

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

HELD IN DISTRICT CHAMBER, TOWN HALL

MONDAY 28th JULY 2025 at 15.00pm

Present: Cathaoirleach Cllr Graham Richmond, Cllr Danny Alvey, Cllr Gail Dunne, Cllr Shane Langrell, Cllr Paul O'Brien, Cllr John Snell.

In Attendance: District Manager, Brian Gleeson
District Engineer, William Halligan
District Administrator, Georgina Franey
Hugh O'Farrell Walsh, Wicklow People

Cathaoirleach Graham Richmond opened the meeting at 15.00pm. The Cathaoirleach welcomed Councillor Gail Dunne back to the chamber. Councillor Dunne thanked all members for their support.

ITEM 1

Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Annual Meeting held on the 23rd June 2025

It was proposed by Councillor Shane Langrell, seconded by Councillor Paul O'Brien and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Annual Meeting held on 23rd June 2025.

ITEM 2

Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 23rd June 2025

It was proposed by Councillor John Snell, seconded by Councillor Danny Alvey and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on 23rd June 2025.

ITEM 3

Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Special Meeting held on the 30th June 2025

It was proposed by Councillor Paul O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Gail Dunne and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Special Meeting held on 30th June 2025.

ITEM 4

District Engineers Report

Updates were provided by District Engineer William Halligan as follows:

Housing:

❖ Relets/Prelets

WMD

- 3no. houses currently being worked on, through WCC Housing Framework by MD,
- 0no. house returned to WMD for refurbishment.
- 3no. house returned to Housing for allocation.

Housing Direct Labour:

- 7no. houses are being managed by WCC Direct Labour.

❖ Maintenance and operations

- On-going repairs and maintenance being progressed as required on housing stock within the WMD.
- Significant repair works ongoing to Hillview duplex apartments to address existing defects. General repair requests here are predominantly completed with minor ongoing.

DTTAS Roads Programme:

DTTAS Allocations for 2025 Projects on the Restoration Improvement and Maintenance Programme have been reviewed based on pavement condition ratings.

❖ Restoration Improvement

Tenders on Restoration Improvement works commenced in February 2025. Works include a variety of techniques depending on classification and condition of Road.

Advance works such as drainage and verge widening works has started on RI Roads with a mixture of MD staff and sub contactors. Main list of RI 2025 projects below.

Location	Length of Works (m)	Completed to Date
L5099 Rocky Road Specific Improvement Project	1200	Road Closure implemented from 20 th Jan 2025 to 29 th August 2025. Works being carried out by WCC NNR (Non-National Roads) Team.
L5036 Ballinastoe Rd	1427	Works Complete
R765 Newtown - Roundwood	2650	Works Complete
R750 Dublin Road Wicklow	740	Works Complete
L1096 Ashford-Ballymanus Lower	936	Works Complete
L5070 Ashford-Ballinalea	405	Works Complete
R764 Ashford-Roundwood	80	Works Complete
L1096 Ashford	410	Works Complete
R-751 Marlton Road	262	Works Complete
L5099 Rocky Road (Wicklow Town)	333	Works Complete
Market Street	80	Contract awarded works to commence in the coming weeks

❖ Restoration Maintenance

The Countywide Restoration Maintenance Programme 2025 was submitted in February. Advance works such as drainage and verge widening works all completed before start of RM Roads. Main list of RM 2025 projects below. The road Maintenance programme commenced in Wicklow MD at the L5157 Dunganstown 14th May.

Location	Length of Works (m)	Completed to Date
L1036 Stoneypass	1119	Complete
L5056 Slemaine	2817	Complete
L5056 Baliliam Lane	703	Complete
L5077 Raheen	1069	Complete
L1059 St John's Road	1185	Complete
R764 Knockatemple-Tomcoyle	5362	Complete
L1059 Loughdan-Drummin	4494	Complete
R764 Inchanappa south to Killiskey cross	2588	Complete
L5157 Dunganstown	1421	Complete
L5092 Sleanlough	1500	Complete

❖ Drainage

- General works on verge drains, drainage inlets, gullies and road crossings to outlets are ongoing throughout the MD.
- Programme for cleaning of gullies continuing within Wicklow MD. Drain surveys are still being carried out on problem areas as required.
- Installation of drainage pipes/ road crossings along L1091 Moneystown at junction with Knockaphrumpa Lane commenced 19/02/2025.
- Installation of drainage pipes/ road crossings along R764 Ashford-Roundwood road commenced 21/02/2025, advanced works for RI and RM Project.
- Installation of drainage pipes/ road crossings along L5036 Ballinastoe Rd completed in advanced works for RI Project.

