



**Wicklow County Council  
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

**ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON THE**

**14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022**

**Present:** Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach  
Cllr. Tommy Annesley, Leas Cathaoirleach  
Cllr. Miriam Murphy  
Cllr. Peir Leonard  
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke

**Officials Present:** Ms. Leonora Earls, District Manager  
Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator  
Mr. John Daly, Executive Engineer  
Mr. Brendan Martin, County Librarian  
Mr. Aaron O Connor, EE NTA  
Ms. Maura Campbell, Communications Officer NTA  
Mr. Rob Mulhall, A/SEE NTA  
Mr. Stephen Howes, Technician AMD  
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, ASO

**Apologies :** Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald

**Press :** Eoin Mac Raghnaill

**Public:** None

**Item 1 : Votes of Sympathy.**

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

Anne English, Rowena Carroll, Vincent Fitzgerald, John Poole, Julia Fleming, Queen Elizabeth II.

A minutes silence was observed.

**Item 2 : Confirmation of Minutes**

**Ordinary Meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022.**

An amendment to the minutes was put forward – attached – Item 6, Ordinary Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022. The amendment was noted and agreed by all members.

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022 were proposed by Cllr Murphy and seconded by Cllr Annesley.

**Special Meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022.**

The Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Arklow held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022 were proposed by Cllr Annesley and seconded by Cllr Leonard.

**Item 3 : Matters Arising.**

No matters arising.

A notice of motion to suspend standing orders was proposed by Cllr Leonard and seconded by Cllr Murphy – The required 2/3<sup>rds</sup> of votes to carry the motion was not reached and the notice of motion was dismissed. Discussion took place relating to the further disruption of traffic flow on Main St. and the complaints received in relation to the lack of notice and communication in relation to the change in traffic flow management. The Cathaoirleach spoke to the DM on Monday and a meeting has been arranged with the contractors for Friday at 3.15pm and stressed that he would not like to see good work undone.

L Earls DM reported that WCC were not informed of the change in traffic flow management from St. Mary's Rd on to Main St. and so could not pass on the information to the distribution list for updates and this is unfortunate, given the long months it took to get the communications links working for the traders. The contractors had signage put in place on Friday and explained that they had good reason for the deviation. They have also confirmed that disruption will be kept to a minimum and extra labour and machinery will be allocated where necessary. T Quirke EE is continually engaging with ARUP. The DM asked the members to forward on questions for the meeting on Friday.

Cllr Leonard thanked the DM and re-iterated the need for duty of care to the retailers on Main St. and users. Cllr Leonard requested that the contractors issue a statement with the project timeline publicly and asked if the contractor could be penalised financially and any penalty ring fenced for the traders. She also asked that temporary lighting is improved on the Parade Ground – especially difficult for the older citizens. She thanked C Lawless DA for resolving the car parking issue and requested clearer communication to assist the traders. Cllr Bourke stated that he was appalled at what happened and apologies have been accepted – we are all lobbying for a speedy finish and was disappointed that only 1 or 2 members are noted for championing the retailer's plight.

Cllr Murphy agreed with both and raised an issue about trees outside the houses of two residents on the Parade Ground.

Cllr Annesley stated that the contractors should be on top of their game – signage not up to standard – of the three schemes ongoing in the town, the Parade Ground works are causing the most annoyance to the general public. The contractors have given their word that this will not happen again.

L Earls DM re-iterated that as the project moves on, mitigation measures will be in place to minimise disruption. There have been discussions about promoting the space once works are complete and the intention is to showcase the area and promote the businesses. AMD are working away on this.

Cllr Murphy requested that the Cancer Support Group is added to the emailing list.

Cllr Leonard asked that the signage for the works is reviewed on Abbey Street .

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

***To receive a Planners report on the proposed new Aughrim Library***

B Martin, Co. Librarian briefed the members on the Planning Report for the Part VIII application for the proposed new library in Aughrim – questions were invited from the members.

The members agreed that the project is valuable to the community and thanked B Martin for his input.

The application was proposed by Cllr Kennedy and seconded by Cllr Bourke. All members agreed.

On behalf of the members Cllr Kennedy thanked all involved in the project – from design stage to funding.

