

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 1ST
MARCH, 2021, COMMENCING 2PM VIA ZOOM**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS P. KENNEDY CATHAOIRLEACH, T. ANNESLEY, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, M. CREAM, 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.

APOLOGIES: CLLR. J. BEHAN.

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
MR. C. LAVERY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. L. FITZPATRICK, HEAD OF IS SUPPORT
MS. J. CARROL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. H. DENNEHY, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. T. O'BRIEN, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MR. D. MARNANE, SENIOR ENGINEER
MS. G. LANG, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER
Mr. T. GREGAN, CHAIRMAN, WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL AUDIT COMMITTEE
MS. D. MEGHAN, DIRECTOR OF STEWARDSHIP AND RISK, AVONDALE PROJECT
MR. H. MURPHY, IRISH LESIURE CONSULTANTS
MS. C. COAD, WICKLOW PARTNERSHIP**

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 Mrs. Eily Griffin, Mr. John Turner, Mr. Pat O'Rourke and Mrs. Joyce Fagan. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

Final Report of the Commission of Investigation (Mother and Baby Homes and certain related matters): At the outset of the meeting the Cathaoirleach made the following statement:

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the publication of the Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes in the State. Following this publication, An Taoiseach, Michael Martin, issued a formal apology on behalf of the State to former residents of the Mother and Baby Home and County Homes institutions. Wicklow County Council echoes the apology of the

Taoiseach for the wrongs visited upon mothers and their children who found themselves in Mother and Baby Homes and County Homes. As the commission and An Taoiseach said.....*they should not have been there.*

Wicklow County Council would like in all sincerity to pay tribute to the former residents of these institutions and to acknowledge their courage and dignity in coming forward with their testimonies. Their stories and their truth can now be heard, acknowledged and understood.

It is important that Wicklow County Council, as a local authority, acknowledge that they like other local authorities had a role in the provision of healthcare and hospital services until 1970 when the health boards took over those functions. From 1922 until 1970 Wicklow County Council as the county health authority was responsible for the County Home Rathdrum.

The Government now intends to give detailed consideration to the Report over the coming months with a view to developing a comprehensive Government Action Plan to address eight specific themes to include

- A survivor-centred approach
- Apology
- Access to personal information
- Archiving and databases
- Education and research
- Memorialisation
- Restorative recognition
- Dignified Burial.

Wicklow County Council will actively participate with Government in furthering the development of the Government's Action Plan as it relates to local government and the council is committed to supporting local measures that form part of the suite of follow up actions. Ms. Catherine Wright, County Archivist is currently dealing with enquiries relating to the County Home and Wicklow County Council will engage sensitively with survivors living in our area who can benefit from the Council's services. Arrangements will be made to make a copy of the Commission's Final Report available in all of our Libraries, once they have been reopened. –In addition, the County Archives Service proposes to reprint the book, *Time Did Not Stand Still by Kevin Byrne* ; for anyone connected to, or interested in, the history of the County Home in Rathdrum. Mr. Byrne has given his consent to the reprint of this book. Thank you Members and I know you will all concur with the sentiments I have expressed. To reiterate the words of both the commission and An Taoiseach..... *they should not have been there.*

End.

The Cathaoirleach acknowledged the notice of motion submitted by Cllr. J. Neary in this matter advising that it would remain on the agenda for discussion at a later meeting.

Request for suspension of standing orders

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Mullen and seconded by Cllr. G. Dunne that standing orders be suspended to discuss the recent announcement by Bank of Ireland of its proposal to close three of its branches in County Wicklow along with other branches nationally. It was agreed by the Members to discuss the matter at 4.30pm.

ITEM NO. 1

To confirm and sign minutes of special meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 25th January, 2021.

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Dunne, seconded by Cllr. I. Winters and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of special meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 25th January, 2021.

ITEM NO. 2

To confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 1st February, 2021.

It was proposed by Cllr. G. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 1st February, 2021.

ITEM NO.3

To consider the disposal of 0.0347 Hectares (0.0856 Acres) or thereabouts of land situated in the townland of Ennerrmount, Sandymount, Brittas Bay, Co. Wicklow to Ms. Catherine Altman and Ms. Emily O'Byrne, Ennerrmount, Sandymount, Brittas, Co. Wicklow.

