

**MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING
MONDAY 22nd MARCH 2021 3.30PM
HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM.**

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

In attendance: District Manager Brian Gleeson,
District Engineer Kevin Scanlon,
District Administrator Joan Sinnott,
Assistant Staff Officer Anne Marie Kelly,
Senior Engineer Planning Dept. Fergal Keogh (left 4.17 pm),
Senior Executive Planner, Edel Bermingham (left 4.17 pm),
Executive Planner Marcus Linehan (left 4.17 pm),
Myles Buchanan, Wicklow People,
Pat Staunton, Glenealy Tidy Towns (left meeting 4.30 pm),
Steven Matthews TD,
Muireann Dalton,
Secretary to John Brady TD – Lindsay O'Neill.

Cathaoirleach John Snell opened the meeting at 3.30 pm.
Cllr Gail Dunne left meeting at 3.31 and rejoined at 16.17pm.

ITEM 1.

Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Meeting held on the 22nd February 2021.

It was proposed by Cllr Shay Cullen, seconded by Cllr Gail Dunne and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Meeting held on the 22nd February 2021.

ITEM 2.

Presentation from the Planning Department to inform the Members on the details, including preplanning consultations and An Bord Pleanala advice notice issued with respect to Strategic Housing Development Application on Strategic Housing Development Application on c. 3.8ha site located on lands in the town land of Ballinalea, Ashford, Co. Wicklow, located south-east of Rosanna Close, Woodview and Aishleigh Estates. The development will consist of 117 no. Residential units.

Cllr Gail Dunne asked to remove himself from the meeting while this item was being discussed because of a possible conflict of interest.

Senior Engineer Fergal Keogh, Senior Executive Planner Edel Bermingham, and Executive Planner Marcus Linehan presented the details of this Strategic Housing Development application to the members. Drawings and details were circulated to the members prior to the meeting

Application details.

Applicant – Kingsbridge Design and Consultancy Ltd.

Date lodged to An Bord Pleanala – 23rd February 2021.

117 dwellings, mixture apartments, duplexes, single storey and double storey houses.

Creche building.

Connection to public road, footpaths and services via Rosanna Close/Woodview/Aishleigh estates.

12 Part V units to be provided.

Pumping station to be located on the site.

Closing date for receipt of 3rd party submissions 29th March 2021.

Members observations will form part of the CE's report.

Members observations:

Traffic / Road Infrastructure

- Concerns raised that access to development is through existing housing estate, will create congestion. Is it practical using this access route?
- Concerned about traffic in the area already 300 plus cars in the area, this development will create an extra 200 plus cars.
- Site is land locked, sensible route is access from the main Rathnew Road
- The Council sold affordable sites in the area and when people committed to purchasing sites, they did not envisage that their cul-de-sac would be the main route for this housing development.

Services/ Infrastructure

- Putting 117 houses into an already populated area, what provision is there for a reasonable amount of amenities?
- Facilities in local area in terms of schooling, there is a shortage of school places
- Don't want a repeat of what is happening in Greystones with schools, where there is no capacity
- Concerned the building side of the Department of the Education not doing their job
- Worried about providing housing and no schools
- Schools, doctors surgeries, sports clubs etc. are all under pressure already, an extra 117 units will put these facilities under more pressure
- Recreational land should be central to development
- Without knowing of plans to build or improve schools, the area is expanding too quickly and social infrastructure is not in place to service these developments.
- Adequate facilities need to be provided for all residents of Ashford

Pumping Station

- Pumping station is 50m from stream, concerned about smells odours etc. in relation to properties adjacent to the site.
- Concerned about who is responsible for maintenance of Pumping station

- Concerns about pumping station so close to existing holiday accommodation in relation to odours, people will not want to rent holiday accommodation.
- Pumping station located beside children's playground inappropriate
- Pumping station will be surrounded by secure fencing which won't look good
- Will the pumping station be taken in charge by Irish Water
- 4 Houses recently refused permission in the area do to provision of pumping station for this development being unacceptable.

Flooding

- Concern re. flooding – area is a flood zone, there is an issue with surface water, lands prone to flooding
- Cllr has been shown photos of the Fire Service pumping out the area after flooding

Miscellaneous

- Concerned about what effect development will have on the Draft County Development Plan population numbers. If Development goes ahead will it close down any further development
- Development doesn't comply with Local Area Plan
- We are going to be playing catch up for services in the area
- Small village services not there to support such a large development
- Not against housing, understand there is a shortage of houses, welcome part V however if it is not good we can't support it.

ITEM 4 (brought forward).

Update on works carried out in Glenealy.

Cathaoirleach John Snell and District Administrator Joan Sinnott welcomed Pat Staunton of Glenealy Tidy Towns to the meeting and commended him for his work and dedication to the Tidy Towns Group in Glenealy. The members stated that Glenealy really stands out as looking particularly well and that the Tidy Towns group is making a big difference in the locality.

