Gleeson explained that the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund is available to towns with a population of 10,000 or over. The application must be valued at €2 million, with the local authority expected to match the funding by at least 25 per cent.

A project team from Wicklow County Council has been formed to work on submitting applications for relevant projects. Mr Gleeson felt the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund represented a great opportunity for Wicklow Municipal District and the other four districts to avail of much needed funding to progress various projects within their

districts. Fitzwilliam Square and Wicklow Library were mentioned as possible projects in Wicklow Municipal District that could benefit from this funding.

The Members welcomed the opportunity to avail of this new source of funding. They felt it would be of great benefit to the district if this funding could be sourced for proposed and ongoing projects.

REVIEW OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL BURIAL BOARD POLICY

A discussion took place on the review of the Wicklow County Council Burial Ground Policy and how this policy would impact on the graveyards in Wicklow Municipal District. Ms. Theresa O'Brien, Senior Executive Officer, Planning and Environment section attended the meeting to address any queries relating to the Wicklow County Councils Burial Ground Policy.

The two issues raised by the Members were.

- Lawn Cemeteries
- Definitions of Locals only

Lawn Cemetery

Cllr. John Snell stated that he was opposed to the idea of lawn cemeteries. He proposed that no construction of lawn cemeteries should take place in new or existing cemeteries. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Irene Winters and unanimously agreed by all the Members present.

Definitions of Locals only

A two tier structure is currently in operation for sale of plots for locals and non locals. Locals only is defined as follows – living within 8km of graveyard at time of death or born and reared in the area of the graveyard. The Council may take measures to preserve spaces for local people in burial Grounds where limited space is identified as a problem.

The Members were opposed to any changes to the current policy on “Locals Only”

Ms. Theresa O'Brien, Senior Executive Officer, Planning and Environment section noted the Members recommendations and said she would be available to discuss on an individual basis any other concerns that they may have with the Burial Ground Policy.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. Kavanagh asked if forest fire prevention notices could be advertised throughout the District via Wicklow County Council Website and social media. The District Administrator agreed to update our website with the warning notices.

Cllr. Kavanagh raised an issue regarding the bad condition that the toilets at the Seafront are in. District Administrator advised the Wicklow Municipal District outdoor staff check the toilets daily and clean them three times per week.

Cllr. Kavanagh informed the meeting that the launch of the regatta festival 2018 was scheduled to take place 7.30pm on the 23rd July. The Members wished the regatta committee all the best in their preparations for the regatta.

Cllr Kavanagh enquired as to how the Peter O’Connor memorial project was progressing. Joan Sinnott advised that a plaque was currently being commissioned.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that the next Municipal District Meeting is scheduled for 17th September 2018 at 3 p.m. The meeting closed at 5p.m.

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Dated: _____