



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON

THE 11th February 2026.

Present: Cllr. Miriam Murphy, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke, Leas-Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Pat Kennedy
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Peir Leonard
Cllr. Warren O'Toole

Officials Present: Ms. Leonora Earls, District Manager
Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator
Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer
Ms. Lorraine Hayes ASO

Guest Speakers: Tom Fox (Senior Executive Engineer)
Conor Carty (Executive Engineer)

Press: Hugh O'Farrell-Walsh

Item 1: Votes of Sympathy.

The members expressed votes of sympathy to all families who have recently lost a loved one. A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes.

The minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 14th January 2026 were proposed by Cllr. Bourke and seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald.

Item 3: Matters Arising.

Cllr. Bourke thanked public lighting for repairing the lighting on the Wexford Road. He also said residents of Love Lane wanted to thank all the Arklow Depot crew for the great clean-up of Love Lane after storm Chandra.

AB explained the ESB have directed a local supervisor to the District to evaluate works to be carried out.

Cllr. Murphy complimented the outdoor staff for work carried out due to storm Chandra; it was heart-breaking to see people's houses destroyed. The Aughrim Community Centre reached out to the local community and showed the best of community spirit.

LE suggested the letter be sent to the Community Centre from the Elected Members.

Cllr. Leonard suggested all information should be captured for future use and a survey be sent to people affected by the flooding.

LE explained each District have sent details of all roads affected to the Roads Department. Information on houses affected has also been collected.

Cllr. Fitzgerald thanked all staff in AMD Depot for great work in the Town and further afield. Trojan work has been carried out; he thanked staff in AMD and said without their hard work there would have been more issues.

Item 4: Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

Update on Flood Relief Scheme (Arklow)

Tom Fox delivered a very informative update on the Flood Relief Scheme for Arklow.

Cllr. Bourke said people are concerned with underpinning of the bridge.

TF explained the underpinning will be carried out from the river bed as this is the safest way to carry the work out.

Cllr. Leonard enquired if recent flooding would cause any delay on the Flood Relief Scheme.

TF Stated the recent flooding saw nothing new there are no changes in design necessary.

Cllr. Leonard enquired if dredging will be prioritised. The Town needs regeneration so the finish design should be brought back to the District to ensure staff are not heavily impacted with extra cleaning works. How will flooding from behind the wall affect the Flood Relief Scheme. Communication with residents is necessary and they should be sent surveys.

TF explained dredging cannot be carried out until the bridge is underpinned. Dredging is the final stage of the scheme. It can be reviewed we can carry out a hydraulic review to see if there is much of an effect until the gravel trap goes in. A coastal erosion study will be carried out. A review of over-topping is on the way. Three pump stations will help with drainage from Riverwalk to the dock.

Cllr. Leonard raised concerns from RNLi regarding visual safety of people. A platform is a necessity for emergencies.

TF and team have previously engaged with Water Safety Ireland but will engage again, we don't want to encourage people to go into the water.

Cllr. Bourke enquired as to where the supports for the bridge sit. Also are there any results from the archaeological report.

TF explained old starling poles are the support, these will be removed and new micro piles will be installed into the rock. As a result of the survey of the riverbed anything that is found will be removed as part of the works. National Monument Services will be available for advice on any archaeological findings. He also said it would be difficult to relocate trees from the site so they are hoping to integrate them with the current design. Public realm has not yet been finalised, we are looking for safe, sustainable and low maintenance materials.

Cllr. O'Toole asked if the area over at the marsh had been taken into consideration with the scheme.

TF stated the area is privately owned and is not accessible.

Cllr. Murphy thanked Tom Fox and Conor Carthy for their update, input and knowledge. She said it will be good to get quarterly newsletters for updates.

District Engineer's Report

Municipal District of Arklow

District Engineer's Report

6th February 2026

Restoration Improvement

Proposed Works	Status
R-752 Ballybeg to Rathnew	Feb mid-term (subject to weather)

Discretionary Funding

Proposed Works	Status
Tree Management	Tree surgeon appointed
Castlemacadam Cemetery	Works commenced, entrance to be finished
Footpath at Barndarrig NS	Waiting on response from Board of Management
Duck Pond	Review of Maintenance Requirements
Public Lighting in Greenane	Waiting on ESB connection
Heritage Signage for Villages	One sign to be installed in Greenane
Infill Lighting Annacurra	Civil works complete. ESB connection to be completed
Public Lighting at the Birches, Ballinaclash	Waiting on ESB connection
Public Realm Furniture Upgrade - AMD	Some benches installed in St. Mary's Park
2024 Footpath Repair Riverwalk	Some drainage works required in advance
Educational Signage - Beaches	Liaised with the Biodiversity Officer - Awaiting Further Information
Pedestrian Crossing - Rathdrum	Considered as part of Traffic Study
Repair of Footpath at Currans Corner	
Footpath - Arklow Bearing Services	

Other works

Crews have been working on dealing with exceptional weather events throughout the district including drain clearance, assessment of roads, street sweeping, filling of potholes and planning of upgrades to drainage networks and rehabilitation of damaged roads **subject to funding**.

The following matters were raised and discussed

AH informed the Members she had made an application for 5.9 million euros to the Department of Transport via the Roads Division.

Cllr. Murphy thanked Avril and staff for meeting with Taoiseach M Martin on the Bank holiday weekend.

Cllr. Leonard commended on work carried and the unseen work also. She will raise issues from storm Chandra with the SPC Climate Board regarding warning signals, review and informing people.

