



**Wicklow County Council  
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

**ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON THE 8th November 2023**

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

**Officials Present:** Ms. Leonora Earls, District Manager  
Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator  
Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer  
Mr. John Daly, Executive Engineer  
Ms. Lorraine Hayes ASO

**Apologies:** None

**Press:** Eoin Mac Raghnaill

**Public:** None

**Presentations:** Emma Hickey (Housing and Corporate Estates)

**Item 1: Votes of Sympathy.**

The members expressed votes of sympathy to all families who have recently lost a loved one, those mentioned were:

Gretta (Margaret) McDonnell (Nee Coogan), Ann Kavanagh (Nee Graham), Patricia Allen (Nee Byrne), John Mernagh, Terry Donoghue, Sharon O'Connor, James O'Brien, Egon Therkelsen, Maria van der Wel(née Cummins), Daniel Wolohan (William), Gerard (Gerry) Cooney, Kevin Tuomey, Róisín Bunn(née Doyle).

A minutes silence was observed.

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

Cllr Leonard requested the following be noted in the minutes:

Funding for Woodlands Estate should be ring-fenced, and also raised her concerns regarding to the plastic bollards all over the Town.

The minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Bourke. Two amendments to the minutes were proposed and confirmed. (Amendments attached.)

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

A discussion took place with regards to speeding in Woodlands Estate, residents would like speed ramps installed. It was confirmed that at the November meeting and it was agreed that another traffic survey would take place and when the results have been assessed the MD can then decide the most suitable course of action however ramps are the least preferred option.

LE said we will get results from survey and discuss a resolution then.

Cllr Leonard asked for an update on correspondence from Iarnrod Eireann regarding extra carriages on trains.

AB said we had received an acknowledgement email with case reference number.

LE said she is also pursuing this through the Roads Department.

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

Emma Hickey delivered a detailed report on the proposed new Social housing development at AAP1 Site, Tinahask, Arklow, Co. Wicklow. It is being built under the planning regulation section 179a it is proposed to start the build early next year. This development is on 2.94 hectares with 32 units per acre. The estate will be a mix of 24 one bedroom, 46 two bedroom and 26 three bedroom, a crèche will also be built in the development.

A discussion took place and a number of concerns were raised by the Elected Members including:

- Impact on adjoining residential estates
- Non-public consultation because of the use of section 179a

EH set out the criteria for section 179A and why it was being used as opposed to a Part 8. She undertook to bring the concerns of the members back to the Director of Housing.

## **District Engineer's Report**

1<sup>st</sup> November 2023

### **Roads**

#### **Restoration Improvement**

<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Length</i>
L-6137 / L-6183 Ballymorris & Crone Beg	Complete	
L-2140/L-6141 Macreddin to Ballyshane	Completed	
L-2172 Snugborough - Barniskey	Completed	
L-5155 Tullylusk to Kilmacoo	Completed	
L-6154-6155 Tigroney	Completed	
L-6200 Killacloran	Completed	
L-6902 St. Mary's Road, Connolly St., Griffith St.	Completed	
R-755 Glasnarget	TBC with Contractor	

#### **Restoration Maintenance – 18.6km**

<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
R-747 Vale Road	Complete
L-1113 Coolbeg Bridge to Deputy's Pass	Complete
L-5156 Kilcandra to Barndarrig	Complete
L-6203/4 Tomnasklea - Killaveaney	Complete
L-62031/2 Curraghlaw to Toberpatrick	Complete

#### **Former National Roads**

<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
R772 Arklow North	TBC with Contractor

#### **Local Improvement Schemes**

<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
Ballinacor, Greenane	Completed
Drumdangan, Glenealy	Scheduled
Coolahulle, Aughrim	Commencing 6 <sup>th</sup> November

## Discretionary Funds 2023

<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
Footpath – Brewery Bends	Scheduled with GSS
Upgrade of footpaths 130-204 Fernhill	TBC with GSS – Prioritising locations
Footpath in Greenane - Completion	Surfacing & Works to back of path to be completed
Bus Shelter in Aughrim	Order Placed
Bus Shelter in Annacurra	Order Placed
Public lighting at The Birches, Ballinaclesh	Liaising with lighting designer
Public Realm - Arklow	Putting scope of works together
Public Realm - Rathdrum	Seeking prices for bollards & planters
Repair of footpath at Curran's Corner	TBC with GSS
Footpath at Ferrybank	Contractor in place, confirm ownership with businesses
Footpath at RNLI	TBC with GSS
Tree management	Charles McCorkell - Chartered Arboriculturist – preparing a report
Footpaths at Templeraíne Heights	TBC with GSS

## Other Projects

Rathdrum Traffic Study: Scope has been extended to include Junction at Lower Street & Junction at St. Coleman's Hospital.

Further traffic survey took place last week. One camera failed so survey has been rescheduled.

A. Hill provided further updates including:

- AH, LE and AB had a meeting with Roadstone regarding the Bridge street/Quay Road. The MD is waiting for Roadstone to revert with an update regarding fixing the issues.
- Woodenbridge to Aughrim white lines need to be painted yellow.
- Rathdrum road markings have been done with the exception of wheelchair parking space as there was a car parked there with the markings were being done.
- Johnstown flooding is the liability of the landowners.
- Templeraíne road sign is fixed.

JD provided an update of MD actions to recent storms this included.