It was proposed by Cllr. I. Winters, seconded by Cllr. G. Dunne and agreed to dispose of 0.0347 Hectares (0.0856 Acres) or thereabouts of land situated in the townland of Ennerrmount, Sandymount, Brittas Bay, Co. Wicklow to Ms. Catherine Altman and Ms. Emily O'Byrne, Ennerrmount, Sandymount, Brittas Bay, Co. Wicklow as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 4

To consider the disposal of 3.58 acres or thereabouts of land situated in the townland of Ballinalea, Ashford, Co. Wicklow to Ashford Rovers Football Club by way of Deed of Variation, for a further period of 30 years from 1st April, 2033 to 31st March, 2063.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed to dispose of 3.58 acres or thereabouts of land situated in the townland of Ballinalea, Ashford, Co. Wicklow to Ashford Rovers Football Club by way of Deed of Variation, for a further period of 30 years from 1st April, 2033 to 31st March, 2063 as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 5

To consider the disposal of 0.037 hectares (0.0914 acres) or thereabouts of land situated in the townland of Hollywood Cross, Knockroe, Hollywood, Co. Wicklow to Mr. Finbar Mulligan and Ms. Joanne Fox, Cnoc Rua, Hollywood, Co. Wicklow.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Glennon, seconded by Cllr. G. O'Neill and agreed to dispose of 0.037 hectares (0.0914 acres) or thereabouts of land situated in the townland of Hollywood Cross, Knockroe, Hollywood, Co. Wicklow to Mr. Finbar Mulligan and Ms. Joanne Fox, Cnoc Rua, Hollywood, Co. Wicklow as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 6

To consider the disposal of 0.0040 hectares or thereabouts comprised in part of Folio WW5279F Co. Wicklow, being a strip of land to the rear of 19 Hawthorn Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow in the townland of Old Connaught, Co. Wicklow to Mr. Lesley Hobson, 19 Hawthorn Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

It was proposed by Cllr. R. O'Connor, seconded by Cllr. A. Flynn Kennedy and agreed to dispose of 0.0040 hectares or thereabouts in part of Folio WW5279F Co. Wicklow, being a strip of land to the rear of 19 Hawthorn Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow in the townland of Old Connaught, Co. Wicklow to Mr. Lesley Hobson, 19 Hawthorn Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 7

To consider the disposal of property comprised of Folio No. WW2274L, Co. Wicklow being the property known as 1 Dargle Villas, Upper Dargle Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow in the townland of Bray Commons, Bray, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Denise McEvoy, 1 Dargle Villas, Upper Dargle Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

It was proposed by Cllr. A. Ferris, seconded by Cllr. A. Flynn Kennedy and agreed to dispose of property comprised of Folio No. WW2274L, Co. Wicklow being the property known as 1 Dargle Villas, Upper Dargle Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow in the townland of Bray Commons, Bray, Co. Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms. Denise McEvoy, 1 Dargle Villas, Upper Dargle Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 8

To consider the disposal of property comprised of Folio No. WW27558F, being lands at Victoria Road, Rathdown Lower, Greystones, Co. Wicklow in the townland of Rathdown Lower, Greystones, Co. Wicklow by Deed of Transfer to Mr. William Fenlon, Victoria Road, Rathdown Lower, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. D. Mitchell and agreed to dispose of property comprised of Folio No. WW27558F, being lands at Victoria Road, Rathdown Lower, Greystones, Co. Wicklow in the townland of Rathdown Lower, Greystones, Co. Wicklow by Deed of Transfer to Mr. William Fenlon, Victoria Road, Rathdown Lower, Greystones, Co. Wicklow as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 9

To consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, February, 2021.

The Elected Members were circulated with the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, February 2021 on 24th February, 2021. The Chief Executive highlighted the NTA allocations of €7.6m recently allocated to Wicklow County Council which he described as very welcome and that design and implementation teams have been set up to implement the programme across the county. Elected members raised questions which were responded to by the Chief Executive and the relevant Director of Services.

ITEM NO. 10

To consider the nomination by Wicklow Municipal District to the Local Traveller Accommodation Committee.

The Cathaoirleach advised the Members that there was a typo on the agenda and that the nomination should read Cllr. John Snell. It was proposed by Cllr. S. Cullen, seconded by Cllr. R. O'Connor and agreed to the nomination by Wicklow Municipal District of Cllr. John Snell to the Local Traveller Accommodation Committee.