❖ Local Improvement Scheme Projects

- One LIS project has been allocated to the Wicklow Municipal District for 2025 at Wicklow Gap Road, Glendalough. Works are 100% complete.

❖ Safety Projects

- Works to increase visibility and road safety at Castlekevin, L5087 junction with L1076 and L5087 junction with L5587 complete.
- Pedestrian crossing to be installed as part of a housing development condition in Ashford, at junction with R763 and R764 works complete, awaiting connection.

- Bollards installed at St Joseph's School in Newtownmountkennedy.
- 4 No. Electronic speed signs have been purchased and will be installed at Ashwood Roundwood, St Patricks Road, Wicklow, Greenhills Road and Newtownmountkennedy (delay in order from supplier). All units expected delivery in approx. 2 weeks.
- Speed limit review. Circular RST-04-2024 issued by Department of Transport on Speed Limits Implementation revised date of 7th February 2025. All works Completed.
- Pedestrian crossing civil works completed on the Dunbur Road, issue, ESB to energise after this.
- Solar powered driver feedback signage has been ordered for Ballinahinch, Laragh and Newtownmountkennedy. Poles have been erected in advance of commissioning by WCC at two of the sites. Additional order for feedback sign at Marlton Road, poles to be installed. Order delayed at supplier end. All units expected delivery in approx. 2 weeks.

Abbey Grounds:

- Project Ongoing. Contractor commenced works on June 10th. Schedule for completion of works for the Coach House Cafe has been moved back to Q2 2025.
- Tiling complete in new toilet block. Main building tiling work to commence this week, followed by final electrical work.
- Paving to front and rear of Coach House to commence this week. All UG services installed to allow works to proceed.
- New sliding gate mechanism installed to front of building on Abbey Street side. Installation of gate to follow once paving is complete.
- Civil Works to install footpaths and ducting for services and drainage in the park area ongoing. Works carried out in cooperation with Local Authority Staff.
- Planting programme for the park has been completed for this season.
- Paving around the coach house is complete.
- Internal tiling complete to Coach House.
- Ducting for services – ESB, Public Lighting, Water, Comms - around the park is practically complete.
- Drainage works and grading of park underway.
- Detailed designs continuing to be progressed for the Amphitheatre and performance area.
- Designs for Public pathway through park and public lighting being completed.

Community Recognition Fund/Outdoor Recreation:

- Brittas Bay Blueway funding for accessibility works; Chestnut fencing to be erected in coming months in order to protect the dunes.
- Wicklow Seafront Toilets – Project complete.
- The Assembly Hall facility works are now complete internally. Still waiting for ESB to energise. ESB have connected power, works here completed.
- Repairs to the Handball alley are complete.

Town & Village Renewal:

- Wicklow Town, Connectivity Project – three ornate arches with lanterns are currently being fabricated for installation along the Doctor's Steps. WTT liaising with fabricator to finalise fabrication and install dates.
- Compactor bins have been installed in Glendalough, Laragh and Roundwood to promote a cleaner environment but also to increase efficiency from an operational point of view. These bins have smart technology built into them and will communicate back to base when full and

require our staff resources to empty. Efficiency of big belly bins has increased from 12% at year start (2024) to 38% in 2025, increasing their overall value to the district by over 200%.

- New Big belly bins have been installed at Glen Turn car park, Rathnew bus stop and Fitzwilliam square.

NTA Projects:

- Consultants still working on pedestrian and cycle improvement scheme as part of the Pathfinder project, initial survey completed on the Marlton Road and Rocky Road, linking to the train station on Station Road. A topographical survey of roads and footpaths has taken place along entire route. This information is required as part of the detailed design process.
- Working with NTA to look at Market Street junction with respect to turning movements of buses/ larger vehicles.

WCC General Projects/Maintenance:

- On-going maintenance of grass care, weed control and hedge cutting around Wicklow town.

