

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup>  
APRIL, 2021, COMMENCING 2PM VIA ZOOM**

**PRESENT:**

COUNCILLORS P. KENNEDY CATHAOIRLEACH, T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, M. CREAN, A. CRONIN, S. CULLEN, G. DUNNE, E. DOYLE, A. FERRIS, P. FITZGERALD, A. FLYNN KENNEDY, T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, M. KAVANAGH, P. LEONARD, G. MCMANUS, D. MITCHELL, J. MULLEN, M. MURPHY, J. NEARY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, R. O'CONNOR, G. O'NEILL, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, E. TIMMINS, G. WALSH AND I. WINTERS.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

MR. F. CURRAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
MR. B. GLEESON, HEAD OF FINANCE  
MS. L. GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES/ MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR  
MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MS. B. KILKENNY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MS. D. KENNEDY, LAW AGENT  
MR. L. FITZPATRICK, HEAD OF IS SUPPORT  
MS. S. WALSH, SENIOR PLANNER  
MS. J. CARROL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
MS. H. DENNEHY, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
MS. T. O'BRIEN, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
MS. C. FLOOD, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
MS. G. LANG, A/ STAFF OFFICER  
MS. H. GRENE, BARNCAT CONSULTING  
MR. P. HENDRICK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER NBI  
MR. T.J. MALONE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER NBI DEVELOPMENT  
MR. FERGAL MULLIGAN, NBP PROGRAMME DIRECTOR  
MR. NIALL BEIRNE, HEAD OF STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS & STAKEHOLDER  
ENGAGEMENT NBI

At the commencement of the meeting a roll call was taken. The Meetings Administrator advised of meetings etiquette for online meetings and that the press and some members of the public were also present.

**Votes of Sympathy**

Elected Members passed a vote of sympathy to the families of the late Mr. Patrick Kavanagh, Mrs. Rose Murphy, Ms. Sheelagh Brady and Ms. Ursula McCord. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

**ITEM NO. 1**

**To confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2021.**

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. S. Cullen and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2021.

**ITEM NO. 2**

**To confirm and sign minutes of special meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2021.**

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. S. Bourke and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of special meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2021.

**ITEM NO.3**

**To consider the disposal of the property comprised in Folio WW2791L, in the townland of Sheephouse, Arklow, being the property known as 14 Father Redmond Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow to Ms. Denise Rowlands, C/O C.J. Louth and Son Solicitors, 5 & 6 Ferrybank, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.**

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. M. Murphy and agreed to dispose of the property comprised in Folio WW2791L, in the townland of Sheephouse, Arklow, being the property known as 14 Father Redmond Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow to Ms. Denise Rowlands, C/O C.J. Louth and Son Solicitors, 5 & 6 Ferrybank, Arklow, Co. Wicklow as set out in statutory notice circulated.

**ITEM NO. 4**

**To consider the disposal of 0.0013 hectares or thereabouts of land comprised in Folio WW6103F Co. Wicklow in the townland of Dunlavin Upper Townland, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow to Mr. Dermot Kelly, 1a The Green, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow.**

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Glennon, seconded by Cllr. A. Cronin and agreed to dispose of 0.0013 hectares or thereabouts of land comprised in Folio WW6103F Co. Wicklow in the townland of Dunlavin Upper Townland, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow to Mr. Dermot Kelly, 1a The Green, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow.

**ITEM NO. 5**

**To receive a presentation: Draft Wicklow County Development Plan, 2021-2027.**

Ms. Sorcha Walsh, Senior Planner gave a presentation covering the following areas. She advised that the purpose of the presentation is by way of information, to keep the elected members up to date with the current status of the County Development Plan Process. She advised that planning staff have been in communication with most of the elected members over the past number of weeks and that it is important to ensure that all elected members had the same information at the same time.

