



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON ZOOM PLATFORM ON WEDNESDAY
14th JULY 2021**

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

Officials Present: Mr. Colm Lavery, District Manager
Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, ASO/Orlagh Hall CO

Presentation : Yvonne Cronin – DP Energy

Press : Ms. E Dodd WP

Public: None

Item 1: Votes of Sympathy.

The Members expressed votes of sympathy to all families who have recently lost loved ones. The members offered condolences to the families of the following -

Jonesy Hughes, Thomas Larkin and Paddy Delaney.

A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2 : Confirmation of Minutes from Annual Meeting held on the 15th June 2021.

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Annual Meeting held on the 15th June 2021 were proposed by Cllr Peir Leonard and seconded by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald.

Item 3 : Confirmation of Minutes from Ordinary Meeting held on the 15th June 2021.

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 15th June 2021 were proposed by Cllr Sylvester Bourke and seconded by Cllr Tommy Annesley.

Item 4 : Matters Arising.

No matters arising.

Item 5 : To receive a presentation from Yvonne Cronin of DP Energy

A presentation was given by Yvonne Cronin, DP Energy Ireland in relation to the proposed Shelmalere Offshore Windfarm. DP Energy is an Irish based renewable Energy developer and will be working with Iberdrola One of the world's largest renewable energy producers. This joint venture will directly contribute to Ireland's climate objective to reduce CO2 emissions by 51% by 2030 and achieve Net-Zero by 2050. An application for Foreshore Licence was submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage (DoHLGH) in November 2020. The file reference no is FS007261.

An additional application for Foreshore Licence will be submitted in July 2021 to include Geophysical Surveys as part of the investigative surveys that will take place. Both aerial and landfall ecology surveys commenced in April 2021. Shelmalere Offshore Windfarms range will be approx 300km² and 8.5km from shore. The next steps are public consultation, call for submissions, response's to same and await Ministers decision.

Cllr Murphy thanked Yvonne for the presentation and asked if there would be a community grants scheme for affected communities. Yvonne said there will be a large amount funds for the communities that are affected by the windfarm but we will have to shape the scheme first and a lot of work is taking place to ensure that every group is identified. Cllr Murphy said there are strong community groups in Arklow that need support especially over the last two years. Yvonne stated that they will have to figure out a plan to manage how funds are distributed to the groups.

Cllr Annesley asked for an indication of the number of wind turbines. He stated that it will be a busy place with all the wind turbines and the fishermen need to be informed. Yvonne said the figure could be between 70 and 84 turbines. Yvonne stated they are at the survey stage and they make sure the fishermen are informed.

Cllr Bourke asked what the timeframe is for this project and when will it be a runner and he asked if the public might develop turbine fatigue. Yvonne advised that it is at the early stages and permission to survey has been granted, it could start in 2028. 'Turbine fatigue' maybe an issue, but for the government to meet climate action commitments this has to happen.

Cllr Leonard asked for a map of the placement of turbines. She also suggested the community benefit fund could also help the natural environment which would be most affected by the development. Yvonne advised they are not near the designing stage yet but a photo montage were being designed to give the public an idea of how the wind farm may look. Cllr Leonard asked what the sea bed was like and was there much sea life? Yvonne said until we start our surveys we won't know. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report will have to take place to find out what life is in the sea. They don't want to make any difference to the wildlife.

Cllr Leonard asked if there any plans to make a difference to the environment – collaborate with NORRI for example. Yvonne advised that DP Energy want to help as much as we can with the

environment. Cllr Leonard stated the fishermen are worried. Yvonne said they have met 34 fishermen last week and will keep them informed.

Cllr Fitzgerald- asked how long will the public consultation take?

Yvonne advised five to six weeks. The consultation will be open for a month. It will be in the local and national press. It will be placed in the Garda station for viewing. Cllr Fitzgerald stated that the Ministers decision will take time to make. Yvonne advised that we will have to wait.

Cllr Murphy suggested a unit in Bridgewater for promotion of the scheme. Yvonne said that was a great idea.

Item 6 : To Adopt the Schedule of Municipal District Works.

Cllr Fitzgerald asked about the rehabilitation project on the Wexford Road. A cycleway and footpath out to the Kish Bridge would be very welcome. Avril Hill DE advised contractors are very hard to get at the moment.

Cllr Bourke asked for an update on the cycle route North of Arklow - Avril Hill DE advised that she is liaising with the NTA team to get this progressed.

Cllr Bourke asked for an update on getting the arch in the Pines rebuilt. Avril Hill DE advised Rob Mulhall EE is getting quotes.

