

## **MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING**

### **HELD IN DISTRICT CHAMBER, TOWN HALL**

**MONDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> JUNE 2025 at 15.30pm**

**Present:** Cathaoirleach Cllr Graham Richmond, Cllr Danny Alvey, Cllr Shane Langrell, Cllr Paul O'Brien, Cllr John Snell, Cllr Gail Dunne (online)

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

Cathaoirleach Graham Richmond opened the meeting at 15.30pm.

#### **ITEM 1**

##### **Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

It was proposed by Councillor Shane Langrell and seconded by Councillor John Snell and agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

#### **ITEM 2**

##### **District Engineers Report**

Updates were provided by District Engineer William Halligan as follows:

##### **Housing:**

###### **❖ Relets/Prelets**

###### **WMD**

- 3no. houses currently being worked on, through WCC Housing Framework by MD,
- 4no. house returned to WMD for refurbishment.
- 3no. house returned to Housing for allocation.

###### **Housing Direct Labour:**

- 8no. houses are being managed by WCC Direct Labour.

###### **❖ 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 contractors. Main list of RI 2025 projects below.

Location	Length of Works (m)	Completed to Date
L5099 Rocky Road Specific Improvement Project	1200	Road Closure implemented from 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2025 to 29 <sup>th</sup> August 2025. Works being carried out by WCC NNR (Non-National Roads) Team.
L5036 Ballinastoe Rd	1427	Works Complete
R765 Newtown - Roundwood	2650	Works Complete
R750 Dublin Road Wicklow	740	Works Complete
L1096 Ashford-Ballymanus Lower	936	Works Complete
L5070 Ashford-Ballinalea	405	Works Complete
R764 Ashford-Roundwood	80	Works Complete
L1096 Ashford	410	Works Complete
R-751 Marlton Road	262	Works Complete
L5099 Rocky Road (Wicklow Town)	333	Works Complete
Market Street	80	Contract awarded works to commence in the coming weeks

❖ **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 commenced in Wicklow MD at the L5157 Dunganstown 14<sup>th</sup> May.

Location	Length of Works (m)	Completed to Date
L1036 Stoneypass	1119	Complete
L5056 Slemaine	2817	Complete
L5056 Baliliam Lane	703	Complete
L5077 Raheen	1069	Complete
L1059 St John's Road	1185	Complete

R764 Knockatemple-Tomcoyle	5362	Complete
L1059 Loughdan-Drummin	4494	Complete
R764 Inchanappa south to Killiskey cross	2588	Complete
L5157 Dunganstown	1421	Complete

#### ❖ **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. Works are 80% complete. Drainage and road base are complete, surface dressing is outstanding.

#### ❖ **Safety Projects**

- Works to increase visibility and road safety at Castlekevin, L5087 junction with L1076 and L5087 junction with L5587 complete.
- Pedestrian crossing to be installed as part of a housing development condition in Ashford, at junction with R763 and R764 works complete, awaiting connection.
- 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup>. Schedule for completion of works for the Coach House Cafe has been moved back to Q2 2025.

- Tiling complete in new toilet block. Main building tiling work to commence this week, followed by final electrical work.
- Paving to front and rear of Coach House to commence this week. All UG services installed to allow works to proceed.
- New sliding gate mechanism installed to front of building on Abbey Street side. Installation of gate to follow once paving is complete.
- Civil Works to install footpaths and ducting for services and drainage in the park area ongoing. Works carried out in co-operation with Local Authority Staff.
- Planting programme for the park has been completed for this season.
- Paving around the coach house is complete.
- Internal tiling complete to Coach House.
- Ducting for services – ESB, Public Lighting, Water, Comms - around the park is practically complete.
- Drainage works and grading of park underway.
- Detailed designs continuing to be progressed for the Amphitheatre and performance area.

#### **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. ESB have connected power, works here completed.
- 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 our staff resources to empty. Efficiency of big belly bins has increased from 12% at year start (2024) to 38% in 2025, increasing their overall value to the district by over 200%.
- New Big belly bins have been installed at Glen Turn car park, Rathnew bus stop and Fitzwilliam Square.

