



**Wicklow County Council  
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

**ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON THE 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL  
2023**

**Present:** Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach  
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke  
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald  
Cllr. Peir Leonard

**Officials Present:** Ms. Leonora Earls, District Manager  
Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator  
Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer  
Ms. Philippa O'Connor, CO

**Apologies:** Cllr. Tommy Annesley, Leas Cathaoirleach  
Cllr. Miriam Murphy

**Press:** Eoin Mac Raghnaill

**Public:** None

**Presentations:** NTA – Safe Routes to Schools Project  
Daniel O'Keeffe, Associate with Barry Transportation (Consultants)  
Aaron O'Connor EE (NTA), Conor Page ASEE (NTA), Maura Campbell  
Communications Officer (NTA)

**Item 1: Votes of Sympathy.**

The members expressed votes of sympathy to all families who have recently lost a loved one, those mentioned were –

Dudley Annesley, Andy Fleming, Elizabeth Forde, Claire Dunne, John Macdonald, Tony Macken, Siobhan Byrne, Jack Townsend, Betty Conway, Maurice Mernagh, Mary Conway, Anthony Macken, Catherine Griffin, Edward McGee, Mary Alamidi, Maura McDonald, Bridget McBride, David Copper, Brian McCarthy, Christina O'Driscoll, Kathleen Reape, James Doyle, Peter Doyle, Jack Townsend, Sheila Moran, Elizabeth Wybrant, Elisabeth Roberts, Barbara Fogarty.

A minutes silence was observed.

## **Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Bourke.

## **Item 3: Matters Arising.**

No matters arising.

## **Item 4: Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.**

Presentation on the Safe Route to Schools Programme in the AMD was made by Daniel O’Keeffe, Associate with Barry Transportation (Consultants) and Conor Page, ASEE WCC. Also in attendance were Aaron O’Connor, EE WCC and Maura Campbell, Communications Officer, Active Travel WCC.

Daniel O’Keeffe presented a briefing on the preliminary design of 3 schemes in Arklow:

SS Michael and Peter JNS - St Mary’s Road and Castle Park Avenue and St Johns SNS – St Johns Road

The presentation outlined the aims of the schemes – to improve safety and congestion issues in and around school entrances and accelerate the delivery of walking/cycling/scooting infrastructure on key access routes to schools.

There was some discussion around the presentation:

### **St Mary’s Road**

Cllr Fitzgerald noted that there is an informal arrangement with Irish Rail for parents to park in the station car park in order to drop children. He suggested maybe this should be formalised. Intention to block the triangular area at the junction of Collins Street and St Mary’s Road. There was some concern over this as this is used “informally” for parking.

Cllr Bourke noted that there will be objections from drivers, where removal of parking is involved; however he acknowledged that it is in the interests of child safety.

Cllr Leonard asked if there had been any consultation with the residents of the affected roads, NTA confirmed that there had been none, only consultation with the School Principals. There are 24 schools in the SRTS Programme in the County and there had been no consultation with residents in any of the schemes.

Cllr Bourke said a drop off zone, which should be used only for that, should be encouraged.

The NTA confirmed that each school had applied to be part of the scheme. NTA suggested perhaps the school should send out information to parents once the scheme is finished to let parents know where they can stop, map of drop zones, permitted parking areas etc.

L Earls DM pointed out that no parking spaces were being lost in this particular scheme.

### **Castlepark Avenue**

Cllr Fitzgerald pointed out there is free parking up to 10am in the car park which parents should be encouraged to use. He welcomed the scheme here.

Cllr Leonard had reservations about removing parking on this road. However the NTA replied that they carried out a survey of the number of vacant spaces in the two car parks at school drop off and collection times and found the car parks to be underutilised at these times. Cllr Leonard also expressed concern at the junction

exiting Castle Park car park, but the NTA pointed out that the scheme did not extend that far but that narrowing the road should improve safety.

Cllr Kennedy said the new coloured road surfaces should be effective to highlight school entrance areas. NTA stated the design was consistent across Wicklow to which should familiarise drivers.