## ***District Engineers Report***

### **Roads Programme**

#### **Regional Roads**

| <i>Road No.</i> | <i>Location</i>       | <i>Proposed Works</i>      | <i>Status</i>                                   |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|---|
| R-754-0         | Redcross              | Resurfacing & line marking | Coming weeks. Contractor will issue letter drop |
| R-754           | Redcross - Barndarrig | Surface Dressing           | Complete  |

#### **Local Roads**

| <i>Road No.</i>        | <i>Location</i>          | <i>Proposed Works</i>      | <i>Status</i> |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| L-2191-30              | Ballyduff Road           | Resurfacing & line marking | Complete      |
| L-6167-0               | Oghill Upper             | Resurfacing                | Complete      |
| L-6203-33              | Killaveny                | Resurfacing                | Complete      |
| L-2140-0               | Greenan Beg - Aughrim    | Resurfacing                | Tendered      |
| L-5665, L-5165, L-5164 | Ballykeane               | Surface Dressing           | Complete      |
| L-5660                 | Bonagrew to Ballyvaltron | Surface Dressing           | Complete      |
| L-2128                 | Ballyboy-Aughavannagh    | Surface Dressing           | Complete      |
| L-2137                 | Aughrim - Ballyteige     | Surface Dressing           | Complete      |
| L-6174, L-6192         | Crannagh to Ballymoyle   | Surface Dressing           | Complete      |
| L-6168                 | Knockanode to Cronemore  | Surface Dressing           | Complete      |
| L-6155                 | Tigroney                 | Surface Dressing           | Complete      |
| L-6192                 | Thomastown               | Surface Dressing           | Complete      |
| L-6204                 | Killaveny                | Surface Dressing           | Complete      |

**Length of surface dressing completed to date: 20.4km**

#### **Safety Improvements Works**

| <i>Road No.</i> | <i>Location</i>             | <i>Proposed Works</i>  | <i>Status</i> |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| R 747           | Woodenbridge and Aughrim    | Safety Barrier         | Complete      |
| L 6126-0        | Kirakee Village, Glenmalure | Safety Barrier         | Complete      |
| R 753           | Ballinaclash and Rathdrum   | Safety Barrier         | Complete      |
| R 754           | Barndarrig                  | Replacement speed ramp | Complete      |

#### **Former National Roads**

| <i>Road No.</i> | <i>Location</i>                 | <i>Proposed Works</i>      | <i>Status</i>  |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| R772            | Emoclew Roundabout to Knockmore | Resurfacing & line marking | Tendered.<br>Moved the location of this job due to upcoming NTA works on Knockmore to Kish. Application will be made to funding for Knockmore to Kish in 2023.<br>Night works proposed to minimise traffic disruption. |

Line Marking: AMD has awarded the tender for line marking in the district and works are due to commence week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **Discretionary Funds**

| <i>Proposed Works</i>         | <i>Status</i>                                |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Bus Shelter at Aughrim        | Tendered & Ordered                           |
| Bus Shelter at Annacurragh    | Tendered & Ordered                           |
| Footpath – Lower St. Rathdrum | Design to be considered after traffic survey |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Footpath - Conary                       | Scheduled with GSS                             |
| Footpath - Thomastown                   | Scheduled with GSS                             |
| Footpath – Thomastown                   | Scheduled with GSS                             |
| Footpath – Harbour Ct. Blackberry Glade | Scheduled with GSS                             |
| Footpath – Brewery Bends                | Scheduled with GSS                             |
| Footpath – Mountain Bay                 | Complete                                       |
| Footpath – Greenane                     | Finalising extent and layout                   |
| Benches – Arklow Harbour                | Delivered. To be installed in agreed locations |
| Woodview Park – Road resurfacing        | Tendered                                       |

Application to Sustainable Transport / Active Travel - Rural Specific Fund - 2022/2023 for footpath in Glenealy was successful. Scheduled for construction in early 2023.

### **Community Monuments Funding**

Arklow received funding for two projects in the 2022 Community Monuments Funding.

- Work is due to start on Arklow Castle on 18<sup>th</sup> July.
- €7,072 for Abbey Lane (Research & Interpretation of Archaeology). Waiting on the archaeology report.

### **Other Projects**

AMD will undertake a traffic survey in Rathdrum to establish a baseline to look at improving the traffic situation.

Co-ordinating with Environment section on columbarium wall for St. Gabriel's cemetery.

### **NTA Projects**

#### **Saville's Junction, Rathdrum**

Work ongoing at the moment and progressing well. Ducting in place for undergrounding of services and pedestrian crossings. Remainder of the slip-form kerbing has been completed. Installation of table top ramp and road marking to take place in the next 2-3 weeks. Works are anticipated to finish on the roads and footpath by the end of September but the works to the private boundary wall will probably extend beyond that.

