

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

HELD IN DISTRICT CHAMBER, TOWN HALL

MONDAY 28th APRIL 2025 at 15.00pm

Present: Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr Graham Richmond, Cllr Danny Alvey, Cllr Shane Langrell, Cllr Paul O'Brien, Cllr John Snell
Cllr Gail Dunne joined the meeting online

In Attendance: District Manager, Brian Gleeson
District Engineer, William Halligan
District Administrator, Georgina Franey

Michael Griffith and Deirdre Pemberton from the Wicklow Visually Impaired Group attended as observers.

Leas Cathaoirleach Graham Richmond opened the meeting at 15.00pm.

ITEM 1

Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 24th March 2025

It was proposed by Councillor Paul O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Shane Langrell and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on 24th March 2025.

ITEM 2

District Engineers Report

Updates were provided by District Engineer William Halligan as follows:

Housing:

❖ Relets/Prelets

- 3no. houses currently being worked on, through WCC Housing Framework by MD,
- 4no. houses are being managed by WCC Direct Labour,
- 1no. house returned to WMD for refurbishment – To Be Tendered.
- 1no. house returned to Housing for allocation.

❖ Maintenance and operations

- On-going repairs and maintenance being progressed as required on housing stock within the WMD.

DTTAS Roads Programme:

DTTAS Allocations for 2025 Projects on the Restoration Improvement and Maintenance Programme have been reviewed based on pavement condition ratings.

❖ Restoration Improvement

Tenders on Restoration Improvement works commenced in February 2025. Works include a variety of techniques depending on classification and condition of Road.

Advance works such as drainage and verge widening works has started on RI Roads with a mixture of MD staff and sub contactors. Main list of RI 2025 projects below.

Location	Length of Works (m)	Completed to Date
L5099 Rocky Road Improvement Project	1200	Road Closure implemented from 20 th Jan 2025 to 29 th August 2025. Works being carried out by WCC NNR (Non-National Roads) Team.
L5036 Ballinastoe Rd	1427	Works Complete
L5597 Milltown Lane	659	Tender Documents in preparation
R765 Newtown - Roundwood	2650	Contract awarded
R750 Dublin Road Wicklow	300	Contract awarded
L1096 Ashford - Ballymanus Lower	936	Works Complete
L5070 Ashford - Ballinalea	405	Works Complete - additional project completed in conjunction with L1096
R764 Ashford - Roundwood	80	Works Complete
R-751 Marlton Road	222	Contract awarded
L5099 Rocky Road (Wicklow Town)	333	Contract awarded
Market Street	80	Contract awarded

❖ Restoration Maintenance

The Countywide Restoration Maintenance Programme 2025 was submitted in February. Advance works such as drainage and verge widening works all completed before start of RM Roads. Main list of RM 2025 projects below. The road Maintenance programme is due to commence in Wicklow MD mid-May. Chippings are currently being delivered to depots around the district.

Location	Length of Works (m)	Completed to Date
L1036 Stoneypass	1119	-
L5056 Slemaine	2817	-
L5056 Baliliam Lane	703	-

L1060 Malones Lane	803	-
L5077 Raheen	1069	-
L1059 St John's Road	1185	-
R764 Knockatemple - Tomcoyle	5362	-
L1059 Loughdan - Drummin	4494	-
R764 Inchanappa south to Killiskey cross	2588	-

❖ **Drainage**

- General works on verge drains, drainage inlets, gullies and road crossings to outlets are ongoing throughout the MD.
- Programme for cleaning of gullies continuing within Wicklow MD. Drain surveys are still being carried out on problem areas as required.
- Installation of drainage pipes/ road crossings along L1091 Moneystown at junction with Knockaphrumpa Lane commenced 19/02/2025.
- Installation of drainage pipes/ road crossings along R764 Ashford-Roundwood road commenced 21/02/2025, advanced works for RI and RM Project.
- Installation of drainage pipes/ road crossings along L5036 Ballinastoe Rd commenced 24/02/2025, advanced works for RI Project.

❖ **Local Improvement Scheme Projects**

- One LIS project has been allocated to the Wicklow Municipal District for 2025 at Wicklow Gap Road, Glendalough. A site visit has been conducted and the project will be tendered in the coming weeks.

