

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

HELD IN DISTRICT CHAMBER, TOWN HALL

MONDAY 24th July 2023 @ 15.30pm

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

In Attendance: Acting District Manager, Breda McCarthy
District Engineer, Pat Clarke
District Administrator, Joan Sinnott
Georgina Franey, Senior Staff Officer
Róisín Carroll, Assistant Staff Officer
Myles Buchanan, Wicklow People

Cathaoirleach Irene Winters opened the meeting at 15.50 p.m.

ITEM 1

Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Annual Meeting held on the 26th June 2023.

It was proposed by Councillor Gail Dunne, seconded by Councillor Shay Cullen and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Annual Meeting held on 26th June 2023.

Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Meeting held on the 26th June 2023.

It was proposed by Councillor Paul O'Brien, seconded by Councillor John Snell and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on 26th June 2023.

ITEM 2

Proposed Part 8 Application for Ballyguile Road Footpath to link new GAA Grounds

In 2017, St Pats GAA Club purchased 29 acres at Green Hill Road and in 2018 they were granted planning permission for one flood lit pitch with a clubhouse and dressing room. However one of the conditions of the planning permission was the provision of a footpath leading to the proposed development.

The NTA are to fund €200,000 of these works and the remaining funded through the council.

The purpose of the scheme is to provide road safety improvements in the form of road widening and the provision of a new footpath. These road safety improvements are required due to the increase in demand on this section of road. The road will be widened to 5.5m, and a 1.8m wide footpath will be constructed. The works are proposed to be constructed under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act.

Cathaoirleach Irene Winters left the meeting at 15.56 p.m. due to a conflict of interest.
 Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr Shay Cullen chaired the meeting
 Cllr John Snell left the meeting at 16.00 p.m.
 Cathaoirleach Irene Winters returned to the meeting at 16.04 p.m.
 Cllr John Snell returned to the meeting at 16.04 p.m.

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS:

- The members welcomed the development and raised the following concerns:
- Is the area wide enough to introduce a cycle lane leading up to the GAA complex?
- Reduce speeds and traffic in area to make safe for pedestrians, especially towards Bethlehem Junction at Convent Hill – the District Engineer advised he can look at this area further.
- Carry out survey in relation to traffic calming on Green Hill Road - safety through school times etc. – the District Engineer advised that he will look into a survey and raise the issues with the Roads Section.
- Introduce lighting at Convent Hill and Green Hill Road junction.
- Consultation and engagement with the residents is important.
- Members agreed to revisit in September.

ITEM 3

District Engineers Report

Updates were provided by District Engineer Pat Clarke as follows:

HOUSING

- Relets/Prelets; 5 completed. 8 on site. 3 Fire Damaged Units that IPB are currently assessing.
- DPGs; 2 on site, 1 ready to start and 1 out for tender.

DTTAS ROADS PROGRAMME

❖ **Drainage**

Generally works on verge drains, gullies and road crossings to outlets are currently ongoing throughout the MD.

❖ **Restoration Maintenance**

❖ Location	Length of Works	Completed to Date
Ballymachara – Ballycullen, L5095	2.5km	Completed
Tomdarragh Lane	1.0km	Completed
Kilpoole- Mahramore R750	1.8km	To be completed

Raheenmore, Blainroe Upper, L1102	2.0km	To be Completed
Carrigower- Easthill L1039	4.0km	Completed
Garryduff, L6068	8.0km	Completed
Wicklow Gap, Brockagh, R756	2.5km	First layer Completed
Djouce – Sallys bridge, R755	2.5km	First layer completed

The Countywide Restoration Maintenance started in the Wicklow MD on the 12th June, it has continued around the County. The list above shows works completed to date. Remainder of works in the WMD to be completed by within the next two weeks, if weather is favourable.

Post works sweeping has started on completed works sites

❖ **Restoration Improvement**

Tenders on Restoration Improvement works received in June and July. Works will include a variety of techniques depending on classification and condition of road.

Working with various contractors in scheduling works into their programmes.

Advance works such as drainage and verge widening works has started on RI Roads with a mixture of MD staff and sub contactors. RI project to date.

• **Public Liability**

3 personal injuries and 6 material damage claims.

❖ **WCC projects**

Roundwood footpaths: works are continuing in Roundwood road at L5061. Resurfacing works complete on footpath.

The final re-surfacing of the edge of carriageway, and at junction with the R764 to be completed over coming weeks with lining and signage to be completed at that stage.

Works have started on R756 footpath over reservoir, estimated timescale to be 8-10 weeks approx.

Brittas Bay footpath; start date has been pushed back to the end of the summer season due to the increased traffic volumes in this area.

Bus stop shelters with real time information erected in Ashford at old Garda station and at GAA pitch. To supplement these stops a bike shelter is being installed at GAA pitch beside new bus stop.

Bike shelters to be provided at Glendalough Upper car park and at Newtown bus stop opposite the Town house pub.

❖ **NTA Projects**

Ballinahinch and Ashford footpath complete.

Consultants still working on pedestrian and cycle improvement scheme, initial survey completed on the Marlton Rd and Rocky Rd, linking to Train Station on Station Road.

FÁILTE IRELAND

- Abbey Grounds; Re-design of certain items of the project continuing with Architect/Engineers. Detailed designs have been progressing for Coach House building, Amphitheatre seating and performance area. Structural Eng. appointed for Coach House works. Details on lighting design and material finishes being worked through at present.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

- Brittas Bay Blueway funding for accessibility works. Tender docs for toilet building improvements and other works currently have been assessed. Works to proceed in September in order to reduce inconvenience to public during busy summer season.