WMD Playgrounds:

- Wicklow MD Playgrounds repairs and inspections ongoing.
 - The Murrough Playground – New Sand Digger at sand pit, completed. Damaged Zipwire cable to be replaced 29/07/25.
 - Ballynerrin Playground – New Cradle Swing installed, all play surfaces have now been cleaned, including industrial Hoovering of astro pitch surface.
 - Quotations sought accessible playground equipment.
 - Five play areas at the Vartry Trails in process of being handed over to WCC.
 - Tenders for the Pump Track at the Vartry Trails are due back next week.

Additional MD projects:

- Chief Executives Report for the Murrough Part 8 has been finalised. Pump Track contract has been awarded to contractor, project will break ground over summer. Pump Track is underway and proceeding as planned, estimated completion of September.
- Derrybawn Car Park, Laragh to begin Part 8 process to regularise existing use. Ecologist has been brought on to complete environmental screenings for Part 8. New Eco toilet to be installed as part of proposal.
- New Eco toilet to be installed at Magheramore Temp Car Park
- Footpath and kerb repairs in Laragh are commenced.
- Glendalough Upper Car Park has received new line marking and new Bin Store. New Defib to be installed here in coming weeks. New Defib is installed.
- Moby Mobility bike scheme, bike parking locations works commenced 19th May.
- Brittas Bay footpath. Site meeting held with NNR crew, procurement of consultant to prepare a design and Part 8 planning documents is complete. Site meeting with National School Principal has been held. Land owner engagement commenced.
- Footpath resurfacing works Ballinahinch Ashford (footpath from Ashford to Nun's Cross school). Work being undertaken during school mid-term, complete.
- Footpath resurfacing works Roundwood Village, complete.
- Footpath repairs in Glenview Park, Kilpedder complete. A number of sections in the estate, of varying length, were identified and replaced by Local Authority outdoor staff.

- WCC have issued payments for the following connections. WMD has received MPRN's to progress completion:
 - Laragh Pedestrian Crossing
 - Moneystown Pedestrian Crossing
 Both crossing have been energised and are operational.
- Road markings are being progressed around the MD, some have been carried out around the town, with others refreshed at certain locations. Double yellow lines have been completed at Magheramore. Road markings being progressed around Newtown and on RI and RM projects at present. Extensive road markings completed in Hillview housing estate for safety reasons.
- Historical lighting, all sites have revised design lights and power supply in place. WMD to finalise light adjustment and Bluetooth controls with original lighting designer. Possible modifications required at Stone Bridge to prevent glare for traffic. Lighting designer on site 23/06/25 to arrange finalising controllers and commissioning.
- Footpath to GAA club in Wicklow complete, remaining Eir column removed. Additional resurfacing along this stretch also complete.
- New cross and gates erected at Three Mile Water cemetery.
- Road marking project in Wicklow Town commenced with new markings installed at Wentworth Place/Church Hill junction and Wicklow Gaol among others. Further renewals to be undertaken in the coming weeks.
- Consultations with relevant Contractors for the preparation of proposals for the Aires Park are ongoing, proposals and budgets costs due.

Discretionary Fund projects:

- Pedestrian crossings at the Friary, works commenced on site.
- Improvements to Footpath at bridge entering Newtownmountkennedy. Works due to commence.
- Footpath at Merrymeeting Hill, Rathnew. Works are complete.
- Wicklow Heights car parking. Works are complete.
- Roundwood – New Paved Parking Area and Pedestrian Crossing at Roundwood Playground. Contract awarded. Works commenced on site.
- Roundwood – Two ramps from Playground to GAA Club. One ramp new has been installed and an existing ramp has been replaced/repared.
- Rathnew – Resurfacing of the Old village has been completed, road line marking has commenced.
- Newtown - Kilmullen traffic calming, new sign has been installed. Site visit to assess possibility of installing anti-skid surface.
- Fund to upgrade footpaths in MD. Footpaths upgrade works at Saint Patricks Road, Wicklow Town is complete. Footpath improvement works taking place in Glenview Park, Kilpedder and Season Park, Newtown Mount Kennedy and will continue over the coming weeks to address severely damaged and hazardous areas in both estates.
- Church Hill Traffic calming – Consultation with National School, Gardai, Fire Service and Church of Ireland completed.
- All salt boxes have been distributed around the District.
- Tender for Defibrillators has been completed and order will be complete within 2-3 weeks.

