

## MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

MONDAY 28<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2019 3PM

DISTRICT CHAMBER, TOWN HALL

**Present:** Cathaoirleach Daire Nolan, Councillors Gail Dunne, Mary Kavanagh, Shay Cullen, Irene Winters, John Snell

Councillor Gail Dunne left the meeting at 3.55pm.

**In attendance:** District Manager Brian Gleeson, District Administrator Joan Sinnott, District Engineer Kevin Scanlon, Clerical Officer Sinead Turner

**Cathaoirleach Daire Nolan** opened the meeting at 3.00pm.

### CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2018

It was proposed by Councillor Shay Cullen, seconded by Councillor Mary Kavanagh and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

### ENGINEER'S REPORT

Kevin Scanlon presented the District Engineer's report as follows:

#### Housing:

- Work continuing on general maintenance and repairs.
- Technical support to WCC-Housing Dept:
  - Re-lets: 6 new houses received. 4 returned to WCC Housing Dept. 4 have works continuing.
  - DPGs: 4 additional houses to commence.
  - Part V: 1 house snagged.

#### Roads and Footpaths:

- Winter maintenance underway. 17 nights gritting since December 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Works commenced preparing Roundwood to Knockfadda Rd resurfacing. Contractor due on site next week.
- LIS additional 2 projects awarded. Works due to be carried out in coming weeks.
- Grand Hotel lights, in discussions with Contractor, awaiting start date.
- Discretionary grant works for 2019 to be discussed later in meeting.
- 2018 Discretionary Works:
  - Glenealy crossing, met Bus Eireann and details to be agreed.
  - Ballinastoe, finalising loop details with supplier.
  - Lighting at River walk and Sailing Club, works to be included in main contract in February.
  - Dunbur Rd crossing, awaiting all contractors finish in area before starting.
  - Lights at Newtown Main Street, being looked at with other grants.

- Planned road grant surfacing contracts to be circulated during meeting.
- Finalising footpath works. This will be circulated.
- Roads in charge queries continue to be processed.
- Road Opening Licences continue to be processed and agreed.
- ESB/SIRO will be in Wicklow and Rathnew in coming weeks installing broadband cables on poles and lights. WCC have agreed to upgrade all lights on affected poles. This will improve lighting in many areas on the route.

**Environment:**

- Grass cutting and edge cleaning continues.
- Arborist surveyed a number of trees in the district last week. Reports and actions to follow.
- Contractor planning to commence works at Laragh Playground in coming weeks provided weather remains mild.
- Cliff Walk works continuing. Paladin fencing currently being installed.
- Hedge cutting notices to be issued in worst affected areas next week.

**Planning:**

- Reports on applications and compliance with applications are continuing to be issued.
- Estate taking in charge reports and inspections are continuing with WCC planning staff.

**Playgrounds:**

- Soft rubber repairs for Ballynerrin (Fire Damaged), Murrough and Rathnew playgrounds to be completed in approx. two weeks. Dealing with Gardai in relation to damage. Spinner removed due to vandalism.
- General repairs at the Murrough playground, new mats, slide repairs, sand top up during February.
- New sand digger for Newtown playground ordered and awaiting delivery.

**Public Liability:**

- 4 new claims (1 personal injuries & 3 material damage) submitted to WMD this month.

**Councillors Queries and Comments**

- Works on Pedestrian Crossing at Dunbur Road which were included in last year's discretionary fund – currently a traffic hazard
- Incomplete footpath at Rocky Road
- Damaged bollards at Market Square
- Road markings at Church Hill
- Lighting at Sailing Club and Greenhill Road
- Traffic calming in Glenealy
- The ongoing problem with traffic lights at the Grand Hotel, query regarding whether a wireless system could be used to set the lights instead of ducting, i.e. bluetooth, which would be particularly beneficial during anticipated busy times in the town
- More road markings required, especially at pedestrian crossings
- Lights at Flannerys shop not yet replaced
- Public lighting at Merrymeeting Hill – District Engineer advised that delay was due to ESB connection not yet made
- Condition of roads after Virgin Media works – 2” drop at Seaview Heights
- Tarmac of Old Village, Rathnew
- Update on Weir at Ashford
- Delay in finalising projects under 2018 Discretionary Fund.