Cllr Sylvester Bourke proposed the schedule of works to be adopted and Cllr Pat Fitzgerald seconded the proposal.

Item 7 : District Engineers Report.

Roads Programme

Work has commenced on the 2021 Roads Programme. District Engineer Avril Hill advised the work is half way through.

Surface dressing commenced on 31st May.

Regional Roads

<i>Road No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
R754	Redcross Main St.	Resurfacing & line marking	After T&V Renewal Scheme
R755	Rathdrum Main St.	Resurfacing & line marking	Completed

Local Roads

<i>Road No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
L-6124 & L-6125	Ballyteige, Rathdrum	Resurfacing, surface dressing & line marking	Complete
L-2180	Beech Road, Avoca	Resurfacing, surface dressing & line marking	Complete
L-2900	Emoclew Road, Arklow	Resurfacing, reconstruction of existing ramps & line marking	Due to commence shortly
L-6204	Tocher Hill, Killavaney	Resurfacing, surface dressing	Due to commence shortly

Safety Improvement Works

Proposed Scheme	Status
R747 – Woodenbridge to Aughrim – Safety Barriers	Completed
R752 at Avoca – Safety Barriers	Completed
R747 - Arklow and Woodenbridge – LED warning signs	Tender awarded
R752 Rathdrum & Laragh – LED Warning signs	Tender awarded
Ballycoog National School	Tender awarded
Bearnacle National School	Finalising design
Carysfort National School	Finalising design

Arklow MD has been advised that the LED warning signs are in stock so we will be liaising with the supplier to get these installed in the coming weeks.

Former National Roads

Proposed Scheme	Status
Wexford Road Arklow – Rehabilitation Project	Preliminary Design

Scheme will look at constructing footpaths and cycle way to the Wexford Road.
Currently seeking prices from Consultants for design.

Footpath Schemes

1. Rathdrum 90% complete – We have agreement with the property owner regarding the section to be infilled. We have requested an update from Eir with regard to the removal of the stay cable.
2. R747 Vale Rd – DE has been in contact with Contractor who is having difficulty with material supplies.

Other Road Projects

1. Saville’s Cross – Pedestrian Crossing (90% complete – line marking to be undertaken)

Town & Village Renewal Scheme

Redcross: Contractor is liaising with film production crew to establish a start date for the works.

Climate Adaption Funding

€200,000 has been received as part of the Climate Adaption Funding to complete the works on the L-6145, Garrymore to Ballincarrig. Works commenced week beginning 05/07/2021.
Road has been overlaid, contractor to return to surface dress.

Local Improvement Scheme

There are 2 local improvement schemes confirmed in the District in 2021.

Kilahurler, Arklow – 630m of road – Drainage works underway, contractor to surface
Knockanree, Avoca – 220m of road – Drainage works complete, contractor to surface

Community Involvement Scheme

Kilahurler, Arklow - Drainage works complete, contractor to surface

Additional Outdoor Infrastructure Fund

We have received funding for 2 schemes in the district

Arklow - €65,000 – Plans as discussed at the last District meeting.

Rathdrum - €50,000 – Complement the resurfacing and relining works to the main street and the square.

Public realm furniture has been ordered. We are waiting on delivery date.

Safe to Schools

Round 1 approval SS Michael and Peter Junior School and St. John's Senior National School. DE to meet with Green Schools Representative 13/07/21.

NTA Schemes

The 2021 allocations for Arklow have been confirmed as follows. Projects are being led by NTA team in WCC with input from AMD.

Project Code	Project Name	Description
WCC/11/0004	Arklow – Woodenbridge - Shillelagh	Greenway project. Currently compiling the Planning Application.
WCC/20/0003	Arklow Transport Study	Awarded to consultant DBFL. Baseline assessment is currently underway, next stage will be stakeholder engagement.
WCC/21/0007	Dublin Road to Wexford Road	Tender documents are being prepared for appointment of consultant.
WCC/21/0009	Arklow Main St to Train Station	
WCC/21/0013	Lower Main Street, Tinahask Road & Dock Road to South Quay	
WCC/21/0024	R747 Vale Road	Waiting on contractor to confirm re-commencement date delay to sourcing materials.
	Rathdrum	Completed.

Housing Construction

No changes to previous report.

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, IW & 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 project consists of a terrace of 7 no., 2bed houses, and is now fully approved by the DHLGH. The project has commenced on site, and the completion date is expected to be in July 2022.

Comments -

Cllr Fitzgerald stated with extra funding for Local Improvement Scheme, hopefully Wicklow and Arklow Municipal District will get some funding.