District Engineer Kevin Scanlon presented a report to the members on works carried out by WMD in Glenealy Village since 2018, which was circulated to the members prior to the meeting. The report also included proposed works for 2021 including footpath works at junction of R752 Barnbawn road, NTA funded footpath link to Rathnew, surface dressing L5112 Ballymanus to Cross Roads and micro surfacing of Carrig View Estate.

The members queried when the pedestrian crossing works will be completed?

ITEM 3.

Parking Bye-Laws Schedule C – to include additional Loading Bay on Bridge Street.

District Administrator Joan Sinnott advised the members that due to the recent works at Fitzwilliam square and surrounding area, an additional loading Bay is being introduced on Bridge Street, and for this reason it must included and added to the WMD Appendix Map and Schedule C which forms part of the Wicklow County Council Parking Bye-Laws 2017.

Ms. Sinnott further advised that this addition is not interfering with the main body of the Bye-Laws and it is merely an addition to the Schedule C which relates solely to Wicklow Town.

And because the Refurbishment of Fitzwilliam Square has

- Created a multi-functional space
- A more attractive public realm
- Has improved accessibility in the general area
- Increased pedestrian areas.

The loading bay will be operation until 12 O'clock noon Monday to Friday in line with other loading bays in the town. After this time it will revert back to a pedestrianised area. The provision of the loading bay at this location will not result in the loss of any car parking spaces.

Comments/Queries

- Why can Bye Laws be amended at WMD level now? Members previously requested changes and were told that changes would have to go out on public display before being adopted at the main Council meeting – *Brian Gleeson – Legal advice was sought which confirmed that parts of the Schedules can be proposed for amendment at MD level provided the amendments do not affect the main body of the Bye-Laws. Any such amendments must also go before the main Council meeting for adoption.*
- A request was made to add the Parking Bye Laws on the next Agenda to discuss further possible changes.
- Loading Bay welcomed at this location.

A vote was taken, and it was unanimously agreed to amend the Parking Bye Laws Schedule C to include an additional loading bay on Bride Street.

FOR	Cllrs John Snell, Gail Dunne, Mary Kavanagh, Irene Winters, Paul O'Brien, Shay Cullen.
AGAINST	0
NOT PRESENT	0
ABSTAINING	0

The proposed amendment will now be put before the main Council meeting.

ITEM 5.

Estate Development Grants 2021.

District Administrator Joan Sinnott presented a report on Estate Development Grant applications received in 2021 which was circulated to the members prior to the meeting. Ms. Sinnott advised that in assessing the applications received and deciding how the €8000.00 should be allocated, it was

decided as with previous years that those estates 2 or less Council houses would not be considered. Other considerations were as follows:

- The size of the estate.
- Size of green areas to be maintained.
- How many Local Authority houses in the estate.
- What planned maintenance/improvement works is being proposed.
- Balance in account.

- 19 Applications received.
- 4 Applications not considered as just 1 LA house in estate (The Meadows, Season Park, Rossmore & Woodside).
- 1 Application had 2 LA houses but no a/c set up and no residents association (Pier View).
- 1 Application will have its green area unusable for 2021 due to housing construction (Mountainview NTMK).

13 applications assessed and considered as follows.

Ashford	Ballinalea	400
Glenealy	Gleann Chill	450
Glenealy	Carrig View	850
NTMK	Springfield Heights	400
NTMK	Sycamore Drive	600
Rathnew	Broomhall	400
Rathnew	Seaview Heights	600
Rathnew	Carrig Court	500
Roundwood	Ashwood & Vartry Heights	1000
Wicklow Town	Rosehill Upper & Middle Green	300
Wicklow Town	Darragh Park & Lakeview Grove	400
Wicklow Town	Broadlough View	1100
Wicklow Town	Mountainview	1000
		Total 8000

Comments/Queries:

- Scheme well advertised and this was commended by the members.
- Good geographical spread of applications receiving funding.
- Significant disparity in allocations, why? – *Joan Sinnott – applications were assessed taking account of no of LA' houses in estate, size of estate and green area, balance in a/c, proposed maintenance. Ms Sinnott also advised that some estates had not received funding in some time, whereas some receive funding every year.*

It was proposed by Cllr Shay Cullen, seconded by Cathaoirleach John Snell and unanimously agreed to allocate €8000 in Estate Development Funding as per the report circulated.

ITEM 6.

2021 Roads Programme.

District Engineer Kevin Scanlon presented a report on the proposed roads programme for 2021 which was circulated to the members prior to the meeting.

Mr. Scanlon advised that €1.3m in funding has been allocated to WMD for various projects to include

- Drainage jobs (16).
- Restoration Improvement works will be split into 2 categories – estates micro thin (7 estates) and overlay (11 locations mainly rural, will also included Wicklow Town).
- Restoration Maintenance – surface dressing (8 locations).

WMD crews now preparing for surface dressing jobs, and it is anticipated that the overlay jobs will go out to tender in the near future.

