

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MONDAY 22ND NOVEMBER, 2021

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

In Attendance: District Manager Brian Gleeson
District Engineer Kevin Scanlon
Executive Engineer Alan Martin
District Administrator Joan Sinnott
Assistant Staff Officer Josephine Hayes
Wicklow People Myles Buchanan

Cathaoirleach Gail Dunne opened the meeting at 3.10 p.m.

ITEM 1

Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Meeting held on the 18th October 2021.

It was proposed by Cllr John Snell and seconded by Cllr Paul O'Brien and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on 18th October, 2021.

ITEM 2

Update on Trial One Way System for Main Street Wicklow Town

Executive Engineer Alan Martin updated the members on the progress of the new One Way System.

- 19 additional car parking spaces have been created
- Set down area has been added
- Relocation of some Loading bays
- Positive feedback from local businesses
- More constructive observations have been received
- Flower boxes to be installed and this will facilitate removal of some of the reflective bollards

Members made the following queries/observations:

- Complimented the staff on the new One Way System
- It seems to be working well and overall getting a lot of positive feedback
- Issue of funerals passing through the town and the use of permits on the Main Street
- Issues were dealt with quickly and in a positive manner

- Request that Members be informed pre the issuing of Social Media Posts
- Will there be a yellow box be included on Hopkins
- The additional parking spaces were welcomed
- Lots of positivity in terms of ease of traffic flow around the town
- Social media posts can be very negative
- This one way system was not just magicked up. It is based on recommendations included in the Parking and Traffic Flow Recommendations report produced by the Wicklow Town Team
- WMD have consulted with the businesses on an ongoing basis through the chamber
- Some businesses who are not part of any group in the town may need more information about the changes.
- Concerns were expressed regarding emergency vehicle passing through the town as there is nowhere to pull over to let them through
- Requested that Members be kept well informed
- Lights at Grand Hotel need to be looked at

Responses to queries/observations:

- The provision of a yellow box at Hopkins Hill/ Mortons Lane can be reviewed
- Additional parking will be achieved here also.
- More line marking are required and sightlines need improving on Fitzwilliam Road junction.
- Signage to reduce Heavy Goods Vehicles going down Salthouse Lane will be introduced.
- It is not anticipated that the traditional passing of funerals on Main Street will be a problem as the Gardai manage the junctions and the disruption should only be minimal.
- To ensure that the side streets are working well traffic counts have been installed there
- Traffic lights at Grand Hotel will be monitored.

ITEM 3

Wicklow Town Team Parking & Traffic Flow Report

The report and recommendations was considered by the Members and it was unanimously agreed that their responses and observations be correlated and communicated to the Wicklow Town Team by the District Administrator.

ITEM 4

District Engineers Report

District Engineer Kevin Scanlon outlined details from the Engineers Report.

Housing:

- Work continuing on essential maintenance and repairs.
- Technical support to WCC-Housing Dept:
Re-lets and emergency accommodation:

0 standard, 0 emergency accommodation, 6 returned to WCC Housing Dept, 0 have works continuing on site.

DPGs: No info

Roads:

- Overlay programme – All works complete. . 1 alteration.
- Micro surfacing programme – All works complete. 2 alterations. Contractor monitoring for repairs. Some snags to be addressed.
- 2 temporary Car Parks in operation at Luggala, Laragh (Magheramore temporarily closed). Brittas Bay is now closed.
- Maintenance repairs continue.
- Road Opening Licences (approx. 25) continue to be processed and agreed.
- Winter Maintenance-Gritting season commenced on Monday 18th October. No call outs up to Friday 19th Nov.

Environment:

- Portaloo's in use at Laragh and Sally Gap Car parks. Magheramore and Brittas Bay have been removed.

Planning

- Section 254 applications continue to be processed for tables and chairs.

Playgrounds

- Programme of works now agreed to carry out all necessary repairs to all MD playgrounds to be completed in next 3 weeks.
- Adult gym equipment along Murrough now being considered for replacement on a piece by piece basis. Repairs to these units may not be feasible. Funding remaining in maintenance code having completed playground repairs will be used to replace some of the gym pieces.

Public Liability

- 4 new cases (4 material damage, 0 personal injuries) and 2 settled/closed.