**Presentation:**

- **Plan Process**
  - Proposed draft issued to Members on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2021
  - The proposed draft shall be deemed to be the draft development plan, unless, within 8 weeks of the submission of the draft development to the Members, the Planning Authority, by resolution, amends that draft development plan
  - May 10<sup>th</sup> – Council Meeting – Members will vote on proposed amendments
- **Volume 1 – Proposed Draft Plan – 20 Chapters**
- **Overarching Themes: Healthy Place making, Economic Opportunity and Climate Change**
- **Volume 2 – Town Plans**
  - Level 4 Baltinglass, Newtownmountkennedy, Rathdrum
  - Level 5 Ashford, Auhrim, Carnew, Dunlavin, Tinahely
  - Level 6 Avoca, Donard, Newcastle, Roundwood, Shillelagh
  - Level 7 Laragh – Glendalough land use and tourism plan
- **Volume 3 – Appendices**
  1. Development & Design Standards
  2. Single Rural Houses Design Guidelines
  3. Housing Strategy

4. Record of Protected Structures (proposed additions / deletions / amendments)
  5. Wind Energy Strategy
  6. Strategic Environmental Assessment - Environmental Report
  7. Appropriate Assessment – Natura Impact Report and Determination
  8. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
  9. Infrastructure Assessment
  10. Statement Outlining Compliance with Ministerial Guidelines
- **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April**  
Submission of amendments to proposed Draft Plan  
Amendments will be collated and circulated to Members prior to the Council meeting.
  - **Next Plan Stage**
    - Current Stage – Members consider proposed draft County Development Plan (8 weeks from 17<sup>th</sup> March).
    - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April – Submission of amendments to proposed Draft Plan
    - 10<sup>th</sup> May – Council Meeting
    - Draft Development Plan adopted
    - End of May – Draft Plan goes on public display for 12 weeks
    - Q3 2021 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Chief Executive’s Report prepared on submissions.
    - Q4 2021 – Consideration of draft Plan and 2<sup>nd</sup> Chief Executive Report.
    - Q1 2022 – Proposed amendments stage and adoption of new Plan.

Elected Members made the following contributions which were responded to by the Executive:

- Up to what stage can elected members make submissions
- Concern expressed that the overarching thrust of the draft plan is promoting large development in four big towns.
- Reference made to a housing need assessment and has Wicklow County Council carried out this assessment.
- Does the review of the national development plan, currently underway effect the Wicklow County Development Plan process
- Call for a physical meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May to consider the Plan having regard to the importance of the topic
- Concern expressed in relation to the population figures and by the time the Plan is published the figures will be out of date.
- Can the Plan provide that if areas are not utilising population figures that these figures can then be absorbed into other areas?
- Call for elected members to be provided with a hard copy of the documentation on request

At the conclusion of the discussion elected members were reminded of their obligations under Part 15 of the Local Government reform act, and that the responsibility is on each elected members to be compliant with the procedures for making disclosures either in advance of the Council meeting or during the Council meeting.

#### **ITEM NO. 6**

##### **To consider the Chief Executive’s Report, March 2021.**

The Elected Members were circulated with the Chief Executive’s Monthly Management Report, March 2021 on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2021.

The Chief Executive highlighted the following:

- €7.14m was awarded under the URDF for the Bray Harbour Area Integrated Regeneration which will be used for the potential harbour wall extension, to extend amenity areas, improve street lighting, paving, parking and linking the promenade with the harbour and relocating the boat storage
- €500,000 allocated under Blueway Project. 5 nodes along the coast will be identified and will facilitate improved water access, trail head and trail links and marketing and signage
- Referred to the Outdoor Seating and Accessories for Tourism and Hospitality Business Scheme in place. Grants are available for up to €4,000 for 75% of the ex VAT cost of equipment such as out door tables and chairs, umbrellas, heaters etc. The expenditure is to be incurred between 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021 and 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2021.
- There is also €200,000 available to Local Authorities for weather proofing and outdoor dining so Wicklow will be identifying areas that are flexible, innovative and will facilitate year round use will and see if an application can be made.

Elected members raised questions which were responded to by the Chief Executive and the relevant Director of Services.

#### **ITEM NO. 7**

##### **To consider the Draft Wicklow County Council Annual Service Delivery Plan, 2021.**

Elected Members were circulated with the Draft Wicklow County Council Annual Service Plan, 2021 on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2021.

