

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

MONDAY 20th DECEMBER, 2021 @ 3.00p.m.

HELD VIA ZOOM.

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

In Attendance: District Manager Brian Gleeson
District Engineer Kevin Scanlon
Executive Engineer Alan Martin
District Administrator Joan Sinnott
Assistant Staff Officer Josephine Hayes
Wicklow People Myles Buchanan
Christine Flood CEO Enterprise & Corporate Services
Lindsay O'Neill
Muireann Dalton

Cathaoirleach Gail Dunne opened the meeting at 3.00 p.m.

ITEM 1

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

It was proposed by Cllr Paul O'Brien and seconded by Cllr Mary Kavanagh and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on 22nd November, 2021.

ITEM 2

To consider report in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) in respect of the proposed development of enhance and develop the Abbey Grounds. Wicklow into the Abbey Gardens and event space to create a more multi-functional public space.

Senior Executive Engineer Kevin Scanlon outlined details of the report and submissions received for the development of the Abbey Grounds.

Members observations:

- The Members welcomed the development and thanked the officials of Wicklow Municipal District and Wicklow County Council for their hard work in getting the project through.
- Special thanks were also given to Father Roche
- The project has the full support of the Members
- Ensure to safeguard the heritage value
- Maintain existing trees where possible
- Keep the members updated

Following a roll call the Part 8 Application was unanimously adopted. Proposed by Cllr Gail Dunne and seconded by Cllr Paul O'Brien.

District Manager Brian Gleeson thanked the members and acknowledged their full support of the project from day one.

ITEM 3

Update on Trial One Way System for Main Street Wicklow Town

Executive Engineer Alan Martin updated the members on the progress of the new One Way System and outlined the changes that had been made since the One Way System was introduced.

Members discussed various elements of the new One Way System which included:

- Set down lane
- Junction at Hopkins Toy Shop
- Grand Hotel traffic lights/roundabout
- Marlton Road junction
- High Street off street parking
- Fitzwilliam Square junction
- Additional parking spaces
- Bus stop on Marlton Road blocks up Grand Hotel junction

The Members thanked Mr. Martin for actively engaging with the Wicklow Town and District Chamber of Commerce, the public and the shop owners. It was agreed that since the implementation of the One Way System that the flow of traffic through the town had improved.

Mr. Martin was thanked for his hard work and massive commitment in getting the project up and running, overcoming difficult situations and bringing the project to a positive outcome.

ITEM 4

District Engineers Report

District Engineer Kevin Scanlon outlined details from the Engineers Report.

Housing:

- Work continuing on essential maintenance and repairs.
- Technical support to WCC-Housing Dept:
Re-lets and emergency accommodation:
1 standard, 1 emergency accommodation, 2 returned to WCC Housing Dept, 1 have works continuing on site.
DPGs: 4 completed and 5 underway.

Roads:

- Microsurfacing programme – All works complete. 2 alterations. Final sweeping being carried out. Contractor to address snags in January.
- 2 temporary Car Parks in operation at Luggala and Laragh.
- Maintenance repairs continue.
- Road Opening Licences (approx. 15) continue to be processed and agreed.
- Winter Maintenance-16 call outs up to Thursday 16th December.

Environment:

- Storm Barra occurred on Tue 7th – Wed 8th.
 - 41mm of rain fell in total (Ashford weather station)
 - Gusts of 106kph over the 2 days.
 - WMD crews spent Monday clearing gullies and drains etc.
 - Very little flooding except for a few spot floods occurred.
 - At least 25 trees down and numerous more branches etc.
 - WMD crews and 2 contractors completed cleanup on Thursday evening.
- Strimming and fencing works ongoing at Brittas Bay north beach car park to allow management of bracken with animals alongside the mowing trial.
- Portaloo's in use at Laragh and Sally Gap Car parks.

Planning

- Section 254 applications continue to be processed for tables/chairs and NBI poles.

Playgrounds

- Programme of works now agreed to carry out all necessary repairs to all MD playgrounds to be completed (less some surface work at Ballynerrin).
- Adult gym equipment along Murrough – three units ordered.