ITEM NO. 11

To note: The National Oversight Audit Commission (NOAC) Report on Local Authority Performance Indicators, 2019 dated November, 2020.

The Elected Members were circulated with the National Oversight Audit Commission (NOAC) Report on Local Authority Performance Indicators, 2019 dated November, 2020 on 24th February, 2021. Ms. L. Gallagher Director of Services, Enterprise and Corporate Services outlined to the meeting the contents of the 2019 report in that it runs approximately 150 pages. She advised that NOAC was established under the LG Reform Act and is charged with scrutinising the performance of all local authorities against a relevant set of 39 performance indicators over a wide variety of services including housing, roads, water, waste and environment, planning, fire services, library and recreation, youth and community, corporate, finance and economic development. She advised that there was a substantial amount of information contained within the report and if elected members

required further information in relation to its compilation they could contact her directly. The report was noted by the Elected Members.

ITEM NO. 12

To note: The Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee end of year report, 2020.

The Elected Members were circulated with the Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee end of year report, 2020 on 24th February, 2021. The report was noted and agreed to forward same to the Policing Authority. .

ITEM NO. 13

To receive a presentation: Wicklow County Council Audit Committee end of year report, 2020.

The Elected Members were circulated with the Wicklow County Council Audit Committee end of year report, 2020 on 24th February, 2021.

Mr. Tom Gregan, Chairman of the Committee, reported to the elected members as follows:-

To the Cathaoirleach and Each Member of Wicklow County Council

Wicklow County Council Audit Committee – Annual Progress Report for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

Dear Councillor,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Council here today on the work of the Wicklow County Council's Audit Committee for the twelve month period up to 31st December 2020.

The Audit Committee is a statutory committee established in accordance with Section 59 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The Audit Committee has five members who are as follows

- Mr. Tom Gregan, Chairman
- Mr. Noel Geraghty, Vice Chairman
- Ms. Mary Savage
- Cllr Mary Kavanagh
- Cllr. Gerry Walsh

The role of the Audit Committee is to support the elected members by providing an independent assessment of the corporate governance environment, the quality of the risk management, financial reporting, financial management and internal audit.

The functions of the Audit Committee are set out in the Local Government Audit Committee Regulations 2014.

Internal Audit Assignments for 2020

From 2019 the responsibility for the annual audit of Programme Implementers under SICAP was assigned to the Internal Audit units of Local Authorities. Two Programme Implementers are engaged to administer the SICAP programmes in Wicklow County Council's administrative area and these are Bray Area Partnership (BAP) and County Wicklow Partnership (CWP).

The onset of the Covid-19 Pandemic and the restrictions imposed as a consequence necessitated a re-evaluation of the approach to audit assignments, as site visits were temporarily suspended.

Nevertheless the following Internal Audit Reports were finalised and reported on to the Audit Committee during the year.

- Development Contribution Scheme – Final Report
- SICAP – Bray Area Partnership – 2018

The following audits were commenced and are due to be finalised shortly

- SICAP – County Wicklow Partnership – 2019
- SICAP – Bray Area Partnership -2019

- Wicklow County Council Interest in Companies – this report is reviewing the governance structures and reporting relationships of the Mermaid County Wicklow Arts Centre and the Shoreline Group of Companies.

Further details are outlined in Appendix 1 to this report

Report to National Oversight & Audit Commission – Public Spending Code Quality Assurance Report

Internal Audit, in collaboration with the Procurement Section, completed the annual Quality Assurance Report as part of Wicklow County Council’s compliance with the Public Spending Code (PSC).

The Public Spending Code requires that a number of projects are selected for review in accordance with the objectives of the Public Spending Code. The report submitted included the required “In-Depth Checks” on the following areas.

- Administration of Homeless Service
- Kilbride Lane Social Housing
- Housing Acquisition Vale Road, Arklow
- Baltinglass Fire Station

Further details are outlined in Appendix 1 to this report

Annual Audit Plan

The Annual Audit Plan sets out the proposed assignments for the coming year. The plan is drafted following consultation with the Chief Executive, Directors of Service/Heads of Function. Progress on audits will be reported to the Council in due course.

Meeting with the Local Government Auditor

Mr Daragh McMahon, Local Government Auditor attended at a meeting in January.

The Audit Committee was circulated with a copy of the Statutory Audit Report 2019 in advance of the meeting.