Ms. L. Gallagher, Director of Services, advised that the adoption of the Annual Service Delivery Plan is a reserved function under the Local Government Reform Act, 2014 and that each local authority is obliged to prepare and adopt a plan. The purpose of the plan is to set out the objectives and the performance standards for the Council's service delivery areas for 2021. She advised that the Plan is set against the backdrop of the high level goals contained within the 5 year Corporate Plan. It also gives an overview of the budget landscape for 2021, which was adopted by the Council in 2020 and which the activities in the ASDP take account of over the various service delivery areas.

Appendix 1 of the plan details the annual performance indicators which are monitored by NOAC and appendix 2 sets out the key baseline data target outputs for 2021. Elected Members noted that the ASDP was considered at the Corporate Policy Group meeting that morning and is recommended for adoption by the CPG. It was proposed by Cllr. A. Flynn Kennedy, seconded by Cllr. R. O'Connor and agreed to adopt the Draft Wicklow County Council Annual Service Delivery Plan, 2021.

#### **ITEM NO. 8**

##### **To note the draft Wicklow County Council Annual Report, 2020.**

The Elected Members were circulated with the draft Wicklow County Council Annual Report, 2020 on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.

Ms. L. Gallagher, Director of Services, advised the Elected Members that this is a reserved function of the Elected Members to adopt an Annual Report by the 30<sup>th</sup> June each year. She advised that the annual financial statements are due to be listed for consideration at Council meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May next the figures of which can then be included in the final annual report, along with the NOAC performance indicators, which are due to be submitted by the 30<sup>th</sup> April. The draft Annual Report is for noting and will be presented for adoption at the June meeting. The Elected Members agreed to note the draft Wicklow County Council Annual Report, 2020.

#### **ITEM NO. 9**

**To note the Wicklow County Council Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Annual Report, 2020.**

The Elected Members were circulated with the Wicklow County Council LCDC Annual Report, 2020 on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2021. Mr. M. Nicholson, Director of Services advised that the Council is obliged to prepare the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Annual Report each year. He advised that the Report sets out the various activities under the LECP, grant schemes, Age Friendly, Comhairle na Nog, SICAP, Healthy Wicklow etc and that the LCDC meets generally once a month. Elected Members noted the LCDC Annual Report, 2020 as presented.

**ITEM NO. 10**

**To consider the changing of the Education Nominee of the Wicklow LCDC.**

Mr. M. Nicholson, Director of Services , advised that there are currently 19 members on the LCDC and that it is proposed to include new Member, Ms. Eileen Cullen, representing the Kildare Wicklow Education Training Board. He advised that this was noted by the CPG that morning and agreed. It was proposed by Cllr. M. Murphy, seconded G. Dunne and agreed to the changing of the Education Nominee of the Wicklow LCDC to Ms. Eileen Cullen.

**ITEM NO. 11**

**To note and receive a presentation on the Wicklow Migrant Integration Strategy, 2020-2026.**

Ms. Hannah Greene, Barncat Consulting gave a presentation covering the following areas and answered the Elected Members queries:

- Why a Migrant Strategy?
- Developing the Integration Strategy
- What did we learn
- An outline of the Integration Strategy
- For asylum seekers and refugees
- Access to public services
- Combating Racism
- Education and young people
- Employment and language
- Active community engagement

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Dunne, seconded by Cllr. D. O'Brien and agreed to note the Wicklow Integration Strategy, 2020-2026.

**ITEM NO. 12**

**To note the identification and development of Decarbonisation Zones in County Wicklow.**

Ms. B. Kilkenny, Director of Services advised that the identification of and development of decarbonisation zones proposal was considered by the Climate Action and biodiversity SPC. Ms. Kilkenny gave a presentation covering the following areas and responded to the Elected Members queries

- Wicklow County Council Climate Action
- Wicklow's First Decarbonisation Zone
- What is a Decarbonisation Zone (DZ)?
- Climate Action Charter Targets
- Wicklow's Commitments to Climate Action
- Mitigation: Reduce Emissions
- First Decarbonisation Zone (DZ)
- Criteria For Assessment – 7 key elements
- Arklow – Recommendation for Wicklow's First Decarbonisation Zone

- Next Steps

The elected members congratulated all involved and welcomed the initiative.

