



**Wicklow County Council  
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

**ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON THE**

**12<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022**

**Present:** Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach  
Cllr. Tommy Annesley, Leas Cathaoirleach  
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke  
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald  
Cllr. Peir Leonard  
Cllr. Miriam Murphy

**Officials Present:** Ms. Leonora Earls, District Manager  
Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator  
Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer  
Mr. John Daly, Executive Engineer  
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, ASO

**Apologies :** None

**Press :** Eoin Mac Raghnaill

**Public:** None

**Presentations:** SSE Renewables – Ms. D. Coleman & Ms. D. Keogh

**Item 1 : Votes of Sympathy.**

The members expressed votes of sympathy to all families who have recently lost loved ones, those mentioned were –

Declan Walker, Noel Burke, Margaret Hilliard, May Quinn, Betty Gibson, Christine Fox, Joan Ryan, Maura Roche, Sean O Loughlin, Frances Finnegan.

A minutes silence was observed.

## **Presentation from SSE Renewables (Item 6 )**

Cllr Kennedy welcomed both representatives to the meeting.

D Coleman updated the members on the current status of the SSE Offshore Windfarm project and introduced the Community Engagement Officer, Deirdre Keogh.

D Keogh advised the members that application forms were available for groups and clubs for community sponsorship funding - a newsletter will issue to keep the community informed.

The members welcomed the availability of the CE Officer to the community and the update on the project.

Cllr Annesley expressed concern that the availability of tradesmen will be a factor if the project is further delayed – could lose out to other similar projects. D Coleman explained the reasoning for the route taken to get the project off the ground and acknowledged that the process was moving slowly.

Cllr Murphy welcomed the update and asked if information leaflets were available to community groups and clubs – D Coleman confirmed that SSE is on board with the PPN to share information with community groups and clubs. D Coleman also confirmed that there would be quarterly drawdowns on the community funding.

Cllr Leonard asked where the landfall point would be for connection to the grid – D Coleman confirmed that the location would be Ennereilly and confirmed that each windfarm would require its own line. Cllr Leonard put forward suggestions in relation to some projects already underway that need further funding.

Cllr Bourke asked if the terms and conditions relating to the funding were available – D Coleman confirmed that these were finalised yet.

Cllr Fitzgerald confirmed that he had met with the Minister and that the support is definitely there – very positive.

Cllr Kennedy thanked both for the updates and asked that the DA consider an application for Christmas in the district.

## **Item 2 : Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022 were proposed by Cllr Annesley and seconded by Cllr Murphy.

The amendment to the Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022 were proposed by Cllr Murphy and seconded by Cllr Bourke.

## **Item 3 : Matters Arising.**

C Lawless DA advised the members that AMD was waiting on one more quote for the proposed panels for Rathdrum.

#### **Item 4 : Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.**

#### ***District Engineers Report***

#### **Roads Programme**

#### **Regional Roads**

<i>Road No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
R-754-0	Redcross	Resurfacing & line marking	Due to commence on 17/10 VMS erected and Contractor will issue letter drop.
R-754	Redcross - Barndarrig	Surface Dressing	Complete
R-754	Barndarrig	Resurfacing and line marking	Resurfacing complete, line marking next week

#### **Local Roads**

<i>Road No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
L-2191-30	Ballyduff Road	Resurfacing & line marking	Complete
L-6167-0	Oghill Upper	Resurfacing	Complete
L-6203-33	Killaveny	Resurfacing	Complete
L-2140-0	Greenan Beg - Aughrim	Resurfacing	Tendered
L-5665, L-5165, L-5164	Ballykeane	Surface Dressing	Complete
L-5660	Bonagrew to Ballyvaltron	Surface Dressing	Complete
L-2128	Ballyboy-Aughavannagh	Surface Dressing	Complete
L-2137	Aughrim - Ballyteige	Surface Dressing	Complete
L-6174, L-6192	Crannagh to Ballymoyle	Surface Dressing	Complete
L-6168	Knockanode to Cronemore	Surface Dressing	Complete
L-6155	Tigroney	Surface Dressing	Complete
L-6192	Thomastown	Surface Dressing	Complete
L-6204	Killaveny	Surface Dressing	Complete

**Length of surface dressing completed to date: 20.4km**

#### **Safety Improvements Works**

<i>Road No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
R 747	Woodenbridge and Aughrim	Safety Barrier	Complete
L 6126-0	Kirakee Village, Glenmalure	Safety Barrier	Complete
R 753	Ballinaclash and Rathdrum	Safety Barrier	Complete
R 754	Barndarrig	Replacement speed ramp	Complete

#### **Former National Roads**

<i>Road No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
R772	Emoclew Roundabout to Knockmore	Resurfacing & line marking	Tendered - Moved the location of this job due to upcoming NTA works on Knockmore to Kish. Application will be made to funding for Knockmore to Kish in 2023. Night works proposed to minimise traffic disruption.

Line Marking: Line marking continuing throughout the district

#### **Discretionary Funds**

<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
Bus Shelter at Aughrim	Tendered & Ordered
Bus Shelter at Annacurragh	Tendered & Ordered
Footpath – Lower St. Rathdrum	Design to be considered after traffic survey
Footpath - Conary	Scheduled with GSS
Footpath - Thomastown	Scheduled with GSS
Footpath – Thomastown	Scheduled with GSS
Footpath – Harbour Ct. Blackberry Glade	Scheduled with GSS
Footpath – Brewery Bends	Scheduled with GSS
Footpath – Mountain Bay	Complete
Footpath – Greenane	Finalising extent and layout
Benches – Arklow Harbour	Delivered. To be installed in agreed locations
Woodview Park – Road resurfacing	Tender awarded

Application to Sustainable Transport / Active Travel - Rural Specific Fund - 2022/2023 for footpath in Genealy was successful. Works scheduled for construction in early 2023.