Cllr Kennedy asked about funding and start and finish dates. NTA said costs were to be covered under NTA funding, and are hoping to start at the end of June/beginning of July 2023 and finish by the end of August in order to do the majority of the work in the school holidays. This also ties into AMD road improvements on Connolly Street.

Cllr Leonard asked about planting/trees as part of the scheme – NTA stated there would be planters going in.

Cllr Kennedy expressed thanks to the NTA and Daniel O’Keeffe and also expressed thanks to Maura Campbell as Communications Officer for her work.

### **Estate Development Grant Scheme 2023**

<b>Resident Association Funding Applications 2023</b>	
<b>Arklow Municipal District</b>	
<b>Estate</b>	<b>2023 Proposed Grant</b>
Avalon Heights	<b>Not eligible</b>
Mountain Bay Residents Assoc	<b>Not eligible</b>
Blackberry Glade	€ <b>500.00</b>
The Pines	€ <b>500.00</b>
Harbour Court	€ <b>500.00</b>
Ballygannon Resid Assoc	€ <b>500.00</b>
Cre na Mara	€ <b>500.00</b>
Viewmount	€ <b>500.00</b>
Aughrim Hall	€ <b>500.00</b>
Cluain Ard	€ <b>500.00</b>
Kirikee Upper Residents Association	€ <b>750.00</b>
John Paul Ave	€ <b>750.00</b>
Woodlands Estate	€ <b>750.00</b>
Fr Redmond Park	€ <b>750.00</b>
Avondale Heights Committee Res.Assoc.	€ <b>1,000.00</b>
Ballanagh Crescent	€ <b>1,000.00</b>
Churchview	€ <b>1,000.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	€ <b>10,000.00</b>

Cllr Fitzgerald was disappointed that Mountain Bay was not considered eligible for the grant as although there were no social housing units there were HAP tenants.

A Brehony DA stated the criteria for eligibility was based on social housing and that was the same in all Municipal Districts in Wicklow.

Acceptance of allocation of the Estate Development Grants for 2023 - Proposed Cllr Leonard, Seconded by Cllr Bourke.

All agreed

### **District Engineers Report**

#### **Roads - Restoration Improvement - €1,647,260**

<i>allocation (increase of 6% on 2022) Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
TBC	Tendering

#### **Restoration Maintenance - €429,412**

<i>(surface dressing) Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
TBC	Roads Dept. to complete designs

#### **Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience - €70,000**

<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
Retaining wall on R752 at Knockanree	Detailed Design

#### **Safety Improvement Works - €75,000**

<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
R747 Woodenbridge & Auhtrim	Tender awarded

#### **Former National Roads - €400,000**

<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
R772 Knockmore to Kish	Finalise design

#### **Local Development Works**

<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
Ballinacor, Greenane	Awaiting confirmation from Roads that scheme will go ahead.
Drumdangan, Glenealy	
Coolahulle, Auhtrim	

#### **Discretionary Funds 2023**

<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
Footpath – Brewery Bends	Scheduled with GSS
Arklow South Peir - Removal of sand	Phase 1 complete
Upgrade of footpaths 130-204 Fernhill	TBC with GSS
Footpath in Greenane - Completion	Tendered for slipform kerb
Repair verge behind 3-4 St. Mary's Crescent Barndarrig	TBC with GSS
Bus Shelter in Auhtrim	Seeking Quotations
Bus Shelter in Annacurra	Seeking Quotations
Public lighting at The Birches, Ballinacash	Liaising with lighting designer
Public Realm - Arklow	Putting scope of works together
Public Realm - Rathdrum	Seeking prices for bollards & planters
Educational signage at beaches	Liaising with Cllr. Leonard
Repair of footpath at Curran's Corner	TBC with GSS
The Pines	TBC with Residents Association
Footpath at Ferrybank	TBC with GSS

Footpath at RNLI	TBC with GSS
Tree management	Putting scope of works together
Contingency (footpaths at Templerainey Heights)	

**Other Projects:**

Rathdrum Traffic Study has been referred to Roads Department for assessment.

**Comments –**

A Hill DE stated that with Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance she would try and make the funds stretch as far as possible.

Safety improvement works R747 includes safety barriers.