### **ITEM NO. 13**

#### **To consider the Wicklow County Council Civic Memorial Policy.**

The Elected Members were circulated with the Wicklow County Council Civic Memorial Policy on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2021.

Ms. L. Gallagher, Director of Services, advised the Elected Members that the purpose of the policy is to put into place a procedure for the naming of key infrastructure across all five municipal districts. She advised that there were two main parts to the policy; one being the naming of key infrastructure such as bridges, roundabouts, plazas etc and the other part in relation to community memorials such as trees, benches etc. She advised that the policy proposes that each Municipal District would continue to accept, consider and approve applications in relation to community memorials (trees and benches etc) and that a Civic Memorial Policy Committee ( set out on page 12) comprising the Cathaoirleach of WCC, Director of CCSD, Chair of the CCSD SPC, SEO Corporate Service and key staff with knowledge in this area being the County Librarian, County Arts Officer, Heritage Officer, Archivist and Relevant Municipal District Engineer be set up to consider the naming of key infrastructure within the County.

The policy provides that recommendations will be brought to the Corporate Policy Group meeting for consideration to determine whether the applications will be brought to full Council meeting or referred to the relevant Municipal District. Elected Members noted that it was also agreed following the CPG meeting that morning to include the relevant Municipal District Cathaoirleach on the CMP Committee.

Following a discussion on the matter in which the policy was broadly welcomed it was agreed to give the MDs an opportunity to consider same and that the policy would come back before the plenary council in due course.

#### **Time extension**

On the proposal of the Cathaoirleach, seconded by Cllr. I. Winters, it was agreed to extend the time of the meeting to 5.30 p.m.

### **ITEM NO. 14**

#### **To receive a presentation: National Broadband Ireland (N.B.I.): Status and update; County Wicklow.**

Mr. Peter Hendrick, Chief Executive Officer NBI, Mr. T.J. Malone, Chief Executive Officer NBI Deployment, Mr. Fergal Mulligan, NBP Programme Director and Mr. Niall Beirne, gave a presentation covering the following areas and responded to the Elected Members queries:

- National Broadband Plan Project Overview
- Progress update
- County Wicklow Overview
- County Wicklow Deployment Areas
- Kilcoole Deployment Area
- Blessington Deployment Area
- Understanding our Deployment Strategy
- How we are rolling out the NBI network
- Understanding our Operations

- NBI's Network Design and Build Process
- Infrastructure Upgrades
- Working together in Support of the NBP

**ITEM NO. 15(a)**

**To consider and adopt the Mid East Region Homeless Action Plan 2021-2023.**

Elected Members were circulated with the Mid East Region Homeless Action Plan 2021-2023 on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2021. Ms. Jackie Carroll, Senior Executive officer, gave a broad outline of the contents of the Homeless Action Plan referencing key targets and outcomes. It was proposed by Cllr. S. Cullen, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed to adopt the Mid East Region Homeless Action Plan 2021-2023.

**ITEM NO. 15(b)**

**Update on Homeless figures (as agreed at Council meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2021).**

It was agreed by the Elected Members to defer this item to next scheduled meeting of Wicklow County Council on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2021.

**ITEM NO. 16**

**To consider the Wicklow County Council Parking Bye-Laws 2017 – Amendment to Schedule C and Map Wicklow Municipal District to include additional Loading Bay on Bridge Street, Wicklow Town.**

Elected Members were circulated with the amendment document and Map on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2021. It was proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed to amend the Wicklow County Council Parking Bye-Laws 2017 - Amendment to Schedule C and Map Wicklow Municipal District to include additional Loading Bay on Bridge Street, Wicklow Town.

**ITEM NO. 17**

**To receive a presentation: Wicklow County Council Age Friendly Strategy update.**

It was agreed by the Elected Members to defer this item to next scheduled meeting of Wicklow County Council on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2021.

**Congratulations:** The Cathaoirleach extended a vote of congratulation and farewell to Ms. Gillian Lang, who has worked in meetings administration and elected members support services for a number of year, and that this is her last Council meeting as she moves on to another post within the local authority on promotion.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

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**CLLR. PAT KENNEDY  
CATHAOIRLEACH  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

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**MS. LORRAINE GALLAGHER  
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES/  
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**

**Confirmed at meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2021.**