



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON ZOOM PLATFORM ON WEDNESDAY
21st APRIL 2021**

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

Officials Present: Mr. Colm Lavery, District Manager
Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator
Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer
Mr. Rob Mulhall, Executive Engineer
Mr. Michael Flynn, Senior Engineer
Mr. Conor Page, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Brendan Doyle, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Theresa O'Brien, SEO Environment
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, ASO

Press : Apologies.

Public: Mr. Colm Moules
Mr. Ciaran Deay

Item 1: Votes of Sympathy.

The Members expressed votes of sympathy to all families who have recently lost loved ones.

Cllr Fitzgerald expressed his condolences on the passing of Monsignor Gallagher who served in Arklow for 24 years.

A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2 : Confirmation of Minutes from Ordinary Meeting held on the 10th March 2021.

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 10th March 2021 were proposed by Cllr Kennedy and seconded by Cllr Murphy and Cllr Fitzgerald.

Item 3 : Matters Arising.

No matters arising.

Item 4 : To receive a presentation on NTA projects.

A presentation was shared with the members covering the following items -

GDA Transport Strategy Review - Michael Flynn SE commented that the GDA Transport Strategy Review – 5 year plan – was the key element to all future strategic infrastructure plans.

Arklow Transport Study - this study is purposed to develop the transport strategy to facilitate the land-use and development objectives of Wicklow County Council in the Arklow area.

M11/N11 Interim Bus Priority Project – Bus services are very important and are fully funded, assurance given that TII would deliver.

Rail Service – the potential is there to extend the DART line to Wicklow and plans are there for the electrification of the line with a future connection to Arklow – Rail is at a standstill at the moment and it needs to happen.

Connecting Ireland – proposal for Rural Link Services Arklow/Rathdrum/Wicklow – going out to consultation.

Safe to Schools programme – promoting walking and cycling routes to schools – All principal received information on proposals with 100 projects to be funded this year – timeframe for submission by schools was very short and an extension was refused.

5 Year Sustainable Transport Plan – amendments to the plan will be based on feedback.

The 2021 allocation for WCC NTA funding is €7.616m – there are currently 77 projects on the funding list.

The Sustainable Transportation Measures Grant Programme is working toward alternatives to private cars with an increased focus on infrastructure for cycling/walking and promoting healthier lifestyles.

The team updated the members on the projects planned for the district to the year end and provided information on each project – it was noted that all NTA Projects must adhere to the procedures and approvals set out in the NTA's Project Approval Guidelines (PAGs) and an overview of the funding process was given.

Implementation Team Project Allocations

- | | |
|---|----------|
| • 2020 Stimulus Programme Contractual Liability | €100,000 |
| • 2021 Active Travel | €520,000 |

Design Team Project Allocations

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| • Arklow MD Projects | €345,000 |
| Total Allocations for Arklow MD | €965,000 |

Michael Flynn SE invited questions/comments from the members –

Cllr Annesley commented that potentially consultants fees would eat into most of the funding – the town needs another access route for vehicles into the town and not pedestrian and cycle routes – the Main St. is choked with traffic.

Cllr Fitzgerald welcomed a lot of the projects and re-iterated the demand for an extra road in an out of the town and that this is the number one priority. A new bridge is also an option to be considered. He asked how long the traffic study would take and expressed disappointment that more schools couldn't apply for the Safe to School funding due to the request for a time extension being denied.

Cllr Murphy commented that the years waiting for a solution for the traffic issues in the town has been very frustrating – cannot envisage where a cycle lane would fit on the Dublin Rd.

Cllrs Leonard welcomed the initiatives and said that the use of e-bikes would grow and form a sustainable part of the Transport Strategy – some Arklow residents have been inundated with quarry traffic and that the town needs to push for plans for a port road to Roadstone.

Cllr Kennedy thanked the team for the presentation and acknowledged the fact that WCC have secured a large amount of funding in two years and completing application for funding requires constant attention. The initiatives are to be welcomed and while acknowledging the frustration of the members, all will need to feed into this study to give an accurate result.