Details progressing on signage for Brittas bay with Heritage officer. Signage has been ordered.

- Glenturn Cliff Walk Infrastructure Upgrades started Monday 26th of June, in order to improve trail experience. Works to be complete by Tuesday 25th July. Drainage issues over much of the length have been addressed and a new timber deck raised platform has been added in a particularly bad patch near St. Brides well.

TOWN & VILLAGE RENEWAL

- Wicklow Town – South Quay connections to Main Street, (Connectivity Project) tender has been evaluated and the successful tender notified. Stakeholder consultations still ongoing, with artist selection being the next part of the process.

ADDITIONAL MD PROJECTS

- Tenders awarded for all outstanding repairs at the Murrough playground and skate park and also for all repairs at the Newtownmountkennedy playground. Works have commenced at the Murrough, with works due to commence at Newtown on 26th July 2023.
- Contractor for 'Historic Monument Lighting in Wicklow Town' has installed lights at the Black Castle and at Wicklow Church of Ireland site. Certification is complete and contractor is liaising with the ESB to complete the power supply connections. Contractor to mount lights at the Stone Bridge and on Parnell Bridge within coming weeks.
- The installation of LED heads at the Sailing Club steps will be completed by the end of July. Lights at the Orchard (the rear of the Courthouse & the Gaol) are on order and will be installed over coming weeks (Discretionary project).
- The Leg of Mutton lights are now connected to the network and operational.
- Benches ordered for the Port road and locations have been identified. Concrete bases for benches to be installed next week (Discretionary project).

- Applications submitted to ESB for power supplies to:
 - Laragh Pedestrian Crossing,
 - Moneystown Pedestrian Crossing,
 - Annamoe Pedestrian Crossing (part of Town and Village Scheme),
 - Annamoe additional public lighting on bridge and street (part of Town and Village Scheme).

All applications are being processed by ESB who will now issue connection quotations.

- Road markings are progressing around the MD, with yellow boxes being repainted in Wicklow town centre at certain locations. Ramps from the Leg of Mutton to Market Street have been refreshed. Centre line to be refreshed in coming weeks.

The Edge Line marking from the Beehive to the Marlton Roundabout to be completed once the weather improves. Centre Line complete now.

Road markings to be completed around Glenealy area, refresh of ramps and at junctions in coming week.

- Pump track progress has been made in the form of contacting Cycle Ireland, BMX Commission, Redbull and both South Dublin CC & Waterford CC in order to obtain information and determine final spec as well as the anticipated budget.
- A total project cost based initial measurements could be in excess of €200K depending on final design and specification.

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

- The Members paid tribute to the District Engineer on works carried out particularly on Slaughter Hill footpath.
- Three fire damaged housing stock are taking too long to resolve, there should be a quicker turnaround as one property in particular is ongoing for two and a half years and it is not fair to the families who lived in these houses and had to vacate their homes. The District Engineer will progress these matters.
- New development at Meadow Haven in Rathnew, developer to put in a bus stop with shelter, this hasn't been actioned and is a condition of the planning permission. The District Engineer will check this.
- Outdoor staff performed brilliantly in dealing with recent floods that were not caused by the Council.
- Line Marking at Rathnew and Glenealy – the District Engineer advised work to be carried out as soon as weather conditions improve.
- No Mow May - numerous complaints from members of the public due to the state of footpath's, roundabouts etc. Members discussed it is important to keep up with climate action responsibilities but will need to be reviewed for next year working alongside the biodiversity officer. Possibly map out designated areas to see if we can improve the workload on outdoor staff who have to cut the grass 3-4 times before areas are looking respectful. It was agreed to work with the Biodiversity Officer for next year.
- Bushes and hedges overgrown between the Montessori school and Avondale Manor and at the bus stop. Is there a footpath to connect the roads? The District Engineer agreed to check the planning permission.
- Can the playground equipment be replaced without delay and going forward if any playground objects are removed for safety reasons can objects be replaced straight away.

ITEM 4

Correspondence:

District Administrator, Joan Sinnott informed the meeting that the Pride committee expressed how grateful they were for the support of Wicklow Municipal District and wanted to thank everyone involved in the smooth running of this event.

ITEM 5

Any Other Business:

The members expressed votes of sympathy for Brendan Newsome and gave condolences to his family.

The members wished District Administrator, Joan Sinnott every success in her retirement and thanked her for her professionalism and congratulated her for the great work and achievements within her career in Wicklow County Council.

Cllr. Paul O'Brien urged the District Engineer and incoming District Administrator to progress the Aires Park.

Cllr. John Snell mentioned representatives of Bord Gais had contacted business owners in Newtownmountkennedy urging them to install gas in their premises prior to work starting in the area. The District Engineer confirmed that the only works taking place in Newtownmountkennedy are at Fishers junction. There are no further works due to commence.

Cathaoirleach Irene Winters requested that a letter issue to Fr. Donal Roche thanking him for allowing the people of Wicklow to visit the Abbey Grounds and Pastoral Centre and to wish him well with his new appointment in Cabinteely Parish.

Cllr. Paul O'Brien advised the members that a Twinning committee meeting will take place on 16th August 2023 to discuss the upcoming visit from the delegation from Montigny-le-Bretonneux to celebrate the 30th anniversary of twinning with Wicklow.

CATHAOIRLEACH IRENE WINTERS CONCLUDED THE MEETING AT 16.54 p.m.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Date: _____