❖ **Safety Projects**

- Works to increase visibility and road safety at Castlekevin, L5087 junction with L1076 and L5087 junction with L5587.
- Pedestrian crossing to be installed as part of a housing development condition in Ashford, at junction with R763 and R764 within coming weeks.
- Bollards installed at St Joseph's School in Newtownmountkennedy.
- 4 No. Electronic speed signs have been purchased and will be installed at Ashwood Roundwood, St Patricks Road, Wicklow, Greenhills Road and Newtownmountkennedy (delay in order from supplier). All units expected delivery in approx. 2 weeks.
- Speed limit review. Circular RST-04-2024 issued by Department of Transport on Speed Limits Implementation revised date of 7th February 2025. All works completed.
- Pedestrian crossing civil works completed on the Dunbur Road, issue, ESB to energise after this.
- Solar powered driver feedback signage has been ordered for Ballinahinch, Laragh and Newtownmountkennedy. Poles have been erected in advance of commissioning by WCC at two of the sites. Additional order for feedback sign at Marlton Road, poles to be installed. Order delayed at supplier end. All units expected delivery in approx. 2 weeks.

Abbey Grounds:

- Project Ongoing. Contractor commenced works on June 10th. Schedule for completion of works for the Coach House Cafe has been moved back to Q2 2025.
- Second-fix electrical work ongoing.
- Detailed designs continuing to be progressed for the Amphitheatre and performance area.
- Siberian Larch finish for new buildings now installed.
- Conservation and restoration works to existing footbridge at Abbey grounds completed at the end of September. Similar works for Pedestrian Entrance and ramp to Wentworth Place access completed.
- Civil Works to install footpaths and ducting for services and drainage in the park area ongoing. Works carried out in cooperation with Local Authority Staff.
- Planting programme for the park has commenced.

Community Recognition Fund/Outdoor Recreation:

- Brittas Bay Blueway funding for accessibility works; Chestnut fencing to be erected in coming months in order to protect the dunes.
- Wicklow Seafront Toilets – Project complete.
- The Assembly Hall facility works are now complete internally. Still waiting for ESB to energise.
- Repairs to the Handball alley are complete.

Town & Village Renewal:

- Wicklow Town, Connectivity Project – three ornate arches with lanterns are currently being fabricated for installation along the Doctor's Steps. WTT liaising with fabricator to finalise fabrication and install dates.
- Compactor bins have been installed in Glendalough, Laragh and Roundwood to promote a cleaner environment but also to increase efficiency from an operational point of view. These bins have smart technology built into them and will communicate back to base when full and require emptying. Efficiency of big belly bins has increased from 12% at year start (2024) to 38% presently.

NTA Projects:

- Consultants still working on pedestrian and cycle improvement scheme as part of the Pathfinder project, initial survey completed on the Marlton Road and Rocky Road, linking to the train station on Station Road. A topographical survey of roads and footpaths has taken place along entire route. This information is required as part of the detailed design process.
- Working with NTA to look at Market Street junction with respect to turning movements of buses/ larger vehicles.

WCC General Projects/Maintenance:

- On-going maintenance of grass care, weed control and hedge cutting around Wicklow town.

WMD Playgrounds:

- Wicklow MD Playgrounds repairs and inspections ongoing.
 - The Murrough Playground – New Sand Digger at sand pit, to be completed 25th April 2025. Damaged Zipwire cable ordered and possibly replaced at same visit. Collapsed timber from 'talk' unit has been removed (replacement to be reviewed). The seat has also been removed from the Zipwire to prevent its use until repaired.
 - Ballynerrin Playground – New Cradle Swing set to be installed 25th April 2025.

- Roundwood Playground – New ‘Wobble Bridge’ (to be located in green area adjacent to the Zip Wire) - Installation to commence 06 May 2025.

Additional MD projects:

- Brittas Bay footpath. Site meeting held with NNR crew, procurement of consultant to prepare a design and Part 8 planning documents is complete. Site meeting with National School Principal has been held.
- Footpath resurfacing works Ballinahinch Ashford (footpath from Ashford to Nun’s Cross school). Work being under taken during school mid-term, due for completion Friday 25th April.
- Footpath resurfacing works Roundwood Village due to commence in May.
- Footpath repairs in Glenview Park, Kilpedder complete. A number of sections in the estate, of varying length, were identified and replaced by Local Authority outdoor staff.
- WCC have issued payments for the following connections. WMD has received MPRN’s to progress completion:

- Laragh Pedestrian Crossing,
- Moneystown Pedestrian Crossing,

Both crossing have been energised and are operational.