The Local Government Auditor outlined the main elements of his report to the Committee and I am pleased to report to the Members that the Audit Report is “Unqualified”

Furthermore, no audit adjustments arose as a result of the audit.

The Audit Committee is keen to see progress on the implementation of an updated risk management strategy in the organisation as this is an important area in the governance framework.

As required by Section 121 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by Section 60 of the Local Government Act 2014, I have attached a report to the Council on the Committee’s consideration of the Local Government Auditor’s Report in Appendix 2.

Procurement

The December meeting received a report on developments in the Procurement Section and we note and welcome the on-going progress being made by the Council in this area.

The Audit Committee were particularly interested in the Procurement Sections response to the challenges presented by the Covid-19 Pandemic. The following areas are indicative of activity in this area

- Competitive tendering on Supply.Gov by the Procurement Office for the purchase of hand sanitizer
- Procurement of essential PPE for WCC staff.
- Creation of Covid-19 Emergency Response Procurement Reference
- Appropriate amendments to ensure maximum operational benefit from the Low Value Purchase Cards system
- Enhanced monitoring of expenditure

Training Day

Regulation 5 of the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014, requires that the training needs of the Audit Committee are reviewed on an annual basis and reported to the Local Authority. I

can advise the Members that a training event was held in November in collaboration with the Institute of Public Administration. The key themes addressed were

- Audit Committee functions
- Audit Committee appraisal
- Annual Operational Plans
- Risk Management
- The role of Audit Committees in corporate governance

Audit Committee Effectiveness

Regulation 13 of the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014, states that the Audit Committee shall undertake annually a review of its own effectiveness and shall report to the Local Authority on its findings.

The Audit Committee has complied with this requirement through the use of an extensive evaluation questionnaire.

I can confirm that the Audit Committee conducts its business in accordance with the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014.

Annual Work Programme

The Committee's annual work programme involves regular meetings throughout the year. The annual work programme may be summarised as follows.

- Periodic meetings as required by statutory regulation
- Consideration and approval of the annual internal audit plan
- Dedicated meetings with the members of the senior management team
- Chairman's meeting with the Chief Executive
- Annual training day
- Review of the Risk Management System
- Consideration of internal audit reports including those prepared in connection with the Public Spending Code
- Consideration of reports issued by the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC)
- Consideration of any relevant Departmental Value for Money reports
- Review of the Annual Financial Statement
- Meeting with the Local Government Auditor and consideration of the annual Statutory Audit Report

The Annual Work Programme as outlined above is submitted for adoption by the Local Authority in accordance with Section 9 of the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014.

Conclusion

On behalf of the members of the Audit Committee I would like to thank you, the Members of Wicklow County Council for your ongoing support and assistance and we assure you of our ongoing commitment to the work of the Audit Committee

We acknowledge the continuous support of the Chief Executive, Mr. Frank Curran, along with the members of his Management Team. And in addition, we would like to express our appreciation to Mr Daragh McMahan, Local Government Auditor, for his continued cooperation and input.

I would like to congratulate Ms Lorraine Gallagher on her appointment as Director of Services and I look forward to working with her in the future.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Audit Committee to wish the Chief Executive and his Management Team, every success in their efforts in the year ahead and particularly under the current circumstances.

We look forward to working with you all, constructively, towards the achievement of your objectives and to better times ahead.

Tom Gregan

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Chief Executive joined with the Cathaoirleach in thanking the Audit Committee for the work that they carry out for the council describing their work as extremely important and thorough.

ITEM NO. 14

To receive a presentation: Ms. Deborah Meghan: Avondale Project.

Ms. Deborah Meghan, Director of Stewardship and Risk, Coillte gave a presentation covering the following areas and responded to the Elected Members queries:

- Avondale Forest Park Re-Development
- Down the centuries and generations, the core theme repeated again and again, has been how the custodians of Avondale have sown the seeds of Ireland's future
- With the support of our strategic partner Fáilte Ireland, the vision for Avondale includes:
 - Avondale House will be turned into a living history where we can walk and talk with the Parnell family.
 - The new Irish Forestry Pavilion will show how cutting edge technology is used today in Coillte's forestry business and new innovations in timber technology. The pavilion will be a key education space engaging on the importance of Forests for Climate Change and Biodiversity.
 - The seed café will have locally sourced, best quality food and refreshments, overlooking a new play space in the rejuvenated walled garden.
 - The aim at Avondale is to allow visitors to explore Nature in new, engaging and captivating ways. Expect to find yourself under, in and above the tree canopies in Avondale's new epic tree-top walk.
- "Beyond the Trees" is welcoming and inviting, creating an aura of discovery and excitement and the infinite possibilities that Avondale House and Forest park can provide.
- Avondale Site Layout – Car Park Extension and New Exit Road
- Seed Café, orientation centre, courtyard and pavilion
- Seed Café and walled garden
- Courtyard buildings – new layout
- The new Coillte Pavilion will showcase the history of forestry in Ireland and how cutting-edge technology is used today in Coillte's forestry business. The Pavilion will also focus on the importance of biodiversity and climate change and the role our forests can play. This building will also serve as a multi-function space which will offer the opportunities for small gatherings, meetings, lectures etc.
- Ireland's greatest political figure, Charles Stewart Parnell, and his family who lived here provide rich historical background to the House and the estate. This will be retold in an engaging and captivating way through "living history" interpretation in the House, where visitors will experience the life of the House and family in the 1800's, meeting the staff, contemporaries and members of the Parnell family, hearing about their lives and experiences.
- Tree top walk and tower.
 - EAK are specialists in designing, building and operating Tree Top Walks across Europe. With 12 installations, TTW's and Adventure Centres, currently in operation and 2 no. under design in North America, this company brings a wealth of experience to the Avondale Project.

- Arboretum – this area is devoted to specimen plantings of trees and shrubs dating back to the 1700's. Distinct from a natural or a normally planted forest, it is in a sense an outdoor museum of the trees found throughout Ireland and the UK.
- Forest Management Plan
 - The forest park has had limited forest management over recent year. Recent inventory of the forest park shows that most crops in Avondale are overstocked and many have not been thinned in decades preventing natural regeneration to occur.
 - The age class distribution of the woodlands is skewed with only 8% of the current area having been planted since the turn of this century and with over 20% of the state still comprised of the initial Forbes planting from the 1900-1910 period.
 - Action is needed to ensure the forest park is sustainable for the next 100 years. A management plan has been developed by Dr. Michael Carey and Dr. Mick Keane to observe and enhance the original design as a forest garden and control invasive species.
 - Objectives for this plan are to enhance recreation in the area surrounding the planned new development, protect and enhance the historically important home of Irish forestry and develop new research trials which support species diversity and climate change.
- Project Update
 - All planning permissions in place for amended design in Q4 from Wicklow County Council
 - Design Build team –
 - Coillte Project Manager – Ray Jordan
 - Rogerson and Reddan – Project Management/Quantity Surveying
 - Van Dijk Architects with Hayes Higgen Engineering – Design Team
 - EAK – Tree top walk design, build and operate
 - SISK – Main contractor
 - The current programme is to initiate enabling works in Q1 2021 subject to Covid restrictions with opening in Spring 2022.
 - The park will remain open during the development however, certain areas will be closed off to the public at various stages during construction.

At the conclusion of the presentation elected members made the following contributions where were responded to by the presenter:-

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the redevelopment proposals for Avondale which he said will contribute greatly to the local community and the economy and he thanked Ms. Meghan and Coillte for the level of engagement undertaken with the community and stakeholders.

- The project is extremely welcomed, importance of keeping a large part of the park to remain open for families to ramble around highlighted. Request put forward that in upgrading of the tracks and trails that this be implemented with environmentally sensitive material.
- Reference made to the road structure network around the Avondale site and query as to how the traffic will be addressed when the facility is re-opened.
- Request that the charges to the attraction will be affordable to families.
- Are there plans to incorporate the Avoca River – reference made to the beautiful scenic walks at that locations.
- Reference made to the mature trees in the forest there and request that this side of the development be emphasised.
- Will casual walkers be charged for walking?

- Call for historic trees to be preserved
- Reference made to the sustainability approach to using local timber and query as to whether this formed part of the award criteria for procurement for the project
- Reference made to Changing Places and if this could be included in the facility.

In conclusion the Chief Executive advised that this was an extremely welcome tourism project for County Wicklow which would be extremely successful and referenced the substantial grant input from Failte Ireland to the project, some €8m which he congratulated Coillte on securing.

ITEM NO. 15

To receive a presentation: The County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2020-2025 (deferred from meeting of 1st February, 2021).