‘Safety Improvement works’ – Ballinacor etc. should be titled ‘Local Improvement Schemes’

A Hill DE pointed out that costs have increased 15-20% since last year. Cllr Kennedy expressed concern that with the increase in costs the funding for roads has in fact decreased 24%. He stated the roads in South Wicklow were in a shocking state and acknowledged the weather has a huge impact. He stated rural Wicklow has been forgotten and the local TD’s need to step in and help.

L Earls DM said that the District shares those concerns and will continue to look for more funding from the Department. She reassured the Members that she and the District will keep fighting for more money.

Cllr Kennedy asked if there had been engagement with the Oireachtas members – L Earls DM confirmed there was continuous engagement at any and every opportunity. The District has written to the Dept and all 5 Wicklow TD’s.

Cllr Kennedy acknowledged AMD are doing what they can to increase funding for the roads.

Cllr Leonard also stated Arklow's paths are roads are in a poor state.

A Hill DE pointed out that AMD outdoor staff are very proactive and will fill pot holes etc. often before complaints are made but also that the weather has been a huge factor, particularly with all the rain in the last few weeks.

With regards to Discretionary Funding Cllr Leonard asked about the brief for a landscape architect for public realm works.

Cllr Kennedy enquired about the Traffic Study for Rathdrum. A Hill stated Roads in WCC were working on that.

L Earls DM said the Arklow traffic study is on-going, NTA funded and was out for public consultation before Christmas and those responses are being looked at.

**Clár Funding 2023**

Under Measure 1 AMD were unable to identify any project within the District.

A Hill DE stated there are only 2 areas, Kilpipe and Ballinacor, which were eligible but Aughrim GSS could find no areas of publicly owned land that AMD could apply for funding for.

Cllr Leonard said maybe other volunteer groups could use Measure 2 to apply funding for Local Link or other similar schemes.

**Item 5: Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members.**

Nothing brought to the meeting.

**Item 6: Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting.**

Nothing brought to the meeting.

**Item 7: Notice of Motion/s**

**(a) To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Tommy Annesley Received on 15/02/23**

*“That Arklow Municipal District look at replacing the Footpaths at Templerainey Heights”*

Deferred to May meeting.

**(b) To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Tommy Annesley Received on 15/02/23**

*“That Arklow Municipal District look at installing a footpath between Arklow Bearing Services and Arklow Recycling Centre in Croghan Industrial Estate”*

Deferred to May meeting.

**(c) To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Peir Leonard Received on the 31/01/2023**

*“That Arklow Municipal District fund and install a concrete path through the field at Harbour Court from Abbeyville to Tinahask.”*

Seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald.

Agreed

A Hill DE will add to the list for discretionary funding for next year. No funds available this year.

**(d) To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Peir Leonard Received on the 05/03/2023**

*“That Arklow MD progress & fund the design and landscaping of the green space Fernhill / Marion Villas to include an accessible natural footpath around the newly planted trees and that any necessary tree removals to be relocated at the appropriate time of year to suitable green spaces around the town”*

Seconded Cllr Bourke

Cllr Leonard explained Phase 1 was the planting of the trees and Phase 2 is to remove some trees at the appropriate time when matured to make it a useable space. Phase 2 has not been started yet but UCD is involved and Cllr Leonard will ask them to create a plan and design for this area and trees will be removed and re planted around Arklow. The UCD design will be at no cost and will involve engagement with residents and schools etc.

Agreed

**(e) To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. Peir Leonard Received on the 05/03/2023**

*“That Arklow MD carry out an audit on all town centre signage (public, private, street names, advertising) and that the results be assessed and an implementation plan put in place for removal of outdated and inappropriate signage and funding sought for the replacement of streets signs as necessary as part of a multi-pronged approach to our town centre regeneration.”*

All Members agreed to amend the motion to read:

*“That Arklow MD carry out an audit on all town centre and village signage within the District (public, private, street names, advertising) and that the results be assessed and an implementation plan put in place for removal of outdated and inappropriate signage and funding sought for the replacement of streets signs as necessary as part of a multi-pronged approach to our town centre regeneration.”*

There was some discussion around the audit of signage. A Hill DE stated it was a massive undertaking and AMD did not have enough resources for a full audit. Tidy Towns had undertaken the audit for Arklow.