#### **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, completed. Damaged Zipwire cable ordered (due in two weeks).
- Ballynerrin Playground – New Cradle Swing installed, all play surfaces currently being cleaned, including industrial hoovering of astro pitch surface.
- Five play areas at the Vartry Trails in process of being handed over to WCC.

#### **Additional MD projects:**

- Chief Executives Report for the Murrough Part 8 has been finalised. Pump Track contract has been awarded to contractor, project will break ground over summer.
- Derrybawn Car Park, Laragh to begin Part 8 process to regularise existing use. Ecologist has been brought on to complete environmental screenings for Part 8.
- Glendalough Upper Car Park has received new line marking and new Bin Store. New Defib to be installed here in coming weeks. New Defib is installed.
- Moby Mobility bike scheme, bike parking locations works commenced 19<sup>th</sup> May.
- 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. Land owner engagement commenced.
- Footpath resurfacing works Ballinahinch Ashford (footpath from Ashford to Nun's Cross school). Work being under taken during school mid-term, complete.
- Footpath resurfacing works Roundwood Village due to complete.
- 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. Lighting designer on site 23/06/25 to arrange finalising controllers and commissioning.
- 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:**

- Improvements to Footpath at bridge entering Newtownmountkennedy. Tenders Received.
- Footpath at Merrymeeting Hill, Rathnew. Works are complete.
- Wicklow Heights car parking. Works are complete.
- 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**

- The ongoing problem of graffiti on bridges was mentioned. Possible solutions suggested of a mural or erecting planter boxes in front.  
District Engineer advised he will examine the option of placing of planter boxes however, he noted that it may be an Iarnród Éireann bridge.
- Problem with dog fouling and the launch of the DISC dog fouling awareness campaign was raised, noting that the Murrough area is particularly bad. The Members referenced protocol regarding the launch of a campaign and noted that the Cathaoirleach should be launching any campaign. The District Engineer advised that additional dog bins have been ordered and will be placed on the promenade.
- Overgrown hedges at St. Patricks Road. The District Engineer advised that this is privately owned property.
- Gravel left on paths at roundabout in Rathnew after pothole filling.  
District Engineer advised that the road sweeper will attend.
- Delay in delivery of electronic speed signs.  
District Engineer advised that the Executive Engineer is working on this.
- Cars badly damaged as a result of road resurfacing on Glenealy Road.  
District Engineer advised that problems were due to weather conditions and temporary speed limit not being adhered to. These works are managed by the Roads Section centrally. The District Manager advised members that the Council's insurers IPB have agreed to allow related claims be submitted via their pothole app and he has circulated the details to them by email.
- Derelict building at Market Square.  
The District Administrator advised members that the District are liaising with the Environment Section who are responsible for issue of notices under the Dangerous Structures Act. The property owner and agent have been advised that they are in breach of

the Act and the building must be made safe. The matter has been referred to the Law Agent. A two week extension of time was given from last Wednesday.