Colm Lavery DM advised we haven't received any information but the Department will be in touch. They have not indicated what we will receive for privately owned lanes to complete drainage and road surfacing works. There are 40/50 applications on hand. Last year only 4/5 applications were funded. We hope to fund more this year.

Cllr Fitzgerald- Complimented the excellent work done so far. The work is done to the highest standard.

Cllr Murphy- advised of a pothole at Johnstown which has caused up to nine burst tyres. Avril Hill DE advised we received no emails/calls. Cllr Annesley advised that the pothole was in the Wexford area.

Cllr Leonard- asked for an update on outdoor infrastructure and what we were getting? Avril Hill DE advised she can give a breakdown.

Cllr Leonard- advised that the pods are very expensive and it would be good to see what we are getting for the money.

Avrill Hill DE advised the most expensive piece of infrastructure is a planter that has seats, it cost €3500.00.

Cllr Murphy advised the DE to be conscious where they are placed for people with Disabilities and prams etc.

Avrill Hill DE advised that they will follow all the guidelines.

Cllr Bourke said well done on all the work that has taken place and is concerned about the cobblelock path outside Ferrybank butchers. He warned that there could be a claim due to someone falling a few weeks ago. Can this be repaired as soon as possible.

Cllr Kennedy thanked Rob Mulhall and Avril Hill. A huge volume of work has been done. Funding for Arklow and Rathdrum is very much welcomed. Rathdrum Main Street is a fabulous job and many people have been thanking the Council. Delighted to hear Tochar Hill will be done. Cllr Kennedy asked Avril Hill DE to have a look at the L2004-3 Annacurragh, it is in a terrible state.

Cllr Bourke- asked if the Greenway route is to be CPO'd?

Colm Lavery DM advised that WCC is currently in discussions with the land owners. Planning documents are been prepared. Planning occurs first and then CPO but no decision has been made yet.

Colm Lavery DM advised we received a notification from Fáilte Ireland to advise that Arklow MD have received funding for Abbey Lane to put in a cover and provide a public area for outdoor dining for restaurants and coffee shops. This is very much welcomed.

Cllr Murphy advised of the terrible parking at Ferrybank Butchers which is contributing to the cobbles being loose. It is difficult to drive her chair over this part of the path. Advised, that this needs to be looked at.

Cllr Fitzgerald stated that it may be a private matter and not the councils as the building may own the footpath.

Cllr Murphy advised that the cobbling and the footpath seriously needs to be looked at.

Avril Hill DE advised that Rob and she are looking into the property boundary as some properties are not registered on land direct.

Item 8 : Update on Columbarium Wall.

Avril Hill DE advised that an amount is put away each year for the Columbarium Wall.

Cllr Murphy advised that we were second in line after Bray.

Cllr Leonard asked if there is any way to phase the project into 3 phases?

Cllr Murphy advised waiting to see how it operates in the Bray Graveyard and we would learn from this. We need to work on this as we are still discussing this after 3 years.

Cllr Leonard asked if the council can work with the Memorial contractor, to see if they can do this project cheaper.

The members requested an email outlining the situation and future plans.

Item 9 : To discuss the Maintenance of St Gabriel's Cemetery.

Concerns have been raised about the upkeep of graveyards in Arklow Municipal District.

Avril Hill DE advised we sent out the contract to three contractors for maintenance and it was awarded to one contractor. A Schedule of works was provided to the contractor. She will speak to the contractor about maintenance.

Cllr Kennedy advised that he has received call about the need to cut the grass in Castlemacadam Cemetery in Avoca. He also asked for an update on plans for St Gabriels Cemetery.

Cllr Murphy asked about trees in the graveyard.

Cllr Fitzgerald advised that there is a problem with drainage at the bottom of St Gabriel's Graveyard and the drains being full. The biggest issue is in the old section of the graveyard, the headstones are demolished and does not reflect well, it looks dreadful. There is also a problem with people driving through the grave yard, a bollard had been removed and now people were driving in the cemetery. He also said that graveyards can be difficult to manage but he thinks more of an effort could be made in the old section,

Cllr Murphy advised that it needs to be looked at and requested a short report before September from AMD.

Cllr Leonard said a TUS project could be developed which would see someone maintain the graveyard while encouraging biodiversity.

Cllr Fitzgerald advised he has no issue with the grass cutting contractors.

Cllr Kennedy advised that we have voluntary groups in some rural graveyards who are struggling trying to help maintain the graveyards. We should help these groups with giving them lawnmowers/strimmers. Cllr Murphy seconded this.

Cllr Kennedy requested that this item is put back on the agenda for September – members need to discuss budget options first.

