

**MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING
MONDAY 22ND JULY 2019 3PM
DISTRICT CHAMBER, TOWN HALL.**

Present: Cathaoirleach Shay Cullen, Councillors Irene Winters, John Snell, Gail Dunne, Mary Kavanagh, Paul O'Brien.

In attendance: District Manager Brian Gleeson, District Administrator Joan Sinnott, Acting District Engineer Alan Martin, Assistant Staff Officer Anne Marie Kelly, Senior Engineer Declan Marnane, Executive Architect Benan Clancy, Chief Technician Eddie Murphy, Myles Buchanan Wicklow People, Dave Shannon Wicklow Town Team, Joanna Hamilton Bridge Street Books, Brian O'Connor Next Door Off-licence, Tom Byrne Byrnes Gifts and Furniture .

Cathaoirleach Shay Cullen opened the meeting at 3.00pm.

Chief Technician Eddie Murphy left the meeting at 3.25pm.

Myles Buchanan Wicklow People entered the meeting at 3.25pm.

Senior Engineer Declan Marnane and Executive Architect Benan Clancy left the meeting at 4.00pm.

Mr. Dave Shannon, Ms Joanna Hamilton, Mr. Brian O'Connor and Mr. Tom Byrne , entered the meeting at 4.00pm.

Mr. Dave Shannon, Ms Joanna Hamilton, Mr. Brian O'Connor and Mr. Tom Byrne , left the meeting at 4.30pm.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING HELD 10th JUNE 2019.

It was proposed by Cllr Gail Dunne, seconded by Cllr Paul O'Brien, and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Annual Meeting held on the 10th June 2019.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MONTHLY WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 30TH APRIL 2019.

It was proposed by Cllr John Snell and seconded by Cllr Irene Winters, and it was unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District monthly meeting held on the 30th April 2019.

PART 8 APPROVAL FOR 40 SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS AT ASHTOWN LANE, WICKLOW TOWN.

The Chief Executive’s Report of the 15th July 2019 had been circulated to the members in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended; Re: Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 – 2006 as amended, regarding the development of 40 housing units at Ashtown Lane, Wicklow – P.R.R. 19/552.

The members raised and highlighted concerns, including loss of daylight, boundary treatment, distance between proposed units and existing dwellings, and the pedestrian access to the Estate which could give rise or encourage people to congregate there. In particular, the roof height was highlighted as being a problem for the properties to the rear of the proposed bungalows.

It was proposed by Cllr John Snell and seconded by Cllr Paul O’Brien and unanimously agreed by all 6 members to proceed with the development of 40 Social housing units on Ashtown Lane, Wicklow, subject to the pitch of the roofs on the bungalows (house type D), being lowered.

FOR (6)	Cllrs Shay Cullen, Irene Winters, Mary Kavanagh, Gail Dunne, Paul O’Brien and John Snell.
AGAINST (0)	
ABSENT (0)	
ABSTAINING (0)	

The members thanked the housing staff for their presentations, and also thanked Joe Lane DOS, Housing & Corporate Estate for the openness and transparency. The members stated that 40 new Social housing units would be very welcome for Wicklow Town.

CHAIRMAN DAVE SHANNONS TOWN TEAM PRESENTATION - PARKING AND TRAFFIC FLOW RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Dave Shannon presented this report to the members, and was accompanied by Ms Joanna Hamilton, Mr. Brian O’Connor and Mr. John Byrne local business owners, who also contributed to the presentation.

Mr. Shannon outlined to the members that surveys had been carried out to establish consumer and retail feedback on traffic and parking in Wicklow Town with a view to improving the town for traders and visitors alike. This report detailed the findings of the surveys which made clear that parking is an inhibitor of shopping visits to Wicklow Town and that this is an issue for both consumers and retailers alike.

The issues raised included lack of parking spaces close to the town centre, price of parking, inadequate signage indicating where available spaces are located. The report outlined 40 recommendations which were divided into short, medium and long term. Mr. Shannon spoke to the members about some of the recommendations in the report, which included reducing the cost of parking from €1.20 to €1.00 in line with

Bray, Greystones and Arklow, erecting signage informing people of where the parking spaces are located and pricing, and to actively promote the existing 15 minutes free parking and existing parking tag app. It was also recommended to review the Abbey Street 2007 planning application for a multi-storey car park. Mr. Shannon requested the members to revert to the Town Team as soon as possible with how they would proceed on this issue.

The members welcomed and commended the Town Team on producing this report.

ENGINEERS REPORT

Mr. Alan Martin presented the District Engineers report.

Housing:

- Work continuing on general maintenance and repairs.
- Technical support to WCC-Housing Dept:
 - Re-lets:
 - Two houses received.
 - Three returned to WCC Housing Dept.
 - One has works continuing.
 - DPGs: Two (to be confirmed).
 - Part V: Four completed (Kirvin).