Comments/Queries:

- Will works at Ballinteskine include a culvert previously proposed as part of part 8 planning application, but turned down by the OPW? – *Kevin Scanlon – Roads programme will not include a culvert at this site.*
- Drainage works at Slaughter Hill not on list. This is a disappointment as road is in a dangerous condition.
- Resurfacing of Wicklow Main Street welcomed.
- The Main Street traders have experienced considerable disruption over the past 2 years with ongoing works. Is it possible for overlay to be carried out at night? – *Kevin Scanlon – will request a quote for day and night works on tender documents.*
- Disappointment that some older estates such as Darragh Park, Glemount, Mount Carmel not included in list for overlay – *Kevin Scanlon - If tenders come in under budget, there may be a possibility of adding projects to the list.*
- Road to Kilmacurragh in poor state, and the gardens there are an important visitor site. Can this road be looked at?
- Road at zebra crossing at the Bethlehem NS in poor state of repair, can this be addressed?
- Great volume of money allocated, and a good geographical spread of resources.
- Dissatisfaction was raised regarding the quality of some road overlay jobs which were completed in previous years.

ITEM 7.

District Engineers Report.

Covid: Staff stood down for lockdown 3 on Friday 8th January. Essential works only currently.

Housing:

- Work continuing on essential maintenance and repairs.
- Technical support to WCC-Housing Dept:
 - Re-lets and emergency accommodation:
3 standard, 0 emergency accommodation, 4 returned to WCC Housing Dept, 7 have works continuing on site, 0 house purchases being finalised.
 - DPGs: No update
 - 3 fire damaged houses work in progress.

Roads:

- 2021 Roads Programme finalised last week. Details to be discussed during meeting.
- Pothole repairs continue. Sites at Blainroe, Marlton Road done.
- Major drainage job at Blainroe, currently being addressed.

- Gritting since 19th February, 9 single and 0 double runs
- Road Opening Licences (approx. 15) continue to be processed and agreed.

Environment:

No updates

Planning

- 0 Section 254 applications processed for tables and chairs.

Playgrounds

- Procured repairs and some equipment replacement for adult gym along promenade

Public Liability

- 3 new cases (2 material damage, 1 personal injuries) and 1 settled/closed.

Projects

- Library. No change to last report. Late July is current estimate of opening date. On resumption of construction there is approx. 8 weeks of upper floor works, 4 weeks of basement works and 2 weeks to prepare for opening.
- Fitzwilliam Square. Substantially complete and open. Design for additional railing for monument area and bespoke planter for sloped area (upper part of pedestrian area) complete. Items on order for installation.

Comments/Queries:

- Problems with staining on parts of the pavement at Fitzwilliam Square, can it be power hosed? – *Kevin Scanlon – awaiting response from Roads Department on the issue.*
- Hand rail and planter installed at Fitzwilliam square welcomed.
- Update required as to when works will take place the wall at the Ball Alley – *Kevin Scanlon – An Engineer’s report has been requested and funding of €20k has been applied for. It is hoped to start works once funding is received.*
- When will the cycle path on the Dunbur Road be re-instated?
- When will Hawkstown link road open?
- Timeframe sought for when the Crematorium Wall will be put in place in Rathnew Cemetery? – *Kevin Scanlon – Will check with Senior Executive Officer Theresa O’Brien.*
- An issue with drainage at the Harbour is causing significant problem with odours. Can a drain be installed?
- When will the pedestrian crossing on Dunbur Road be installed? – *Kevin Scanlon – Contractor due to carry works in the coming week works now considered essential.*
- Market Square in need of cleaning.
- Can a ‘pull in’ location be considered for those wishing to staycation in Wicklow.
- A question was raised as to what is happening with the Mount Usher View Estate in Ashford which is unfinished. Reports of squatters residing there. There is also inadequate fencing of the site.
- It was proposed by Cllr Shay Cullen and seconded by Cllr Gail Dunne to formally seek support from fellow members in writing to the Planning Enforcement Section seeking a response and update with regards to Mount Usher View.

District Manager Brian Gleeson informed the members that there will be a plan put together for maintenance and cleaning of Fitzwilliam Square.

ITEM 8.

Correspondence.

District Administrator Joan Sinnott advised the members that there had been some queries received with regards to casual trading provision in the town, and that under the Casual Trading Bye Laws, there is only limited availability in Church Street Car Park.

Ms Sinnott informed the members that she had received an email from the Superintendent with regards to the possibility of introducing a ‘chatting bench’ in the town, following the success this initiative has had in Bray. The chatting bench provides an opportunity for members of the public engage with a member of An Garda Siochana in an informal way and having regards to social distancing. A location will need to be selected, and accompanied with signage.

The members proposed using the bench beside the Scout Hall for this purpose. All members in full support of the location and this initiative. The members requested that An Gardai be let know of the location and for the District Administrator to inform them of times.

ITEM 9.

AOB.

District Manager Brian Gleeson reminded the members to meet and agree a list of discretionary projects to be prioritised.

CATHAOIRLEACH JOHN SNELL CONCLUDED THE MEETING AT 5.30 PM.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated: _____