Cllr Leonard suggested the Town Team could apply for funding for Tidy Towns.

A Brehony DA said they had engaged with the Environment Section in Wicklow and dog fouling signs were on order.

Cllr Leonard pointed out the issue of business/ advertising signs on roads which had closed down.

L Earls DM said these were a matter for Planning Enforcement but that it was a huge job checking all the Section 254 licences. We should perhaps start on the road signs that AMD have control over. A Hill DE said there had been some work done on directional signs.

#### **Item 8: Correspondence**

A Brehony DA had received notice of the 2023 Community Centre Investment Funding. Unfortunately there is no ‘ready to go’ scheme in the District. In order to be eligible it must be a green/brown field site for a new build with Part 8 permission in place. It must be a community building with detailed design ready.

Cllr Bourke suggested the Pottery Museum, but A Hill DE stated there was no detailed design in place so it would not be eligible.

A Brehony DA to supply deadline for funding.

#### **Item 9: Any Other Business**

##### **Community Recognition fund**

A Brehony DA said there are 2 projects in AMD which were submitted for funding, a multi-use playing pitch at Coral Leisure and a Rathdrum Community Project. She is hoping to hear on both schemes soon.

##### **Update on North Beach/Caravan Park Access**

Cllr Kennedy stated that as Court proceedings were currently in place there should be no discussions on the matter. However he had received a number of questions on it.

##### **Columbarium Wall**

A Brehony DA said the Columbarium Wall was going out to tender to relevant companies and will have a better update in May. Several contractors had been asked to tender.

Cllr Fitzgerald has asked for clarification on the impact on the old graves.

### **Pedestrian Crossing at Curran's Corner**

Cllr Fitzgerald raised the issue of this crossing and asked that the crossing markings be removed in the interests of safety. There alternative crossing points on lower main street.

All Members agreed.

A Hill DE to arrange for markings to be burnt off and for any crossing signage to be removed. Other safety features such as tactile paving will also be removed.

L Earls DM stated that at a Plenary level there was acknowledgement that in general footpaths in Co Wicklow needed attention.

LE also noted that the improvements at Saville's Cross were nominated under the LAMA awards for community transport.

### **Abbey Lane**

Cllr Leonard asked if there were any resources available to tidy up Abbey Lane. She would like to see the aesthetics improved whilst maintaining the integrity of the archaeology. Also, whether casual trading licences could be approved for that area, perhaps for a farmers market.

A Hill DE said it was regularly cleaned by the GSS. She intends to submit a business case for works in the area.

L Earls DM said she would look into casual trading by-laws and would raise the issue with Environment.

Cllr Leonard suggested the River Walk would be another ideal location for casual traders.

### **Local Link**

Cllr Leonard would like a presentation from local link so services could be reviewed

### **Memorial Benches**

Cllr Kennedy asked on behalf of a Constituent about memorial benches at the harbour, permission has been granted and she has purchased a seat.

A Brehony DA said AMD are in the process of assessing applications received and contacting the applicants.

### **Fencing at Shelton**

Cllr Bourke raised the issue of some fencing at Shelton being removed between Arklow River Park and the by-pass. A Hill DE said usually fencing belongs to the land owner and this would be their own responsibility to repair.

### **Avoca River litter pick**

Cllr Bourke wants a push on the upcoming litter pick. A Brehony DA stated it is on Social media and An Garda Siochana will have a presence.

### **Arklow-Shillelagh Greenway**

Cllr Kennedy asked about progress on the Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway, L Earls DM said the consultants were working on the final options and then these will be put out to stakeholders and for public consultation.



**Kilbride Cemetery**

CLlr Kennedy very disappointed by the recent vandalism in the cemetery. Asked if CCTV would be possible.

LE said CCTV is a challenge as there are very few public realms where it is allowed under GDPR. There is no simple solution, but perhaps we can engage with An Garda Siochana for more patrols or passive surveillance.

**Arklow Castle**

CLlr Leonard has asked for a 3-D model of works under the castle that Irish Water is carrying out. She hasn't received it yet. She has tried on numerous occasions.

L Earls DM to follow up with Irish Water.

**Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**

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

**Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District**