- Road markings are being progressed around the MD, some have been carried out around the town, with others refreshed at certain locations. Double yellow lines have been completed at Magheramore. Road markings being progressed around Newtown and on RI and RM projects at present. Extensive road markings completed in Hillview housing estate for safety reasons.
- Historical lighting, all sites have revised design lights and power supply in place. WMD to finalise light adjustment and Bluetooth controls with original lighting designer. Possible modifications required at Stone Bridge to prevent glare for traffic.
- Footpath to GAA club in Wicklow complete, remaining Eir column removed. Additional resurfacing along this stretch also complete.
- New cross and gates erected at Three Mile Water cemetery.
- Road marking project in Wicklow Town commenced with new markings installed at Wentworth Place/Church Hill junction and Wicklow Gaol among others. Further renewals to be undertaken in the coming weeks.

Discretionary Fund projects:

- Footpath at Merrymeeting Hill, Rathnew. Works have commenced and completion is due end of April.
- Wicklow Heights car parking. Works have commenced with excavation of soil, Kerbing and paving works will be tendered in the coming weeks.
- Roundwood – New Paved Parking Area and Pedestrian Crossing at Roundwood Playground. Contract awarded. Works commencing start of May.
- Roundwood – Two ramps from Playground to GAA Club. One ramp new has been installed and an existing ramp has been replaced/repared.

- Rathnew – Resurfacing of the Old village has been completed, road line marking has commenced.
- Newtown - Kilmullen traffic calming, new sign has been installed. Site visit to assess possibility of installing anti-skid surface.
- Fund to upgrade footpaths in MD. Footpaths upgrade works at Saint Patricks Road, Wicklow Town is complete. Footpath improvement works taking place in Glenview Park, Kilpedder and Season Park, Newtown Mount Kennedy and will continue over the coming weeks to address severely damaged and hazardous areas in both estates.
- Church Hill Traffic calming – Consultation with National School, Gardai, Fire Service and Church of Ireland completed.
- All salt boxes have been distributed around the District.
- Tender for Defibrillators has been completed and order will be complete within 2-3 weeks.

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

- A query was raised as to the difference between driver feedback signs and electronic signs. District Engineer clarified.
- The issue of cars and vans driving through the back of a private cottage at The Murrough. Possibility of placing a boulder and sign advising that vehicles aren't permitted due to erosion etc.
District Engineer advised that the location is on private property. There are issues regarding access for emergency services. To be reviewed in conjunction with the Environment Section.
- Concern expressed by residents of Rocky Road in relation to an increase in traffic coming through the junction at Friars Hill, where sightlines are bad.
District Engineer advised that the Rocky Road upgrade scheme will increase connectivity from the N11 to Hawkstown Road and traffic will not necessarily increase on Rocky Road. He advised that when the scheme is complete, the junction will be reviewed. It may necessitate work on private property.
- Broken fence and overhanging trees at Whitegates pitches. The District Administrator advised that the responsibility for same is a matter for the soccer clubs as it is detailed in their lease agreement.
- Campervans at The Murrough - members were advised that Gardai moved them on. The possibility of providing signs advising no access was raised.
- Members thanked the District Engineer for works carried out at Magheramore beach to prevent parking on the road and said that this has proved very successful in recent years. District Engineer advised that the situation will be monitored during the summer.
- Update requested regarding completion of the works at Rocky Road.
District Engineer advised that progress is good and he will revert to members.
- Provision of bins at the back of Multi Metals at The Murrough was welcomed.
- Thanks extended to the engineering team for footpath works at Merrymeeting Hill.
- Report requested on condition of equipment in the outdoor gym at The Murrough – erodes quickly due to location near the sea.
- Provision of pedestrian crossings in new developments, i.e. Brookfield, Waverly Meadow, Kirvin Hill was raised. The District Engineer advised that he will examine the planning files.

ITEM 3

Estate Development Grants 2025

The District Administrator presented a report on Estate Development Grant applications received in 2025. This was circulated to the members prior to the meeting.

The assessment of applications was based on:

- The size of the estate.
- Size of green areas to be maintained.
- Number of Local Authority houses in the estate.
- Type of planned maintenance/improvement works.
- Previous EDGs received and reason for same.