Roads and Footpaths:

- WMD Surface dressing programme completed on Friday, 19th July.
- Road Recycling at Sleamaine commenced on Monday 15th July.
- WMD Road Improvement overlays commenced on Tuesday 16th July.
- Roads in charge queries continue to be processed.
- Road Opening Licences continue to be processed and agreed.
- Replacement of 150 metres of footpath at Woodview, Ashford commenced 22nd July.

Environment:

- Grass cutting and edge and drainage inlet cleaning continues.

Planning

- Reports on applications and compliance with applications continue to be issued.

Playgrounds

- New playground at Brockagh Centre, Laragh commenced in early July.
- New playground in Roundwood- groundworks completed in late June.
- Murrough: Zip wire and sand two diggers ordered.
- Newtown: See Saw and seating benches to be repaired within next two weeks.

Public Liability

- Four material damage and no personal injury claims submitted to WMD this month.
- Two claims settled.

Discretionary Works:

2018

- Glenealy bus bay completed. Ramp and crossing to be completed in August.
- Ballinastoe equipment ordered, road crossing for ESB in next week.
- Riverwalk and Sailing Club steps lighting to be installed in September. Riverwalk underground ducting for three lights complete.
- Dunbur Rd crossing, ramp and lights to be installed after road surfacing project completed.
- Newtown traffic survey remains on hold until consultant is appointed.

2019

- Roundwood toilets. No progress.
- Newtown footpaths. Complete.
- Ashtown Lane footpath. No works till September.
- Glenealy footpath and lines. No works till September.
- Maritime Project. Contractor to be contacted this week.
- Ballynerrin playground lights. No progress.
- Murrough wildflowers. Complete.
- Footpath widening Kidzone to Glebemount. Scope of works to be determined.
- Sinnott's Corner green area. Payment to be made to group.
- Laragh traffic calming. No progress till after Part VIII works complete.
- Merrymeeting footpath. Design dependant on overlay project at Merrymeeting.
- Seaview Heights resurfacing. No works till September.
- Brittas Bay Crossing. No work to date.
- Ashford Weir report submitted. To be examined with relevant parties.
- Rosanna footpath extent agreed. Works to commence at the Ashford end next week.

Town & Village Renewal Grants

- Newtown footpath and streetscape works. WCC re-mobilising in early August to continue.
- Wicklow Lighting at historic sites project. Contractor appointed. Civil works by WCC crew commenced on 10th July.

Councillor's questions and queries

It was asked when the resurfacing of Dunbur Road would take place. Mr. Martin advised that Irish Water are in the process of clearing their compound at present and trucks will continue to travel the road until this process is complete. He suggested that the Municipal District wait until the trucks are finished traversing the road before the resurfacing works commence.

An update was requested on the proposed lighting at the playground in Ballynerrin. Mr. Martin advised that lighting may affect surrounding residents, and further thought would have to be put into this issue before commencing with lighting.

The members raised several issues with Mr. Martin, including grass overgrowth at the Mount Carmel Estate, rodent problems in Glebemount and Hillview Estate, the need for line markings to be repainted in certain areas around the town and why some hanging baskets in the town were dripping water, and others appeared too dry.

Mr. Martin noted these issues. The members were informed that rodent control in housing estates is the responsibility of the residents.

The members queried why the disabled parking spaces on Castle Street and outside Butlers Chemist have gone.

Mr. Martin was unaware that this was the case, but assured them he would look into the matter.

2019 REGATTA

The members agreed to pay the Wicklow Regatta Committee €3000.00 to assist them in the running of the 2019 Regatta.

This was proposed by Cllr John Snell and seconded by Cllr Mary Kavanagh.

CLIFF WALK UPDATE

The members were informed that Sports Ireland Trails had given their final approval for this walk to be opened to the public, and that the official opening of the walk would take place on Friday 26th July at the Glen Beach Car Park.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The members complimented the outdoor staff and Engineers on how well Rathnew Cemetary looked at the recent Blessing of the Graves.

It was requested to include for discussion on September's Agenda the change in policy for purchasing graves in Rathnew Cemetary.

CORRESPONDENCE

An email received from Mr. Andrew Lawless, Chairperson of Wicklow Tidy Towns was read out at the meeting, giving the members an update on recent Tidy Town activities. These included weeding, watering of flowers and litter picking. Mr. Lawless had been interviewed on local radio to speak about cigarette butt littering the ground, and what could be done about this issue. It was advised that the members of the proposed steering group of the Sustainable Energy Community met on the 1st July, and Mr. Lawless is now waiting for the mentor (SEAI) to return from holidays to complete the application for a partnership agreement that will release €15,000 in funding to generate a Master Energy Plan for the town. Mr. Lawless is expecting the result of Tidy Towns competition to be announced on Monday 23rd September.

Cathaoirleach Shay Cullen concluded the meeting at 5.05pm

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Dated: _____