Mr. Humphrey Murphy (ICL) and Ms. Carol Coad gave a presentation covering the following areas and responded to the Elected Members queries:

- County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2020-2025
- Valuing Outdoor Recreation in County Wicklow
- Strategic Value
- Partnership Value
- Animating the outdoors
- Outdoor Recreation Plan for public lands and waters in Ireland 2017-2021
- Valuing the place
- Benefit
- Valuing landowners
- Benefiting from the Value
- Three consultation messages
- Delivery

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. 16(a)

To receive a presentation: Wicklow County Council Housing Construction Programme.

Mr. Declan Marnane, A/Senior Engineer, Construction Projects and Mr. David Porter, Administrative Officer, gave a presentation covering the following areas and responded to the Elected Members queries:

- Wicklow County Social Housing Supply
- Supply Streams
- Delivered 2020
- Kilbride Court, Bray
- Proposed Delivery 2021
- Jameson Heights, Kilmacanogue
- Proposed Delivery 2022
- Slí na Sláinne, Baltinglass
- Post 2022
- Partnership with Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs)
- Affordable Housing
- Acquisitions and Leases
- Leases
- Enhanced Lease

- Tenant Management
- Part V
- Introduction
- Carrig Beag Part V unit
- Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015
- Options in making a Part V Agreement
- Local Authority considerations when making an agreement
- Agreements prior to 2015
- Viewmount Part V units
- Case Study Ballinahinch Woods, Ashford
- Ballinahinch indicative timeline
- Part V general points
- Part V delivery 2018-2020
- Waverley Part V units
- Part V in CE Report 2020
- Current position
- Points to note
- Barley Field Part V Unit

ITEM NO. 16(b)

Update on Homeless figures (as agreed at Council meeting held on Monday 11th January, 2021).

Ms. Jackie Carroll, Senior Executive Officer updated the elected members as follows:

- There are steady number of presentations in 2021
- One rough sleeper was assisted following an alert.
- Provision for extra beds has been made and the elected members have been advised
- Homeless Action Plan to be presented to the Members at April meeting

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

The Elected Members suspended standing orders to discuss the recent decision by Bank of Ireland to close branches across the Country. Elected Members raised particular concerns at plans to close branches in County Wicklow at Rathdrum, Carnew and Tinahely highlighting the need for banking services to businesses and the community in general in these rural villages. At the conclusion of the discussion the Elected Members asked that Wicklow County Council write to the CEO of the Bank of Ireland to review this decision and in particularly the decision to close the three branches in County Wicklow.

ITEM NO. 17

To consider the Wicklow County Council 3 year Capital Programme 2021-2024.

Elected Members were circulated with report of the Chief Executive dated the 25th of February, 2021 with copy of the Wicklow County Council 3 year Capital Programme 2021-2024. Mr. Brian Gleeson Head of Finance advised that the Capital Plan covers a three year period, 2021 to 2024 with an estimated spend of some €51m mainly relating to the housing construction programme and the roads programme. He explained the breakdown of the capital budget expenditure sums as well as projected sources of income from development contributions, disposal of assets, private sector investments and revenue budget provisions. He advised that there is no guarantee that all of the projects listed within the plan will commence and is based on available sources of funding set out in the report.

ITEM NO. 18

Correspondence: The meetings administrator advised of the following correspondence

1. Irish Water clinics are taking place on Monday 12th April, 2021
2. Reminder to elected members to return Declaration of interest forms as required by legislation, if not already done
3. Correspondence has issued regarding public consultation in respect of the Codling Wind Park project.

ITEM NO. 19

Notice of Motions

1. **Notice of motion in the name of Cllr. Peir Leonard (25th November, 2020 – deferred from special meeting of 25th January, 2021 and meeting of 1st February, 2021).**

“That Wicklow County Council writes to the Ministers for Justice, Finance and Public Expenditure to make provisions where drug and drug trafficking monies confiscated under the Proceeds of Crime Legislation be redirected from central coffers back into local addiction services, youth organisations, and community initiatives to combat the effect of addiction on our communities, and that the necessary legislation is changed as a matter of urgency to allow this vital funding support to happen”.

The content of the motion proposed by Cllr. P. Leonard and seconded by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald was agreed by all present.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

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

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

Confirmed at meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday the 12th of April, 2021.