



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON

THE 12th November 2025.

Present: Cllr. Miriam Murphy, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Peir Leonard
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Pat Kennedy

Officials Present: Ms. Leonora Earls, DM
Ms. Alvina Brehony, DA
Ms. Avril Hill, DE
Ms. Lorraine Hayes ASO
Mr. Brian Gleeson, Director of Finance, Water and Information Systems

Apologies: Cllr. Sylvester Bourke
Cllr. Warren O'Toole

Press: Hugh O'Farrell-Walsh

Item 1: Votes of Sympathy.

The members expressed votes of sympathy to all families who have recently lost a loved one. A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes.

The minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 8th October were proposed by Cllr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr. Kennedy.

Item 3: Matters Arising.

Cllr. Kennedy asked for an update on the proposed sale of two houses in Aughrim, both had deposits returned to them after two years without explanation.

LE had asked housing to make contact with the Councillors regarding same; she will follow up with the SEO in housing.

Cllr. Leonard requested an update on coastal erosion; she stated people of Clogga are seeking a meeting with the Council.

LE explained this is a part of coastal erosion study area. She said she will follow up with DOS and Environment Section.

Item 4: Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

❖ Pre-Part 8 presentation – proposed one-way system in Rathdrum (for noting)

Concerns raised:

Cllr. Kennedy enquired if the junction at Lower Main Street was included in this plan.

AH stated it is not in the scope of works on this project. The new design is not radically different, at present parking is on both sides of the street going forward parking will be restricted to one side of the street. During phase 1 bollards and planters will be used this will help see how the system is performing.

LE stated funding for this project was in hand.

❖ To receive a report from District Engineer (for Noting)

Municipal District of Arklow

District Engineer's Report

5th November 2025

Restoration Improvement

Proposed Works	Status
R-752 Ballybeg to Rathnew	Date TBC
R-754 Avoca Village	Complete (line marking outstanding)
L-29013 Laffin's Lane	Complete (line marking & ironworks outstanding)
L-6147 Ballymorris Lower	Complete
L-29013 Castlepark	Complete
L-7137 Ballymanus-Reddenagh	Complete
L-2143 Aghrim-Ballinglen	Complete
L-6644 Ballinaclesh-Ballard	Complete
L-5665 Kilmacrea Pass	Complete
L-5163 Templeyon	Complete

Restoration Maintenance

Complete

Safety Improvement Works

Proposed Works	Project	Status
R-772 near rugby club	Installation of Safety Signage	Complete
L-1113 Carrigmore Bridge	Installation of Safety Signage	
R-747 Woodenbridge to Aughrim	Installation of safety barrier	Complete
R-752 Rathdrum to Glenealy	Installation of safety barrier	

Community Involvement Scheme

Proposed Works	Status
L-66441 Whaley Abbey, Ballinaclash	Pre. Works complete, date TBC with Contractor

Local Improvement Scheme

Proposed Works	Status
Kilcashel, Aughrim	Contractor to confirm dates
Toberpatrick, Tinahely	Contractor to confirm dates
Westaston, Kilmacurra	Complete
Ballymorris, Aughrim	Complete
Ballard Upper	Prep Work Ongoing
Ballard Ballinaclash	Contractor to confirm dates
Aughavannagh	Prep Work Ongoing
Ballycapple	Prep Work Ongoing

Discretionary Funding

Proposed Works	Status
Footpath at Barndarrig NS	Waiting on response from Board of Management
Castlemacadam Cemetery	TBC by RI contractor
Duck Pond	Review of Maintenance Requirements
Public Lighting in Greenane	Waiting on ESB connection
Heritage Signage for Villages	One sign to be installed in Greenane
Infill Lighting Annacurra	Civil works ongoing
Public Lighting at the Birches, Ballinaclesh	Waiting on ESB connection
Public Realm Furniture Upgrade - AMD	Some benches installed in St. Mary's Park
Tree Management	Working through reports.
Footpath - Conary	Complete
2024 Footpath Repair Riverwalk	Some drainage works required in advance
Public Realm - Arklow	
Public Realm - Rathdrum	
Educational Signage - Beaches	Liaised with the Biodiversity Officer - Awaiting Further Information
Pedestrian Crossing - Rathdrum	Considered as part of Traffic Study
Repair of Footpath at Currans Corner	
Footpath - Arklow Bearing Services	

Footpath Renewal

Croghan View, Aughrim – ongoing.

Main St. Arklow resurfacing at laneways on-going.

Re-setting of cobbles on-going.

Other works

Masterplan of Seaview Avenue – Consultant appointed, initial site visit w/c 10th Nov.

Seaview Avenue, Mini driving school – Works almost complete.