24 Applications received

3 Had no LA housing

21 Assessed and considered as follows:

Area:	Estate:	Proposed 2025 Grant allocation:
Wicklow Town	Ballyguile (Mountainview & Ocean View)	€600.00
	Broadlough View	€600.00
	Hillview	€350.00
	Hawkstown Park	€800.00
	Carraig Beag	€350.00
	Burkeen	€350.00
	Darragh Park & Lakeview Grove	€350.00
	Rosehill (Upper and Middle only)	€300.00
	Marlton Park	€200.00
Rathnew	Carrig Court	€400.00
	Broomhall	€350.00
	The Bank & Ballybeg	€200.00
	Seaview Heights	€500.00
	Drumkay	€700.00
	Saunders Lane	€300.00
Glenealy	Carrig View	€500.00
Ashford	Woodview	€800.00
Roundwood	Ashwood & Vartry Heights	€1,000.00
Newtownmountkennedy	Sycamore Drive	€400.00
	Springfield Heights	€350.00
	Mountainview Drive	€400.00
		€10,000.00

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

The members thanked the District Administrator for the presentation and commended the residents associations for their work.

It was proposed by Councillor Graham Richmond and seconded by Councillor Paul O'Brien to approve the Estate Development Grants 2025.

District Administrator advised that each Municipal District receives €10,000 from central funds for estate development grants. The scheme operates differently in Bray where grants are allocated through the Estate Development Officer.

The issue of limiting equipment provided to Tidy Towns volunteers, i.e. bags, litter pickers by the Environment Section was raised. The District Administrator stated that she would seek clarification.

ITEM 4

Correspondence

- An application was received from Wicklow Pride Festival for funding in the sum of €5,000 from the Discretionary Fund to support the running of the 2025 festival. This funding would cover expenses such as road closure, printing and production costs.

The application was commended. It was proposed by Councillor Paul O'Brien and seconded by Councillor Danny Alvey to match the 2024 allocation of €2,500.

- An application for funding was received from Wicklow Safe Haven, a community led voluntary organisation established in January 2025. Their aim is to raise awareness of domestic violence as an issue in the community of Wicklow Town and County through schools, businesses, organisations and sports clubs. They support the work of registered charity Anú. Funds raised go directly to the Anú bank account.
A sponsored 'sleep out' event is taking place on 3rd May in Wicklow Town to raise funds.
District Administrator advised members that any funding given would be from the discretionary fund.

Some observations made:

- A very worthwhile organisation which should be helped,
- Insufficient information given about the organisation,
- There must be accountability for any funding given,
- Query if funding is available elsewhere, i.e. KWETB, Sonas,
- Discretionary fund primarily for funding infrastructure projects.

As there was no timeline involved, it was agreed that there was no need to make a decision that day.

The District Manager stated that in order to follow proper financial governance the Council would require accounts and to know exactly how funds would be spent. He said the primary focus of the discretionary fund is public realm and infrastructure works. It was suggested that representatives be invited to meet the elected members.

It was also suggested a policy would be drafted for funding requests.

- An application was received from Wicklow Choir Group for funding from the Town Twinning budget towards their visit to Eichenzell from 20th to 22nd June. They last visited in 2011 and will be performing at the Irish Night. Thirty seven members of the Male Voice Choir will be travelling.

Councillor Paul O'Brien proposed that €2,000 be allocated. This was seconded by Councillor Graham Richmond.

- Correspondence was received from the Environment Section of Wicklow County Council advising that the recycling banks at Druids Well pub, Newtown, are to be removed on Thursday and will be placed in temporary storage until an alternative site is identified.

It was stated that these banks are very well utilised.

The ongoing problem of dumping at recycling banks was raised. Installation of CCTV cameras was suggested.

- Correspondence was received from Wicklow Town Team regarding their Information Day taking place on Saturday 3rd May in the Assembly Hall. They are seeking volunteer members from the local community to join one of their working groups.

ITEM 5

Any Other Business

A query was raised as to who is responsible for control of Japanese Knotweed.
The District Engineer advised that he will check with the Roads Section regarding the policy.

The District Administrator requested members approval to change the date of the Ordinary Meeting and Policing Policy Committee Meeting from 26th May to 19th May as she and the Leas Cathaoirleach will be attending a Town Team event on 26th May.
Some members advised that there is also a SPC meeting scheduled for the afternoon of 19th May and enquired about the possibility of holding the meetings in the morning. It was proposed to hold the Policing Policy Committee Meeting from 11.00am to 11.30am and the Ordinary Meeting from 11.30am to 1.00pm.

The District Administrator advised that the lease for the Whitegates soccer pitches has been checked and it states that the clubs are responsible for maintaining the fence around the perimeter of the site. She furthermore stated that the Council have no budget to fix the fence and responsibility lies with the clubs. It was suggested that the different funding streams within the County Council be examined.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 16.09pm.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Date: _____