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

- Members commended the District Engineer on progress made on various projects.

- The problem of speeding traffic at Garden Village, Kilpedder was raised and the possibility of installing ramps. The District Engineer advised that he will examine and consult with the Roads Department.
- Request for dog fouling bins in Ashford.
- Removal of speed ramps at Roundwood AFC.
The District Engineer advised that the ramps were in poor condition and didn't meet standards. He advised that a solar powered electronic driver feedback sign has been ordered.
- Problem with overgrown hedges causing obstacles on footpaths in Roundwood and Glendalough. District Engineer advised that a hedge cutter was recently purchased in order to maintain verges.
- The issue of a newly created pedestrian opening between Season Park in Newtownmountkennedy and onto the new road was raised. Cllr. Langrell acknowledged that an established walking track previously existed at the location and lead into the adjoining field but expressed concern that it is now onto a busy road. Cllr. Gail Dunne enquired if planning permission or a Part 8 was required. He also referred to health and safety issues and insurance issues.
The District Engineer noted that the fence at the boundary was broken due to the volume of people climbing it to access the road. The question was asked if Wicklow MD had any objection to the pedestrian opening being created in lieu of reinstating the broken fence and the District Engineer advised that he had no objection. However, it was agreed that a final decision on the matter would be based on the resident's wishes.
- Members thanked the District Engineer and District Administrator for works at the Doctors Steps in Wicklow town. The District Engineer advised that the lighting under the Town Team project is progressing.
- Lighting required at Kilmantin Hill carpark.
District Engineer advised that an estimate of works would be required.
- Request for District Engineer to examine building of extensions at the rear of Bayview Grange on land owned by the Council. District Engineer advised that this would not be permitted and he will follow up.
- Re-instatement of road markings after road surfacing from the railway bridge to Wicklow town. District Engineer advised that the NNR crew are examining the installation of permanent cycle lanes here.
- Issue of maintenance of open spaces and parks in new housing developments. The passive area at Marlton Road was mentioned.
District Manager advised members that open spaces in housing developments are based on the requirements of the County Development Plan and Local Area Plan.
- Members welcomed progress on the new footpath at Brittas Bay.
- The re-development of the former Ashford Garda station into a community centre was raised. It was indicated that residents of Ashford are frustrated at the lack of public consultation prior to submission of the planning application. A query was raised as to whether there was consultation with the MD regarding the proposed infrastructure. Cllr's Langrell and Snell are both members of the working group and they assured the Members that they will represent the community's best interests. The District Manager advised that the MD had received no communication from the community group.
- A request was made that the building site at the harbour be cleaned up prior to the bank holiday weekend as the area would be very busy for the regatta festival.
District Engineer advised he will make contact.
- A request was made to examine provision of disabled parking space at the beach.
District Engineer advised that he is awaiting the contractor's availability to paint same.
- Problem of stray horses at Murrough View housing estate. It was noted that this is a matter for the Environment Section and also that the estate has not been taken in charge.