- Update on Aires Park.  
District Engineer advised that the Executive Technician is working on this and he is hopeful that the matter will be progressed shortly.
- Members thanked the District Engineer for the recent works at Glenealy graveyard.
- Members welcomed the recent grant of planning permission for a new hotel at the Murrough indicating that there is currently a lack of accommodation.
- Works on approach roads to Wicklow from The Beehive and Marlton Road were welcomed.
- Playground facilities for children with disabilities.  
District Engineer advised he will look into the matter, he stated there are very few suppliers of such equipment in the market.
- Cars blocking gate at Magheramore beach.  
District Engineer advised he will check the sign.
- Update on re-opening of walk to lighthouse.  
District Manager advised that agreement has been reached with the landowner. The matter is currently with the Law Agent and he hopes the matter will be resolved shortly.
- Members commended the District Engineer on recent road surfacing works stating they have made a big difference.
- Road surfacing required at Nuns Cross, also ramp requires painting.  
District Engineer to examine.
- Overgrowth on footpath at Roundwood soccer pitch.  
District Engineer advised this will be cut after the nesting season.
- Roundwood graveyard – request that step onto kerb be examined.
- Online footage of recent break-in at Wicklow Courthouse. Concern was expressed regarding breach of GDPR. District Administrator advised that the matter has been referred to the Court Service. Councillor Graham Richmond advised that he is liaising with the Tánaiste, Simon Harris in relation to the building.
- Road works at Knockrobin were commended.
- Drainage issue near Kidzone at Bollarney.  
District Engineer advised gullies will be cleared.
- Works to manhole cover at Applegreen, Rathnew, welcomed. It was indicated that there are one or two loose covers beyond Aldi. District Engineer advised they will be rectified.
- Issue of school traffic at the Gaelscoil and St. Coens – possibility of meeting with principals.  
District Engineer advised he would be prepared to meet the principals.
- New speed signs were welcomed.
- Members welcomed new affordable housing schemes in Wicklow, Rathnew, Baltinglass.
- Public lighting not yet turned on at Hazelbrook and St. Ernans.  
District Engineer advised he will contact public lighting.
- Accident involving cyclist at Tinakilly – cycle lanes poorly marked and worn.  
District Engineer advised the matter will be referred to Active Travel.
- Concern expressed regarding recent incident outside direct provision centre at Grand Hotel. Members requested that they be kept updated by the Community Engagement Team.
- Former direct provision centre at River Lodge, Trudder, Newtownmountkennedy. It was stated that footpaths and public lighting in the area require upgrading. It was also stated that the fencing around the property is unsightly and graffiti needs to be removed.  
Councillor Langrell advised that he is working with the Tánaiste in relation to the building.
- Provision of cycle lanes on Dunbur Road was raised. It was indicated that at present the road is unsafe.  
District Engineer advised the matter will be referred to Active Travel to investigate.

- The Members raised their concern regarding anonymous posts and comments on community forums.

### **ITEM 3**

#### **Correspondence**

Councillor John Snell proposed that a Cathaoirleach's reception be held for Wicklow Rovers FC in recognition of their premier teams recent historical achievements in securing the four available trophies to them, namely "The Premier League Title", "Jim Mc Loughlin Cup", "Bishop Cup" and the blue ribbon event of County Wicklow football "The Wicklow Cup".

He stated that it is right and proper that the Municipal District recognise and honour this exceptional success. He said if members want to combine this with a general awards ceremony like in previous years he would also support.

The proposal was seconded by Cathaoirleach, Graham Richmond.

The Members extended their congratulations to Wicklow Rovers.

The District Administrator outlined that a reply was received from the Environment Section in relation to a query raised at the April meeting regarding limits on bags, litter pickers etc. given to community groups. It was confirmed that the Waste Management Section monitor the supply of bags to community groups, i.e. they keep records of who the bags are given to and limit the amount given at any one time.

Wicklow Town featured highly in the recent Irish Business Against Litter Report which stated it was cleaner than European norms. It was stated that this is testament to the outdoor staff, Tidy Towns, Lions Club for their hard work in the community.

A request for additional funding for new Christmas lights was received from the Chamber of Commerce. They stated that all lights along Abbey Street need replacement and additional lights would be provided at Bachelors Walk. A full breakdown has been requested.

A query was raised as to whether other avenues of funding have been examined.

### **ITEM 4**

#### **Any Other Business**

Cllr Paul O'Brien noted that the former Cathaoirleach (from the previous year) and the current Cathaoirleach sit on the Wicklow Town Team. He suggested that the current Cathaoirleach and the Leas Cathaoirleach would attend the meetings instead.

Concern was expressed regarding negative commentary towards the Council.

Cllr John Snell stated that all members should be invited to the Town Team meetings and he expressed concern regarding undermining the democratic process. The current one way system was noted as a project submitted by the Town Team and the elected members are now receiving the backlash.

The District Manager proposed consultation with Stephen Clarke, Town Regeneration Officer. He said the Town Team work closely with the Municipal District and are an important entity. He added that they can apply for funding streams that are not available to the Council.

Cllr John Snell outlined that Wicklow Regatta Festival committee are seeking additional funding this year of €6,000 towards fireworks and insurance. The District Administrator advised that the Regatta Committee normally receive €3,000 each year from the Wicklow MD festival budget. It was



proposed by Councillor John Snell and seconded by Councillor Paul O'Brien and unanimously agreed to match this funding with a further €3,000 from the members discretionary fund for the 2025 festival.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 16.50 pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Date: \_\_\_\_\_