AH stated there is still a small amount of road markings to be carried out at Castlemacadam and the roads in Avoca.

Item 5: Notice of Motions.

(a) To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllrs Kennedy, Fitzgerald and Bourke. Received on the 19th December 2025

“That Arklow Municipal District allocate funding for the installation of a new footpath at Fairgreen, Rathdrum. The existing path is approximately two feet wide and is unsuitable for wheelchair users, older residents and parents with buggies. A new footpath will also improve safety for children walking to Rathdrum Boys National School.”

This motion was proposed by Cllr. Kennedy and seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald.

The following issues were discussed regarding footpaths.

Cllr. O’Toole asked should all Districts not be treated equally and should an accessibility audit be carried out.

Cllr. Murphy relayed a study had been carried out years ago and was extremely expensive to do so as the auditors had to come from Scotland.

LE said we will apply for more funding for footpaths.

AH advised works done to date are Arklow Main Street, Aughrim and Avoca all footpaths have been repaired.

Cllr. Kennedy said the footpath in Aughrim is two foot wide and there roughly 20 years.

Cllr. Leonard enquired why footpaths are not part of planning for developers.

Cllr. Kennedy stated footpaths are not in the developers remit, they have to provide inside housing estates not outside them.

AH said she will get a costing.

All Members are in agreement.

(b) To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Kennedy. Received on the 19th December 2025

"That Arklow Municipal District provide funding to continue the footpath for a further 50m at the top of Rednagh Hill in Aughrim as the footpath at present finishes below the crest of the hill. Oncoming cars cannot see pedestrians walking. The continuation of this footpath will alleviate this problem and make it safe for pedestrians"

This Motion was proposed by Cllr. Kennedy and seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald.

The following issues were discussed regarding footpaths.

Cllr. Kennedy gave an exact location of the proposed footpath and said it is extremely dangerous in its current state and it is on a hill and visibility is bad.

Cllr. O'Toole said he had put in motion previously and was told he could not do so. He stated the Vale Road, Coolgreany Road and Waterworks all need footpaths installed, can we put in a joint motion for these as it has to be across the board.

Cllr. Bourke remembers the motion and it is a much larger scale perhaps it could come under NTA.

Cllr. Leonard asked how the NTA work as we don't seem to have any input in to the works they carry out. Is it possible to meet with the NTA?

LE we will put in a request with Michael Flynn for a meeting.

AH will do updated costing and report.

All Members are in agreement.

(c) To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Kennedy. Received on the 19th December 2025

"That Arklow Municipal District provide funding to put a Name Stone at the entrance to Aughrim Oaks in Aughrim"

This motion was proposed by Cllr. Kennedy and seconded by Cllr. Bourke.

Cllr. O'Toole asked if this be extended to Emyvale.

AH explained this is a private estate and was not taken in charge.

Cllr. O'Toole said the contractors are no longer in business, he got a rock moved to Emyvale so it is just a matter of etching.

LE suggested the residents in Aughrim Oaks could apply for a Community grant.

Cllr. Leonard suggested we do an EOI for estates.

LE said if Members agree we can explore the option.

Item 6: Correspondence.

Email received from Arklow Twinning Association.

Cllr. Murphy asked if we can organise a presentation from Arklow Twinning Association.

AB has been in contact with ATA and said they should liaise with the Elected Members on the activities of the Twinning groups.

LE said it is a good idea to have a meeting with them. Elected Members should be aware of any visits and the Cathaoirleach should be invited to these events.

AB will extend an invite to ATA to attend a future MD meeting.

Item 7:AOB:

Cllr. Bourke said the level of potholes is very concerning and asked if AH could guarantee they will be filled.

AH said at present no as the material is washing out of the potholes which have already been filled. We need the 5.9million to get roads resurfaced, sweeping and using delay set is not sufficient.

Cllr. Fitzgerald stated the Vale Road is very bad and needs works carried out asap.

AH stated it is on the 2026 programme we are waiting for 2026 funding to come through until we know how much we are getting we cannot commence any works.

Cllr. Murphy suggested the Elected Members go back to their TDs regarding funding.

Cllr. Leonard asked if there was any plans to change crash barrier at The Meetings.

AH no plans it is under review.

Cllr. Bourke enquired about a painting grant for retailers.

LE said there were two suggestions 1 for line marking and second for a paint grant. Line markings was the one that was selected but she will go back and check.

AB said Arklow Town Team are currently working on a proposal for a painting grant project.

Cllr. Fitzgerald enquired how the St. Patrick's Day parade preparation is going.

Cllr. Bourke said very well so far. Funds have not been transferred to the new Committee as yet.

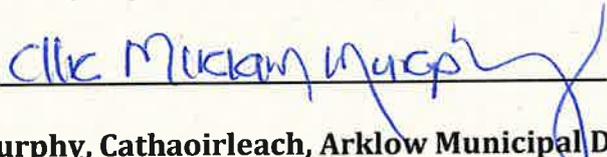
Cllr. Murphy said we should send the out-going Committee a letter.

AB requested a list of all volunteers for insurance cover for the Town Team

Cllr. Leonard is looking for sponsors from Local Businesses.

Cllr. Murphy said there was great work going on behind the scenes. She thanked the Members for attending the meeting and closed the meeting.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th March 2026.

Signed: 

Cllr Miriam Murphy, Cathaoirleach, Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: 

Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District