Cllr Kennedy asked that while the Saville's Cross works were being carried out that the ducting and pots could be put in place for future public lighting works. Cllr Kennedy commended the works throughout the district, making the roads safer for pedestrians.

Cllr Bourke commended the works also and stressed that the consultants should be invited as early as possible. The residents on Beech Rd are also looking for an extension to the footpath – any update on this?

Colm Lavery replied that the study would need to be completed as this will form the over-arching framework for works in the future – delivery on projects will lead to further success in funding applications. The current aim is to connect communities and there will be funding in terms of active travel – requests need to be put forward now for 2022 and beyond.

Michael Flynn SE confirmed that LA's are seeking as much funding as possible and if plans and strategies were in place the amounts sought could be increased – long game, no short notice.

Discussion continued on the plans for greenways in the district.

The transport study could take 9-12 months – the output will identify different projects and the mechanisms for delivery.

Cllr Leonard commented on the condition of the L1113 road surface and the possibility of a cycle lane to the Harbour Area. Cllr Bourke requested a map of potential cycle pathways in the district.

Item 5 : District Engineers Report.

Roads Programme – DTTAS have allocated the funding at County level. Grant allocation to MD's confirmed on 5th March 2021. DE, EE and WCC Roads are currently working on programme for works.

Safety Improvement Works – 7 projects at varying stages – 2 commenced.

Former National Roads – the proposed Wexford Road Rehabilitation Project is at preliminary design stage.

Footpath Schemes – Rathdrum 90% complete.

R747 Vale Rd – Tender awarded.

Meeting on site with contractor to finalise early May 2021. Footpath works by WCC crew.

NTA Schemes – applications being submitted by schools from the following; Coolgreaney Rd NS, Carysfort NS, Barndarrig NS.

It has been confirmed that all NTA schemes may continue during the current Covid19 lockdown. The 2021 allocations for Arklow have been confirmed as follows. Projects are being led by NTA team in WCC with input from AMD.

Type	Project Name
STMG	Arklow – Woodenbridge - Shillelagh
STMG	Arklow Transport Study
STMG	Dublin Road to Wexford Road
STMG	Arklow Main St to Train Station
STMG	Lower Main Street, Tinahask Road & Dock Road to South Quay
AT	R747 Vale Road
AT	Rathdrum

*STMG – Sustainable Transport Measure Grants

* AT – Active Travel

Other Road Projects - The status of the following projects remains unchanged due to the COVID-19 restrictions:

1. Local Improvement Scheme – Shroughmore (100% complete)
2. Saville's Cross – Pedestrian Crossing (90% complete – line marking to be undertaken)
3. Ballinacash – Rathdrum Junction - Project is being managed centrally by WCC Roads, commencing May 2021.

Town & Village Renewal Scheme - DE & EE are currently in the process of preparing the tender documents for the Redcross scheme. Issued on SupplyGov on 16th April, tender return date Friday 23rd April.

Level 5 Restrictions

Essential works such as housing repairs, street sweeping, pothole repairs and drainage works are currently being undertaken. Preparing for surface dressing season.

Provided community groups with litter pickers, bags and hi-viz vests, assisted environment section with reported clean ups. Currently looking at bins in the area and providing more signs re dog fouling.

Housing Construction

Given the recent lifting of restrictions in the construction sector for housing, the following update on schemes in the District was provided by the Housing Capital Scheme.

Delany Park Phase 2

The site consists of 47 houses, structurally all houses are completed with doors & windows in place, all external ongoing, first fix M&E started, I.W & ESB not connected to date, revised finishing programme indicates end of November 2021.

Avondale Phase 2

The site consists of 20 houses, currently out to tender as original successful contractor had to withdraw due to resourcing issues, new successful contractor should be on site no later than August 2021 with a completion date anticipated for August 2022.

Sheehan Court (Old Fire Station)

The site consists of 7 2bed units, successful tender bid currently with the DoECLG for approval, the successful contractor is anticipated to be on site July 2021 with a completion date of July 2022 subject to approval granted by the Department.

