

Minutes of Wicklow Municipal District Meeting

Tuesday 30th April 2019 - 3pm

District Chamber, Town Hall

- Present:** Cathaoirleach Daire Nolan, Councillors Gail Dunne, Shay Cullen, Mary Kavanagh, John Snell
- Apologies:** Cllr Irene Winters
- In attendance:** District Manager Brian Gleeson, District Administrator Joan Sinnott, District Engineer Kevin Scanlon, Assistant Staff Officer Anne Marie Kelly

Cathaoirleach Daire Nolan opened the meeting at 3.00pm.

Cllr John Snell entered the meeting at 3.12.

Superintendent McCarthy left the meeting at 3.25pm.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD 25th FEBRUARY 2019

It was proposed by Councillor Shay Cullen and seconded by Councillor Daire Nolan and it was unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Meeting held on Monday 25th March 2019.

RECEIVING SUPERINTENDENT DECLAN MCCARTHY.

Superintendent Declan McCarthy is newly appointed to the Wicklow Garda Division, and introduced himself to the members present. He expressed his desire to perhaps meet with the members of the Municipal District once a quarter to discuss local issues, which from his experience makes for the smoother running of the Joint Policing Committee Meetings, which are intended to deal with issues of a strategic nature. He expressed his wishes to work closely with the elected members and staff in the Municipal District, and invited them to contact him on any issue.

Councillors observations/comments.

The members extended a warm welcome to Superintendent McCarthy to the District, and thanked him for coming to the meeting to introduce himself.

A number of issues were highlighted by the members.

- Excessive speed on rural roads.

Superintendent McCarthy explained that the 'Go Safe' vans are not within the control of An Garda Siochana, and that the 2 'Gatso' Vans are now beyond end of life, therefore the only option available would be to deploy individual guards with radar guns to monitor speed. Superintendent McCarthy expressed concern in relation to lack of staff resources to enable such speed checks.

- Rural crime especially in isolated farm areas.

Superintendent McCarthy is hoping to deploy increased visibility outside of the town to rural areas. The Wicklow Division is set to gain 5 new probation guards.

- The current community text alert system of great benefit to the public.

Superintendent McCarthy stated that the text alert system plays an important role and improves the perception of safety amongst the public. It is his intention to have a Wicklow Garda Face Book page up and running very soon.

- Increase in opportunistic crime.
- Would like to see a reforming of the divisional drugs squad.

Superintendent McCarthy agreed with the members on this. Staff resources are not available at present.

- Need for a Community Guard in the Town, to liaise with public and visit schools.

Again, advised of lack of resources for a Community Guard.

- Garda presence needed at Saturday Night 'hotspots' in the town ie pubs and nightclub.
- Issues with some individuals overtly showing the trappings of wealth with no apparent income to support this.

Superintendent McCarthy informed the members that CAB 'profilers' are actively looking at locally based individuals.

- The members asked for their thanks to be conveyed to Superintendent McCarthy's predecessor, Superintendent Paul Hogan

The District Manager thanked Superintendent McCarthy for attending the meeting and looks forward to working with him in the future.

CONSIDERATION OF WICKLOW'S SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS 2019

The District Manager gave the members an overview of the Budget for Municipal District works for 2019.

The members agreed to adopt the Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2019, however it was agreed that some items needed further discussion and more time to go through in detail. In particular income and expenditure of Wicklow Harbour, and Wicklow County Campus Claremont. It was agreed to have it as an item on a future Agenda. This was proposed by Cllr John Snell and seconded by Cllr Shay Cullen.

UPDATE ON TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT GRAND HOTEL

The lights have been out a number of times over the past few weeks. Some of the members stated that on the days the lights were out, the traffic flow improved greatly. It is felt that currently the traffic lights are hindering traffic movements through the town, and that people are avoiding coming through the town as a result.

Some of the members asked if a roundabout could be situated at this junction instead of traffic lights. One of the members stated that a study had taken place in 2011 into this, and it stated the junction is not suitable for a roundabout.

The District Engineer advised that although traffic flow might be improved when the traffic lights are out, this poses a danger to pedestrians and cyclists. He also agreed to obtain a copy of this 2011 report.

ENGINEERS REPORT

Housing:

- Work continuing on general maintenance and repairs.
- Fire damaged houses in Ashwood. 1 completed and 1 ongoing till June.
- Technical support to WCC Housing Dept:
 - Re-lets: 3 new houses received. 4 returned to WCC housing Dept. 2 have works continuing.
 - DPG's: No data
 - Part V: 0 completed.

Roads & Footpaths:

- Winter maintenance continuing. 6 days/nights gritting since March 22nd.
- Footpath repairs completed in Newtown, Roundwood and Ashford.
- Roads in charge queries continue to be processed.
- Road Opening Licences (approx 15) continue to be processed and agreed.
- Drainage works at Cooladoyle complete.

Environment:

- Grass cutting and edge cleaning continues.
- Cliff Walk works complete and signage being completed.

Planning:

- Reports on applications and compliance with applications continue to be issued.
- Estate taking in charge reports and inspections continue with WCC staff.
- Construction of housing development between Crinnion Park/Broadlough View.

Playgrounds:

- Ongoing inspections and maintenance. Gym equipment to be surveyed.
- Newtown equipment awaiting Contractor delivery.
- Murrough fencing to be replaced.

Public Liability:

- 3 material damage and 3 personal injury claims submitted to WMD this month.
- 1 historical claim finalized.

Discretionary Works:**2018**

- Black Castle seats delivery today. To be installed in coming weeks.
- Glenealy crossing and bus bay, works commenced yesterday.
- Ballinastoe equipment ordered, road crossing for ESB in coming weeks.
- Dunbur Road crossing, ramp and lights to be installed next week.

2019

- Brittas Bay crossing, meeting with Rep to agree details.
- Ashford Weir report submitted. To be examined with relevant parties.
- Murrough wildflowers progressed with Tracey.
- Rosanna footpath extent agreed and meeting with Landowner.

Town and Village Renewal Grants:

- Newtown footpath and streetscape works continuing.
- Wicklow Lighting at historic sites project advertised on e-Tenders, due next week.

Councillors Queries and Comments.

- One of the members asked could grass cutting be stopped on verges for the time being for the benefit of the pollinators.
- Concerns were raised that there is still no lighting at the Ballynerrin Playground.
- Concerns were raised that the works on the pedestrian crossing and lights at Dunbur have not commenced.

The District Engineer, advised that once the ducting for the electrics have been completed, the contractor will then carry out the works.

- It was asked could the broken Weir on the Vartry River in Ashford be replaced.

The District Engineer advised that the report by an Environmental Consultant commissioned by Friends of the Vartry River has been completed. A decision needs to be made as to what course of action to take, on foot of the recommendations included in this report. Furthermore, May is the Spawning Season, and no works on this river are permitted during this time.

CLIFF WALK UPDATE

The District Administrator updated the members on progress to date.

Signage has been installed, and still awaiting Sports Ireland Trails to carry out a final inspection of the walk before the route can be officially opened.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The members requested that letters of congratulations be sent to the Wicklow Rugby club on their recent success in the Inter Provincial Towns Cup and Rathnew Boxing Club.

As this was the last meeting before the upcoming Local Elections, the members commended outgoing Chairperson Daire Nolan for his outstanding work as a Councillor and Chairperson, and wished him luck.

Tributes were paid to the late Cllr Pat Kavanagh, Cllr Mervyn Morrison and Cllr Conal Kavanagh.

No Correspondence received.

Meeting concluded at 4.35pm.

Signed: 
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: 
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated: 22.04.19