St. Mary's Park – Upgrading lighting in bandstand

Upgrade of Pedestrian Crossing – NTA funding received to upgrade crossings in Avoca and Rathdrum.

The following matters were raised and discussed:

AH said some work had been carried out at Johnstown Lane to help reduce flooding and are hoping for more funding for this issue.

Cllr. Leonard asked for clarification on who owns Curran's Corner.

LE said she will look into this.

Cllr. Leonard stated she has had countless reps regarding tree cutting and asked for funding to accommodate this as people are stressing out over trees not being maintained.

Cllr. Murphy stated that we have to work within the guidelines of the Tree Management Policy.

AH said when an arborist is engaged they review all trees in the area and not just the specific tree which was reported. They advise which works need to be carried out as maintenance. All trees in Abbey Park have been assessed and no action is necessary. She explained until policy changes tree surgeons cannot be instructed to top trees as we would be in breach of policy.

LE suggested if the Councillors feel the Tree Management Policy is not working that they bring it back to the Committee.

Cllr. Leonard asked can we replace the plastic bollards on the Main Street.

Cllr. Kennedy said while policy is great, reality is very different. He acknowledged the footpaths in Croghan View, Aughrim. He asked if the yellow lines in Avoca could be checked as he thinks two parking spaces have been removed with the fresh line markings.

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

- ❖ Consider report on the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal Districts in respect of the year ending 2026. (For decision)

Brian Gleeson explained the draft budget had been sent to all the Municipal Districts and the general Municipal allocation needed to be decided on. €324,901 is the figure for AMD increased slightly due to LPT increase. 1.7 million is the total to be approved by the Municipal Districts out of the overall budget of 184 Million.

The following matters were raised and discussed:

Cllr. Fitzgerald is concerned with regards the increase of LPT due to the revaluation of properties.

Brian Gleeson explained the bands had been widened and only a small percentage would have an increase in their LPT.

Cllr. Leonard asked for a breakdown of the Tourism promotion budget she would like to see how it is allocated.

Cllr. Leonard also requested a breakdown of the Tidy Town budget.

Brian Gleeson stated this is generalised central funding, €608,655 is the budget for 2026. It is spent through a combination of Co. Wicklow Tourism, Bray Tourism and salaries for Tourism staff.

Leonora Earls stated the Economic fund comes throughout the year for the shop local campaign, this funding is used to encourage people to shop local and try driving economics in the Town.

Cllr. Leonard requested a report on the €25k Festival Funding allocation. As we need to maximise and drive business in the Town.

AB advised we need investment from local businesses also, we reached out for engagement for both Halloween and Christmas and the uptake was low. We need Committee members to keep things going.

Cllr. Kennedy proposed the budget Cllr. Murphy seconded it. All members are in agreement.

Brian Gleeson finished off by telling members all Arklow Town Team events will now be insured under Wicklow County Council's insurance, this information was gratefully received.

Item 6: Correspondence

Correspondence received from the parish regarding restoration of the Organ had already been issued to the Members.

Item 7: A.O.B

Cllr. Kennedy acknowledged today was an outstanding day with President Higgins' fourteen years stint ending and our new President taking residence.

Cllr. Kennedy was delighted to receive a runner-up prize for the Michael Dwyer 200 event and congratulated all who were involved in this magnificent event.

Cllr. Murphy congratulated Tidy Towns for going up in points and commended their great work.

Cllr. Leonard recognised the great work the Regeneration officer has done to date, Arklow is in a transition stage and we need to concentrate on the Main Street, she sought an update from the An Taisce report with regards to vacant buildings.

LE said An Taisce are currently working in tandem with The Regeneration Officer.

Cllr. Kennedy sought a meeting with both Local Link and Echelon. Leonora Earls said November 25th is date given for Members to go to Echelon site.

AB will follow up on both.

Cllr. Kennedy stated 1.7million euro was collected in speeding fines and asked we write to Department of Justice for funding from this figure.

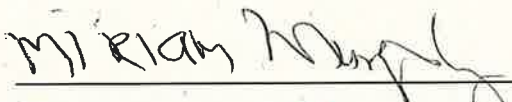
Cllr. Kennedy shared his disgust at a large stone being stolen from Ballyteigue Junction.

Cllr. Leonard said not having a Town Centre is an on-going issue, the area surrounding St. Mary's Park could be developed as Town Centre.

Cllr. Murphy thanked all who had taken the time to have an input into the Local Area Development Plan.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th December 2025.

Signed:



Cllr Miriam Murphy, Cathaoirleach, Arklow Municipal District.

Signed:



Ms. Alvin Brehony, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District

Leonora, District Manager