#### **Arklow North Pedestrian & Cycle Facilities**

Works commenced on site last week and are progressing well. Public lighting infrastructure, ESB ducting for future schemes, and a new road drainage system are being installed as part of the works. That is why a completion date of 6 months has been publicised.

#### **Arklow South Pedestrian & Cycle Facilities**

The latest preliminary design revision has been commented on and sent back to consultant for amendments. Appropriate Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Reports are being drafted. Eir are currently reviewing the designs to determine the extent of infrastructure amendments required for scheme. Consultation with all residents and commercial businesses living/operating within works extents. Feedback has been very positive. Providing approval on the design is obtained from the NTA, our hope would be to commence works on site in Q4 of 2022.

#### **Woodlands Pedestrian Ramp, Arklow**

The job is currently out for tender with a closing date of 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Disappointingly, no responses to the tender request were received. The job was retendered on the 9<sup>th</sup> September. We are hoping to get a contractor on site for mid-October.

### **Housing Projects**

#### **Avondale Phase 2**

Construction work is continuing on the development of 20 new homes. The houses are nearing completion with second fix plumbing and electrical work continuing. Site works have commenced with the installation of site foul and surface water drainage and the construction of gardens, footpaths and kerbing ongoing.

#### **Sheehan Court (Old Fire Station)**

The project consists of a terrace of 7 no., 2bed houses, the project works are complete with snagging due for completion Friday 16th Sept.

BCAR has been completed which allows keys to be handed over in the coming two weeks when substantial completion cert is issued.

#### **Comments –**

Cllr Murphy asked if the timing on the traffic lights at Pound Hill could be changed – J Daly EE to discuss with NTA.

Cllr Kennedy asked that the line marking at Barndarrig be done as soon as possible – J Daly EE confirmed that these works are listed and are part of the package of district works. Cllr Kennedy also asked that any marking for Woodview Park Avoca is linked in with TVR works. J Daly EE said this will be considered if the budget allows it.

Cllr Leonard noted areas in Arklow town that need attention for line marking – especially pedestrian crossings – asked that any safety works do not encroach on parking spaces and asked that the Engineer liaise with shop owners. Can AMD follow up on getting the Pride Crossing on Main St. re-painted. Cllr Leonard mentioned concerns over the drainage in St Gabriel's Graveyard – this is a very emotive issue for families – a mechanical solution to the problem needs to be found. Cllr Leonard asked that the entrance to Abbey Lane is cleaned up.

The members voiced concerns about the development of the Circle K site on the Dublin Road – People are unable to use the footpath and there has been little or no communication about the closure of the path.

Cllr Annesley commented on the length of time taken to complete the cycle lane works – R Mulhall A/SEE confirmed that the cycle route would be a segregated system and normally takes longer and is a much safer system. Cllr Annesley also commented on the delay in getting the lights turned on for the Vale Road – R Mulhall A/SEE confirmed that the delay is with the utilities companies.

Cllr Leonard stated that the junction at Woodlands/Mill Meadows is not functioning correctly – people not yielding where they should – J Daly EE agreed to check this. Cllr Murphy also noted that the line marking is worn away in this area.

The members noted areas within the district that need attention in relation to general weeding and unblocking of gullies – J Daly EE to follow up.

Cllr Bourke asked if the LIS works have been tendered – J Daly EE confirmed that no date had been set yet. Cllr Bourke also asked if the SRM could be extended – Cllr Kennedy said that there was still a lot to be done. L Earls DM acknowledged and thanked the WCC SRM team for the works completed. Cllr Kennedy also acknowledged the level investment going toward linking local towns.

#### **Item 5 : Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting.**

##### **To receive a presentation from Aaron O'Connor and Michael Flynn on the Safe Routes to School Project.**

Cllr Kennedy welcomed Communications Officer for the NTA – Maura Campbell and Aaron O'Connor EE with NTA Project Team.

In July 2021, the NTA advised that 2 schools in Arklow had been selected for Round 1 - SS Michael and Peter Junior School and St. John's NS Coolgreaney Rd. Arklow. The SRTS programme was developed in response to ongoing issues of safety and congestion at the school gate and on routes to school.

The members were given an overview of the programme plan for both schools along with the Outline Delivery Plan's for both schools.