Item 10 : To discuss Town Twinning Request

Cllr Bourke said we should look into this and research.

Cllr Kennedy said it was a shock for the people in Rathdrum. People in Rathdrum need to think about it. We don't know what ties we have with them. We need to find out what the town in Italy feel they have in common with Rathdrum? We shouldn't have a twinning for the sake of having a twinning.

Cllr Bourke advised of Twinning with Rathdrum and Castlerea but COVID stopped this.

Cllr Murphy advised of putting this on the agenda for the meeting in September.

Cllr Leonard suggested getting schools involved and asking children to research towns that could be twinned with Rathdrum.

Cllr Kennedy said people in Rathdrum should have a say and advertise it and ask if they should have a twinning.

Item 11 : To discuss Hedge Cutting in the district.

Avril Hill DE- received calls from the Public with reports of hedge cutting, these are sent on to the GSS and the area is inspected where hedge cutting will take place if appropriate. We are still in nesting season but if you contact me directly I will look at them.

Cllr Bourke- trimming of hedges taken place on Beech Rd is very welcome as briars were growing on to the footpath. Landowners are afraid to do a safety trim but common sense is needed, there are dangerous areas such as Cornagower, Brittas Bay. One swipe of a hedgecutter can improve visibility and allow people to walk.

Hugh Doyle is doing great work.

Cllr Kennedy said well done to Avril Hill DE, the footpaths in Rathdrum are great - people had to go on to the road with a buggy in Annacurra due to an overgrown ditch.

Cllr Leonard asked if the problem areas could be cut right back in the winter and learn to manage at the right time of the year. Cllr Bourke advised by mid-July the hedges will have grown back out again. A safe trim is needed for safety of pedestrians and cars.

Item 12 : Correspondence

Correspondence was received in relation to proposal for a rainbow pedestrian crossing.

Members discussed this, the proposal will be assessed further with regard to current road safety standards and potential works along the Main Street.

Item 13 : A.O.B

Cllr Annesley raised the issue regarding anti-social behaviour in a lane way between Tesco and the Wexford Road. It was closed previously and was reopened.

Cllr Leonard advised she was there Monday and the area was covered in rubbish and there was two serious incidents recently.

Cllr Murphy asked if Avril Hill could look into this?

This was discussed by the member's and it will be assessed further.

Cllr Annesley received a request from a group looking for an area for Axe throwing (sport) to take place?

Cllr Leonard asked if they could link up with football, GAA groups. There are members all over Wicklow. The area behind the Coral Leisure centre behind the old pitch and put was recommended.

Cllr Murphy asked Cllr Annesley and Cllr Leonard to give a report in September.

Cllr Fitzgerald raised an issue about boundary issues in Murrell Drive and asked for clarification for private residents in the estate.

Cllr Bourke advised he invited the Minister of OPW Pat O'Donovan to visit Arklow to discuss the flood relief scheme. He invited Cllr Murphy if the Minister visits Arklow. Also raised the issue with Barndarrig water supply and when it will be restored. Review the ground water samples in the area. The environment section will follow up and check. Colm Lavery DM will follow up.

Cllr Leonard asked if she can be invited to the meeting with the minister for the Flood Relief Scheme. She added a professional planner had been employed to make a submission on the Arklow Flood Scheme to An Bord Pleanala on behalf of local businesses and the Save Maritime Arklow Campaign.

Cllr Leonard asked if The Cove can become a designated swimming area.

Cllr Leonard asked for an update on the North Beach situation regarding the railings and safety. Also have the toilets at the harbour, has a location been identified. This is been followed up.

Cllr Kennedy raised an issue in relation to housing fabric upgrades and that Conary were promised upgrades 6 years ago and haven't received any works for facia and soffit. This is going on far too long and something needs to be done.

Members discussed the issue regarding windows not being upgraded because of funding. All members agreed that more funding for the upgrade of social housing is needed. Members asked if this can be kept on the agenda and also brought to plenary level.

Cllr Kennedy went to say he was passionate about this and that the elderly tenants need to be looked after.

Cllr Kennedy also wants to wish the under-16 County camogie team best of luck in the All Ireland final.

Colm Lavery advised up the public toilet opening hours at Castlepark and Main Street car parks are open from 9am-6pm and 9am to 4pm.

Cllr Leonard asked would someone investigate the wastewater system in the Graveyard public toilet.

Cllr Murphy raised an issue with the smell of sewage on Ferrybank/Wheelie Pump Corner.

Cllr Murphy said she is delighted that the plans for Avondale Park now include changing facilities.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 8th September 2021.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: _____

Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District