Public Liability

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

Projects

NTA

- Wicklow Town 1-way in operation since Saturday 13th November. Monitoring and alterations ongoing.
- New footpath between Glenealy and Rathnew Villages on the R752 (Roads Department) in progress.

- Footpath widening from Glen Turn car park to Golf Club in progress. Substantially complete.
- Climate Adaptation
 - Road and verge drainage works at Slaughter complete.
 - Marlton stream works not done in 2021. Application to be made again in next round in 2022.
- Additional Outdoor Infrastructure.
 - Mount Usher footpath and crossing – end of January 2022.
 - Murrough cycle tracks and footpath improvements – Scope to be agreed and equipment to be procured – February 2022
- NTA 2022 Project proposals submitted to Roads Department.
- NTA Safety Improvement Works – applications made recently.
 - Small junction widening in Glenealy
 - Footpath works at Laragh
 - Footpath widening at Coillte Bridge in Newtownmountkennedy.

DOE

- Cunningham’s Corner road safety works underway (WCC Roads Dept).
- Junction Widening at L-5054 junction with R-755 Roundwood Road substantially complete.

Fáilte Ireland

- Abbey Grounds. Part 8 to be discussed at December meeting. Closing date for submission was Friday November 19th.
- Outdoor Dining Scheme. Market Square and Wicklow Gaol application successful and works are in progress. Remaining 2 canopies at Market Square now in place. New Christmas lights have been fitted to the six trees at the Square and should be powered on this next week.

WCC

- Glendalough Upper Lake Toilet Refurbishment Complete.

URDF

- Application in respect of Wicklow Harbour is currently being reviewed and prepared for the next round of funding, which is expected in Q1 2022.

Town & Village

- Roundwood Village – Start imminent (Footpath from Hardware Shop to Playground plus three pedestrian crossings, one at playground and two at school Bray end of village)
- Wicklow Town – Backlighting Project. Billy Byrne lighting switched on. ESB to complete works at other locations.
- Annamoe – Main T&V 2020 likely to commence on return in January 2022.
- Town and Village Scheme application for Wicklow Town, consisting of murals, fabricated artwork and additional backlighting (€250K) submitted to Dept. of Rural and Community Development on 16/07/21. No feedback as yet from that Dept.

Discretionary Fund (10 priority projects)

- Garden Village footpath repairs and Dunbur Rd crossing complete.
- New footpaths at Ashtown Lane/Merrymeeting currently out for tender. Barnbawn to be tendered in January.
- Footpath repairs at Seaview Heights currently out for tender. Sycamore Drive to be tendered in January.
- Traffic management works at Ballynerrin/Djouce/Newtown to seek 3 quotes in January.

Members made the following queries/observations:

- Trees in older housing estates were becoming an issue
- Trees being planted in estates that are not suitable
- Micro surfacing works at Rosanna Close and Sycamore Drive an issue
- Ballynerrin Playground refurbishment welcomed
- Moss on cycle track can make it slippery

Responses to queries/observations:

Mr. Scanlon advised members that the micro-surfacing works would be checked again in January and that enquiries would be made to ascertain who is responsible for management/insurance of trees in housing estates.

ITEM 5

Correspondence

District Administrator Joan Sinnott advised members that she had recent communications with the Court Services and they had indicated their full commitment to restore the court and develop it into a modern facility. They indicated that the project had priority but was subject to funding. They are currently making enquiries re cost of the maintenance of the building.

ITEM 6

A.O.B.

The District Administrator Joan Sinnott advised that Wicklow Municipal District together with Wicklow Town & District Chamber of Commerce had awarded the Best Dress Window Competition in Wicklow Town to the Show Box in first place and runner up went to Phil Healy's. A prize giving ceremony would be held on Tuesday 21st December, 21 at 11.00 a.m.

The Members passed a vote of sympathy for Liam Kavanagh and his family and also on the recent passing of Paddy Halligan.

Members expressed their thanks to all the Staff of Wicklow Municipal District and wished all a Happy Christmas.

CATHAOIRLEACH GAIL DUNNE CONCLUDED THE MEETING AT 4.25 PM.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Date: _____