The members welcomed the scheme but expressed concern at the further disruption to traffic this scheme will cause. A O'Connor EE confirmed the proposed start date for summer 2023 and that the scheme would not include extensive construction works. There has been communication with the schools and the parents to support these works and to get involved in promoting safety on school routes.

The members highlighted other area of concern along school routes in the district and promoted the use of existing pedestrian laneways. A O'Connor EE stated that the initial focus will be on front of school – Lanes are not as inviting as they could be. All of the demographics will be looked at and the team will learn from these.

The members were invited to email any queries to the team – Cllr Kennedy thanked both for the presentation.

#### **Item 6 : Notice of Motions.**

##### **To consider Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Peir Leonard. Received on (16/05/22)**

“That Arklow Municipal District recognise the biodiversity, recreational & tourism value of our public parks throughout Arklow Municipal District and ring-fence a sufficient annual allowance to allow proper maintenance and enhancement of the parks for public use and that the Arklow Municipal District write to Wicklow Council Council to request that they acknowledge the counties need for a Parks Department in Wicklow County Council and commit to securing the necessary funding to implement this as soon as possible”.

Cllr Leonard noted that many areas may be under resourced and this motion needs to be backed and pressure exerted to get more resources – need to be getting best value from our land use and especially public areas. J Daly EE confirmed that the annual budget received by AMD for maintenance is used for public amenity spaces within the district and housing estates (ATC) and includes replacing fencing and broken furniture. This year significant works were carried out at the park at the Meetings of the Waters.

##### **To consider Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Peir Leonard. Received on (16/05/22)**

“That as part of the Arklow MD monthly report that a section be incorporated quarterly for the progression of biodiversity measures being actioned across the Arklow MD by the council and that a report of any urban habit removal being sanctioned by the MD be passed by the members prior to permission being granted”.

J Daly EE confirmed that the monthly DE report contains all works being carried out in the District in a given month and will include Biodiversity measures if they are taking place. Also noted that Arklow MD, do not sanction ‘habitat removal.’ Works on private grounds are outside our control unless the works are going through the Planning process, in which case, EIA Reports may be required. Arklow MD technical staff, are given the opportunity to comment on planning applications but ultimately granting of permission is an executive function of the Planning Department.

Cllr Kennedy acknowledged the spirit of Cllr Leonard’s motions.

L Earls DM stated that WCC could not be compared to other LA’s that are exceptionally well funded – budget constraints are a key factor in sustained maintenance of public areas. As the members are aware, budgeting for 2023 is already challenging – having said that bio-diversity will be a continued focus for WCC.

#### **Item 7 : Correspondence**

Correspondence has been received from the Rathdrum Playground Committee – request for contribution toward a heritage panel project for the town.

The members discussed the options for contributing – Cllr Annesley requested that quotes are sought from the committee to verify the costs submitted. C Lawless DA will request the required information. Cllr Bourke expressed dissatisfaction with the allocation of discretionary spending this year – may not support an increase in LPT.

**Item 8 : Any Other Business**

C Lawless DA invited the members to attend a reception for the German School group from Wurzburg to be held in the library on the 19th September.

C Lawless DA put forward three applications for memorials in the town – submitted by, Malcolm Goode, Kevin Fitzgerald and Patty Keogh. The applications were discussed and approved by the members subject to final locations being determined by the District Engineer.

Cllr Kennedy raised concerns at the volume of correspondence received about the decided route for the greenway through Aughrim – different stories going round – requested clarification on the route. He also wishes to extend an invite to Coillte to attend a meeting to give an update on the development of Avondale Park.

Cllr Bourke asked that the previous request submitted for the installation of a tap in Castlemcadam Graveyard in Avoca is re-visited.

Cllr Bourke stated that clarification has been sought by property owners on the Riverwalk about the boundary location of particular premises – assurance has been requested that existing boundaries can be maintained with upcoming FRS works. J Daly EE stated that any title/boundary documents would need to be reviewed.

Cllr Leonard put forward a proposal for funding for Graffiti Jam Event to be held in Arklow this month – A letter requesting funding was submitted by Kayde Middleton. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Murphy and all agreed to contribute €300.00 to the event.

Cllr Annesley commented on reports received of anti-social behaviour on the Riverwalk – Can AMD do something to keep it safe? The area near the Gaelcholáiste is a no go area.

Meeting concluded.

**Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 12th October 2022.**

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

**Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.**

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

**Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District**