- There were 11 out of hour callouts during the flood.
- A lot of preparation had taken place in advance with sewers and drains.
- Over 275 extra hours were worked by the outdoor staff.
- 1800 sandbags were provided.
- The Out of Hours Calls service should be used by to report any emergencies.

Cllr Annesley expressed his best wishes to Joe O'Reilly for a speedy recovery after his recent accident.

Cllr Kennedy asked if the tree in Woodview could be looked at and also the hedges and ditches are in a bad state.

A discussion took place on the following items:

- The possibility of flooding due to debris from large trucks going through the town.
- There were no sandbags down at Harbour Road also not everyone has transport to collect sandbags.
- An update was requested on the lights being out on the Main Street and Condron's Lane.
- A request also on the lighting at the back of Woodlands and also the running track.
- Number 56 Main Street badly needs improvement works done and can we get funding to do it up.

AH explained depot staff load trucks with sandbags and deliver throughout the town. Fire Service staff can also be called upon in an emergency.

LE Pageboy is our out of office service provider; once a call is activated the crew goes and deal with incident /situation once it is not a red warning.

LE confirmed she had received recent reps in relation to public lighting along the main street. LE had raised the issue earlier in the week with the Public Lighting section. She said that Wicklow County Council would continue to engage with the contractor. The particular lights are heritage lanterns which have to be upgraded to LED and asked to have this work expedited. There are 15,200 lights in the County with 284 out at the moment. She asked that people use the online system to report faults.

JD stated the RECI cert was gone to the ESB for Woodlands and Glenart.

AB confirmed that the running track is with Sports Partnership there are queries with the tender and the MD are trying to move the project along.

LE confirmed that works done to “the 56” were carried out because the Environment Section requested that the owner of the building make it safe.

The Council are pursuing URDF for funding for this area, through the Town Regeneration Officer.

Cllr Fitzgerald raised concerns that a serious accident will happen as the road at Roadstone Quarry needs resurfacing and potholes filled.

AH re-iterated that MD officials had met with Roadstone and walked the area in question. Roadstone have committed to assistance with the re-instatement.

Cllr Kennedy said the South access Port Road is extremely important to Arklow as it will reduce port traffic and make a huge difference if it is developed.

LE confirmed it is an objective in the development plan. WCC will continue to pursue the development of this road.

Cllr Kennedy Aughrim’s footpath needs to be extended to the 50km road sign, there is one house in the area for said footpath but they are in agreement to footpath.  
AH will look into this and get a costing.

#### **5: Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting.**

To consider report on the draft budgetary plan for the Municipal Districts in respect of the year ending 2024.

The members considered the report and it was proposed by Cllr. Kennedy and seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald. Following a vote the draft budget was agreed.

#### **Item 6: Notice of Motion/s**

##### ***(a) To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Peir Leonard received on 7th Sept 2023***

*"That Arklow MD acknowledge the destruction of roadways in the town centre and surrounds by HGVs serving the local quarries and seek funding from WCC and the relevant Government Department to deliver a Port Road at South Arklow as a matter of urgency"*

*Proposed by Cllr. P. Leonard Seconded by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald.*

*The members noted a previous discussion had taken place in relation to the HGV and quarry activity coming through the town and the Southern Port Access Road is an objective on the Development plan.*

**(b) To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Pat Kennedy received on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023**

*“That Arklow Municipal District provide funding to finish off the last section of footpath in Conary Village.”*

*Proposed by Cllr. P. Kennedy Seconded by Cllr. M. Murphy.*

*It was agreed to include for consideration for the discretionary budget for next year.*

**(c) To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Pat Kennedy received on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023**

*“As a matter of urgency for safety reasons, that Arklow Municipal District provide funding for an electronic speed limit sign on the approach to the National School in Annacurra as this is a very steep hill with a lot of students coming and going, both from the school and the playground”.*

*Proposed by Cllr. P. Kennedy Seconded by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald.*

*It was confirmed that this would not be in compliance with the traffic calming policy; however under the speed limit review all schools will have 30 km periodic speed signs.*

**(d) To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Pat Kennedy received on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023**

*“That Arklow Municipal District provide funding to continue the footpath for a further 50m at the top of Rednagh Hill in Aughtim as the footpath at present finishes below the crest of the hill. Oncoming cars cannot see pedestrians walking. The continuation of this footpath will alleviate this problem and make it safe for pedestrians”.*

*Proposed by Cllr. P. Kennedy Seconded by Cllr. M. Murphy.*

*It was agreed to include for consideration for the discretionary budget for next year.*

**Item 7: Correspondence**

AB confirmed that an acknowledgment email from Iarnrod Eireann with case reference number had been received and she will continue to follow up.

Correspondence received from Woodlands Residents Association was discussed. It was agreed that a response would issue from AMD to Woodlands Residents Association to include the following.

- They have been advised to apply for Community and Estate grants.
- AMD gave a commitment to cut the hedging but the contractor got abuse from a resident. We have agreed to try again but if there are any more incidents of abuse we will not be going back.
- We were not made aware of any issues with the road.
- AMD do not have manpower to pull weeds.
- AMD only cut grass in areas where ATC had previously cut it; we do not take on any new Estates.
- A commitment has been made to go back and finish the line markings.
- Parking could be a planning issue this was discussed with Chairperson.

**Item 8: Any Other Business**

The Members passed on good wishes to the groups associated with the upcoming Pride of Place Awards, and in particular the groups representing Avoca.

**Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th November 2023.**

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

**Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.**

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

**Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District**