Projects

NTA

- Wicklow Town 1-way in operation since Saturday 13th November. Monitoring and alterations ongoing.
- New footpath between Glenealy and Rathnew Villages on the R752 (Roads Department) in progress.
- Footpath widening from Glen Turn car park to Golf Club in progress. To be completed next week.
- Climate Adaptation
 - Road and verge drainage works at Slaughter complete.
 - Marlton stream works final list to be agreed and procured.
- Additional Outdoor Infrastructure.
 - Mount Usher footpath and crossing – work to commence in coming weeks.
 - Murrough cycle tracks and footpath improvements – Scope to be agreed and equipment to be procured – Start proposed in 2 weeks.
- NTA 2022 Project proposals submitted to Roads Department.
- NTA Safety Improvement Works – applications made recently.
 - Small junction widening in Glenealy
 - Footpath works at Laragh

- Footpath widening at Coillte Bridge in Newtownmountkennedy.

DOE

- Cunningham's Corner road safety works underway (WCC Roads Dept).
- Junction Widening at L-5054 junction with R-755 Roundwood Road ongoing.

Fáilte Ireland

- Abbey Grounds. Part 8 currently on display. Closing date for submission was Friday November 19th.
- Outdoor Dining Scheme. Market Square and Wicklow Gaol application successful and works are in progress. These will continue over next four weeks. Remaining 2 canopies delivered last week.

WCC

- Glendalough Upper Lake Toilet Refurbishment Complete.

URDF

- Application in respect of Wicklow Harbour is currently being reviewed and prepared for the next round of funding, which is expected in Q1 2022.

Town & Village

- Roundwood Village – Start imminent (Footpath from Hardware Shop to Playground plus three pedestrian crossings, one at playground and two at school Bray end of village)
- Wicklow Town – Backlighting Project. Separate update issued.
- Annamoe – Main T&V 2020 likely to commence in December.
- Town and Village Scheme application for Wicklow Town, consisting of murals, fabricated artwork and additional backlighting (€250K) submitted to Dept. of Rural and Community Development on 16/07/21. No feedback as yet from that Dept.

Discretionary Fund (10 priority projects)

- Garden Village footpath repairs and Dunbur Rd crossing done in recent weeks.
- New footpaths at Ashtown Lane/Merrymeeing/Barnbawn to be tendered next week.
- Footpath repairs at Seaview Heights/Sycamore Drive to be tendered next week.
- Traffic management works at Ballynerrin/Djouce/Newtown to seek 3 quotes next week.

Members made the following queries/observations:

- Quality of micro-surfacing works carried out recently
- Ashford new Pedestrian Crossing
- Awnings for Market Square
- Public Liability claims
- Doctors steps and Leader Funding
- Repairs to Playgrounds in Wicklow
- Public lighting at east pier
- Repairs to footpaths in Wicklow Town

Responses to queries/observations:

- Micro-surfacing to be inspected and snags prepared as soon as possible
- Wicklow Town footpath repairs to be looked at next year in the Discretionary Fund

- There is a difficulty in getting parts for the playgrounds and then further difficulties in getting someone to install them. It is a problem at this Countywide
- Awnings are to arrive on Friday. All the ducting and ground works are complete
- Lights on Harbour are a matter for the ESB and the matter is being chased up by the Environmental Department and Wicklow Port

Item 5

Correspondence

District Administrator Joan Sinnott advised members there was no correspondence to be discussed.

ITEM 6

A.O.B.

It was agreed by the Cathaoirleach and members to introduce the 2 hours free parking in all Pay and Display Parking areas in Wicklow town for the Christmas period commencing on the 23rd November to Saturday 1st January inclusive with free parking for this period in the Murrough and St. Manntains Car Park.

The Cathaoirleah, Cllr Gale Dunne advised that he had attended a meeting recently regarding the Wicklow Courthouse.

The District Administrator advised that Wicklow Municipal District together with Wicklow Town & District Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the Best Dressed Christmas Window Competition again this year. The winner and runner-up will receive a Christmas Hamper and Wicklow Town Vouchers. This year the winners will be decided by members of the public by online voting. Details can be found on Wicklow Town Facebook page.

The Members passed a vote of sympathy for Betty Kavanagh and James Doyle.

CATHAOIRLEACH GAIL DUNNE CONCLUDED THE MEETING AT 4.15 PM.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Date: _____