### **Community Monuments Funding**

Arklow received funding for two projects in the 2022 Community Monuments Funding.

- Work is due to start on Arklow Castle on 18<sup>th</sup> July.
- **€7,072** for Abbey Lane (Research & Interpretation of Archaeology). Waiting on the archaeology report.

### **Other Projects**

AMD will undertake a traffic survey in Rathdrum to establish a baseline to look at improving the traffic situation.

AMD are co-ordinating with Environment section on columbarium wall for St. Gabriel's cemetery.

The basketball hoops have been installed in the Duck Pond amenity area.

Both LIS and CIS schemes are underway.

### **Housing Projects**

#### **Avondale Phase 2**

Construction work is continuing on the development of 20 new homes. The houses are nearing completion with second fix plumbing and electrical work continuing. Site works are ongoing with the installation of surface water attenuation and the construction of gardens, footpaths and kerbing.

#### **Sheehan Court (Old Fire Station)**

The project consists of a terrace of 7 no., 2bed houses, the project works are complete with snagging due for completion Friday 16th Sept.

BCAR has been completed which allows keys to be handed over in the coming two weeks when substantial completion cert is issued.

**Comments** – Cllr Fitzgerald commented on recent anti-social behaviour in Delany Park Arklow and a specific incident that took place – hopes that this is not a forerunner for more problems.

Cllr Annesley expressed disappointment at the delays in road line marking – A lot of people have been in contact about this. This needs to be top of the agenda for works. Cllr Murphy agreed and asked that the parking spaces are also repainted.

Cllr Leonard asked that Abbey Lane is cleaned up – also highlighted issues with parking off Lower Main St. and requested that these areas are designated as parking areas under the parking bye-laws.

Cllr Leonard raised concerns about the level of lighting at the Golf Club Hill, St Michael's Tce and lighting at the Parade Ground works and requested that AMD look to the contractor to supply increased temporary lighting in the area for the duration of the works.

Cllr Bourke commended the DE for works throughout the district. Cllr Bourke supported the request made by Cllr Leonard and stated that any gaps in public lighting needs to be assessed and the contractor needs to deliver the service in a timely manner.

Cllr Fitzgerald stated that a particular fault had been reported 9 months ago and feels that the contractor is going backwards with regard to performance. This is not good enough for the elderly coming into the winter months.

L Earls DM stated that WCC staff are equally frustrated with the level of service received and are constantly on to the providers to get issues resolved and they will continue to do so.

The members discussed the speed limit review and the consultation period – L Earls DM confirmed that the review has been advertised. L Earls DM will revert back to the members in relation to any upcoming countywide Parking Bye-laws review.

Cllr Kennedy agreed with the members and stated that the contractor for public lighting was not living up to the contract agreed with WCC.

Cllr Kennedy commented on the volume of weeds and debris on the footpaths around Rathdrum and also reported near misses at the Carrig junction – cars coming straight across a regional road without stopping. A Hill DE confirmed that this has been discussed with a view to put short term measures in place until signage and road markings can be assessed.

**Item 5 : Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members.**

Nothing brought to the meeting.

**Item 6 : Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting.**

***To agree the parking arrangements for the Christmas period***

Proposed arrangements were discussed and the members agreed to implement the same arrangements as last year – 2 hours free parking in Council owned car parks – proposed by Cllr Annesley and seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald.

**Item 7 : Notice of Motions.**

- ***To consider Notice of Motion No.1 in the name of Cllr Pat Fitzgerald. Received on 02/08/22***

“That funding is provided to upgrade some of the paths from houses 130-204 in Fernhill estate”.

A Hill DE will review this motion and inspect the footpaths – possible works for discretionary funding.

- ***To consider Notice of Motion No.2 in the name of Cllr Pat Fitzgerald. Received on 17/08/2022.***

“In view of the levels of traffic that are using Rory O Connor Place, Arklow as a throughput road, I request that the measures that are in place to slow down the traffic are examined with a view to increasing them”.

A Hill DE confirmed that the traffic survey would need to be completed first – will check the date for the last survey. Cllr Fitzgerald countered that this had already been agreed with residents around 7 years ago.

### **Item 8 : Correspondence**

Correspondence was received from the Remembering Edward Committee, thanking AMD for their contribution to the event.

Correspondence was received from the Arklow Twinning Committee requesting a contribution toward a number of events they will be hosting and attending, including inviting representatives from Aberystwyth and Châteaudun to the launch event for the Parade Ground. The members discussed how best to allocate the budget available and agreed to discuss this further and bring it back to the November meeting. All agreed that a breakdown of the costs involved should be requested.

### **Item 9 : Any Other Business**

Cllr Bourke raised concerns about the upcoming closure of the Riverwalk area close to the Bridge which will affect businesses and residents alike – Can AMD talk to W & B the contractors.

L Earls DM re-iterated that this is an IW project and any concerns should be raised with them. We can raise the concerns with them and ask that they contact all residents/businesses that may be affected.

Cllr Leonard requested that the Flood Relief Scheme team give a presentation to the members to discuss amendments made to date. The team need to communicate any changes to the schedule of works.

**Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 9th November 2022.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District**