Other Works - R747 – Woodenbridge to Aughrim – Safety Barriers: Installation of safety barriers has commenced.

Installation of foundations has started for Teqball table in the Duck Pond area.

Item 6 : To discuss traffic calming on the Sea Road, Arklow

The members discussed the request received for another ramp on Sea Rd to slow traffic down – Avril Hill DE confirmed that she would look at this request.

Item 7 : To discuss CLAR funding

Project options were discussed and Claire Lawless DA suggested that a joint project could be considered with Baltinglass MD. Cllr Bourke agreed that this was a good idea. Cllr Kennedy said the focus would be on population decline.

Item 8 : Notice of Motions

(a) Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Peir Leonard. Received on (18/02/21)

"That Arklow Municipal District asks Wicklow County Council and the OPW to commit to incorporating an agreed percentage of glass panelling for South Quay, Arklow together with access points to the river as part of the Arklow Flood Relief Scheme in accordance with Arklow Local Area Plan and County Wicklow Development Plan to facilitate the towns social and economic growth by showcasing our natural and built heritage i.e. the Avoca River and the 200 year old Nineteen Arches Bridge & as a health and safety measure to ensure access & visibility to our river for all".

It was agreed that a letter from the MD and the members is submitted supporting the motion above.

(b) Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Peir Leonard.(Received on 18/02/21)

"That Arklow Municipal District identifies an area of Arklow Harbour for the creation of a well-designed area of public realm in keeping with our Maritime Heritage for the multipurpose use such as festivals and maritime events".

This could include seating and planters sponsored by local groups/businesses and also an area for reflection on South Beach.

(c) Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Pat Fitzgerald. (Received on 24/02/21)

"That this council investigates the possibility of putting a footpath on the left hand side as you walk from Blackberry Glade into Harbour court".

DE to check if the budget will allow these works.

Item 9 : To discuss policy on Castlemacadam Cemetery.

The members acknowledged the very sensitive issue for grieving families when they are advised that there are restrictions around the type of finishes allowed on and around burial plots. They members asked if this was national policy and if so how did Wexford Co. Co. overturn the agreed policy. Members pointed out that communication around this issue has not been great and acknowledge that the policy does not really work in country graveyards. It was suggested that it could be considered for new graveyards but not for existing graveyards. Lawn cemeteries are not part of our culture – WCC are not putting any funding in place and this is scandalous.

Theresa O' Brien SEO firstly acknowledged that this is a particularly emotive and raw issue and especially at this time. The traditional wakes and maintenance of a plot are big elements of our culture. Although an agreement is signed when purchasing a plot, people do not notice the policy about it being a lawn cemetery. This is not something that can be policed and as is evident there are surrounds on many of the plots in Castlemacadam. The option to consider is having both available – lawn or surround – would the members consider this. All agreed to think about this. Theresa O' Brien will contact the family who was in touch with the members personally.

Item 10 : To agree allocation for Estate Development Grants

The allocations were proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Kennedy.

Item 11 : Correspondence.

No correspondence received.

Item 12 : A.O.B.

Cllr Fitzgerald requested that the fencing along the embankment in the Cluain Ard estate is replaced – Rob Mulhall EE confirmed that AMD had been notified that it had been removed and do not know who did this – pricing has been sought to replace the fencing.

Cllr Murphy is concerned about the amount of litter in Inbhear Mor Park and warned that it could be used in the May 1st bonfires – needs to be removed.

Cllr Kennedy expressed disappointment that RRDF funding was not allocated this time around – Cllr Bourke hoped an allocation would come our way in the next round.

Cllr Annesley asked if recycling bins could be installed in an area covered by CCTV – Avril Hill DE confirmed that issues around littering are under consideration.

Cllr Leonard queried budget spent on fly tipping in the district.

Cllr Kennedy asked that the old tenders in the depot go on display for the public – Rob Mulhall EE said discussions were ongoing about the location for these and that it had been proposed that they would be part of the Maritime Museum exhibits.

Cllr Leonard asked if the Festival Funding can be discussed at the next meeting.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 12th May 2021.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: _____

Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District