- Members thanked the District Engineer for traffic management and extra signage at Brittas Bay during the recent period of hot weather.
- Request for hedge cutting from Ashford to Glendalough.
- A query was raised as to why only half of the pedestrian crossing at the library in Wicklow town was painted. District Engineer advised that it was reinstated as part of a road opening licence and the contractor only fulfilled the requirements of the licence.
- Members thanked the District Engineer for new accessible playground equipment.
- Storm drains at O'Neill Park, Newtown, need clearing.
- Lane at Kilmantin Road, Wicklow town overgrown.
- Lack of dishing on kerb outside Ashford Downs.
District Engineer advised that the opposite side of the road is grass and people may be encouraged to cross to the green area which may be unsafe.
- Request to examine markings on cycle lanes at Tinakilly, Rathnew.
- A query was raised as to whether the Council took in all of the Vartry Trail.
District Engineer advised that the carpark is held under a lease agreement with Coillte and the walkways are maintained by Uisce Eireann.
- Developer unable to get feedback from Roads Section in relation to proposed pedestrian crossings from Brookfield to Saunders Lane and Kirvin Hill to Wilton Manor, Rathnew.
District Engineer advised he will liaise with the builder.
- The outdoor staff were commended for keeping the district tidy during the tourist season.
District Engineer advised that a road sweeper was hired for surface dressing works and will be retained for a few weeks to clear gullies, drains and sweep areas within the District.
- Members received lots of positive feedback in relation to works carried out in the graveyards prior to blessing of the graves.
- Members raised a query in relation to public realm presentations made some years ago in relation to parking options in Newtown. It was indicated that if the post office moves to Main Street, alternative parking would be necessary. The District Manager advised that the RRDF project had stalled. He suggested liaising with the Town Regeneration Officer. The Newtown Town Team are also examining the matter.
- A request was made for a meeting with the District Engineer on site to discuss a dangerous bend at Mount Alto, Ashford. District Engineer advised that he will examine.
- A query was raised as to whether the Municipal District still have a machine for clearing dog fouling. District Engineer confirmed that the green machine is utilised.
- Wicklow & Rathnew Boxing have been gifted a large container and are seeking land on which to place same. The District Manager advised that the staff will examine potential Council owned land.
- The members discussed the protest taking place outside the offices by residents of Hillview estate in relation to ongoing issues there. The District Manager referred to the Hillview Regeneration Plan which was sent to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in February 2025. He added that Wicklow MD are carrying out basic repair and maintenance requests, but major renovation works would fall under the proposed regeneration plan. The Cathaoirleach outlined that he would write to all four TD's and Senator seeking a meeting to discuss the matter. It was also suggested that the meeting should be expanded to include other issues in the Municipal District, i.e. the vacant Courthouse, the former Grand Hotel direct provision centre, the Murrough and the DART extension. The District Manager suggested that it may be more appropriate to allow Senior Housing staff the opportunity to progress the Hillview matter with the Department first.

ITEM 3

Discretionary Funding 2025

The District Manager referred to an application for funding from Inbhear Dee Athletics Club which was circulated to the members via email. Following the signing of a licence agreement between Wicklow County Council and Inbhear Dee Athletics Club, the Club are in the process of installing a temporary running track at the Hawkstown Road site. The Club is utilising their own funds for the project and they have actively sought funding from a number of other sources.

It was proposed by Councillor Gail Dunne, seconded by Councillor Graham Richmond and unanimously agreed to provide an allocation of €5,000 to Inbhear Dee Athletics Club from the Member's Discretionary fund. The Members also committed to covering any potential funding shortfall for the project, which has yet to be determined. The Members noted that this would provide stability to the club which has over 400 members.

A time extension was proposed by Councillor Paul O'Brien and seconded by Councillor Gail Dunne.

Councillor Paul O'Brien advised members that he had been contacted by St. Patrick's Church Choir in February who are seeking funding towards provision of a stairlift to the balcony of the church as most of their members are now elderly and find the steps to the balcony challenging. They have already secured some funds but have a shortfall of €1,000. It was proposed by Councillor Paul O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Gail Dunne and unanimously agreed to allocate €1,000 from the Member's Discretionary fund to the St. Patricks Church Choir.

The District Manager advised members that the balance of the fund stood at approx. €210,000.

Councillor Paul O'Brien proposed that the sum of €150,000 from the 2025 Discretionary Fund be allocated for repairs to older footpaths laid in the 1960's and 1970's. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Gail Dunne.

It was agreed that the District Engineer assess and prioritise projects and come back to the Members with a breakdown of costings.

ITEM 4

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

ITEM 5

Any Other Business

A query was raised regarding Protocol in relation to invitations to County Council events. The launch of the DISC awareness campaign, held last week, was mentioned. The District Administrator advised that Wicklow County Council has a Protocol Policy in place to deal with Civic functions, Receptions, Award Ceremonies and Official Openings or launches. This was adopted by the Elected Members on 4th February 2019 and she advised that all Members would have received a copy of same. She added that, in accordance with the policy, any invitations for County Council events are issued by the relevant section of the County Council on behalf of the Cathaoirleach. She stated that similarly, any invitations issued for MD events would issue from the District Administrator on behalf of the Municipal District Cathaoirleach. She noted that any breaches of protocol were a matter for the Corporate Policy Group.

The Members noted that the distribution of defibrillators and any photo shoots should be issued to all six elected members.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 17.11pm.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Date: _____