The District Manager advised that any incomplete projects will be carried forward to the current year and stated it was necessary to have projects approved early in the year before the major road works commence in the summer. It was agreed to do this at the February meeting. Members queried whether there were sufficient staff to complete the projects

- Major issue with non cutting of hedges in rural area affecting bus routes and tourism – follow up with landowners
- Completion dates for Local Improvement Schemes
- Policy regarding gritting in the district – most houses in Wicklow Town on hills – important that people can get to work
- Position regarding trees falling on public roads – The District Engineer confirmed that in the event of a tree falling at night, staff would generally try to push it back to clear the road and that WMD have staff who are equipped to cut and remove the tree safely next day. He added that it's a grey area when a tree falls from private land onto the road, but technically the land owner is responsible for removal while the Council would arrange to close the road.

## **ALLOCATION OF DISCRETIONARY BUDGET 2019**

The District Manager advised members that the budget was as follows:

General Municipal Allocation	€40,000
Local Footpath Renewal Scheme	€56,250
I.P.B. Capital Redistribution Payment	€93,750
Public Realm Discretionary Fund	€180,750

Total: €370,750

It was agreed that members would email projects to the District Administrator by Thursday and she would provide a spreadsheet containing all proposals which they could then discuss. They agreed to meet on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 7.00pm to discuss proposed projects.

## **CLIFF WALK UPDATE**

The District Administrator advised that works were progressing very well. Fencing is almost complete, paladine fencing is now being erected at the start of the walk. The ecology report is just back and maps will be updated. Interpretive signage will be erected shortly and it is hoped to officially open the walk in the Spring.

Reference was made to concerns of a local landowner regarding trespass on private lands if people deviate from the pathway towards the end of the walk. The District Administrator advised that the entire trail was on Council lands and that it is a looped walk.

## **TWINNING**

The Town Twinning Committee have requested an allocation of €4,200 this year, similar to last year, or more if possible.

Forty Five visitors will be coming from Eichenzell in Germany for St. Patrick's Day. Their Brass Band will participate in the parade. It is anticipated that there will be some visitors Montigny le Bretonneux in France. The District Administrator advised that the Twinning Committee provide one night of hospitality and buses to and from the airport for the visitors from Eichenzell. The visitors

from Montigny will stay with host families. Members were advised that part of the General Municipal Allocation covered twinning. The Twinning Committee indicated that they will have more expense this year and that a Male Voice Choir will be coming from Montigny in May. It was noted that several organisations from Wicklow have visited Montigny and were very well looked after.

In reply to a query, the District Administrator advised that there was no contact with Porthmadog in Wales recently.

The members agreed to decide on allocation of funds to the Town Twinning Committee at their meeting next Tuesday.

### **ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE**

Members agreed to allocate funding of €1,500 to the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee this year, similar to last year. Most of this would be spend on notices in newspapers regarding road closures.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A query was addressed to the District Engineer regarding residents purchasing bolt-down speed ramps for housing estates and whether the Council could put them down. There would be implications from a safety and insurance point of view. The District Engineer indicated that he would check with the other District Engineers on their policy on bolt-down ramps.

Reference was made to the bridge at Blainroe which was hit again by traffic. District Engineer will check if signage is adequate.

Assessment of bridge in Laragh Village which was hit by traffic.

Thanks were extended to the District Administrator and staff for work on the Peter O'Connor memorial which was unveiled last Tuesday and acknowledgement made of all the members input and that of the Varry Fly Fishing Club who look after the cottage. The event was a great success. The possibility of establishing a walking trail and naming a roundabout after Peter O'Connor was suggested.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

The District Administrator advised that she had received email of thanks from the O'Connor family who said they were delighted that Wicklow Municipal District took the initiative to honour Peter O'Connor and that hopefully it will extend the heritage trail for Wicklow and encourage athletes in the area.

The research carried out by Councillor John Snell was acknowledged, without which the event would never have taken place.

Congratulations on five projects being shortlisted in the Community & Council Awards.

The District Administrator advised that the April meeting was scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> April which was a bank holiday and the members agreed to re-schedule for Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April.

It was agreed to hold the May meeting on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May as the local elections are due to take place on 24<sup>th</sup> May.

The District Engineer advised that he had received an email from the contractors confirming that works would be carried out on the traffic lights at the Grand Hotel on Thursday night and would be completed by Friday morning.

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that the next Municipal District Meeting is scheduled for Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 3 p.m. The meeting closed at 5.20 p.m.

Signed:   
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:   
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated: 

