

## MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

HELD IN DISTRICT CHAMBER, TOWN HALL

MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 15.00pm

**Present:** Cllr Shay Cullen, Cllr Gail Dunne, Cllr Mary Kavanagh, Cllr John Snell, Cllr Paul O'Brien

**Apologies:** Cllr Irene Winters

**In Attendance:** District Manager, Brian Gleeson  
District Engineer, Pat Clarke  
District Administrator, Georgina Franey  
Wicklow People, Myles Buchanan

Leas Cathaoirleach Shay Cullen opened the meeting at 15.00 p.m.

### ITEM 1

#### **Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023**

It was proposed by Councillor Paul O'Brien, seconded by Councillor John Snell and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023.

### ITEM 2

#### **To consider report (as circulated) in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) in respect of the proposed development to construct a footpath at Ballyguilemore to link new GAA Grounds**

Senior Engineer, Michael Flynn, updated the members in respect of the proposal to construct a 570m long by 1.5m wide footpath along the road from Carrig View estate leading to the proposed new GAA pitch on Greenhill Road. Funding of €200,000 was secured from the NTA with €497,000 to be provided by the County Council. He advised that there was good public engagement in the consultation process. Seventy Eight representations were received which were overall in favour. A few concerns were expressed, namely regarding the route, environmental concerns and concerns regarding protection of the Old Cholera House. It was confirmed that works would be carried out under the supervision of an archaeologist to mitigate any effects on the structure and that it would not be touched. Michael advised that EIA screening and ecology survey had been conducted and the report updated. A tree survey was also conducted which is noted in the report. Michael said it was hoped to commence work very shortly in order to meet the deadline for drawing down the NTA funding.

Members acknowledged the amount of work completed to date and stressed how important an amenity the path would be in order to access the new GAA grounds at Greenhill Road in view of the fact that St. Patricks GAA at Dunbur Road is presently at capacity. It was pointed out that this footpath would secure GAA in Wicklow Town for the next 100 years.

A query was raised regarding completion of the Masterplan for Brides Head.

A vote was called and the members voted unanimously in favour of the Part 8.

### **ITEM 3**

#### **District Engineers Report**

Updates were provided by District Engineer Pat Clarke as follows:

##### **Housing:**

###### **❖ Relets/Prelets**

- 1no. house new relets handed to WMD for refurbishment works,
- 5no. houses being worked on, through WCC Housing Framework,
- 3no. houses returned to Housing Department for allocation,
- 5no. houses on hold (tenancy considerations).

###### **❖ Maintenance and operations**

- On-going repairs and maintenance being progressed as required on housing stock within the WMD,
- 1 DPG underway.

##### **DTTAS Roads Programme:**

###### **❖ Drainage**

- Generally works on verge drains, gullies and road crossings to outlets are currently ongoing throughout the MD.
- Works completed at Three Mile Water with additional road crossing to capture water on east side of the road.
- Works to complete on R755 Wicklow Gap Road to install 450mm diameter pipes to both remove surface water from the road and increase the width of the road in an extremely narrow section to be carried out on by end of Nov. Verge inlet maintenance on Wicklow gap complete.
- Works on verge drains are continuing on Callowhill, installation of pipes to construct a French drain have been installed a certain locations depending on outfalls. Patching of road has followed with poor area to get resurfaced in late Nov.
- Installation of drainage pipes and gabions along the Ballyhara Road to repair undermining of road by stream has been completed.
- Programme for cleaning of gullies has started within the Wicklow MD. Drain surveys are being carried out on problem areas as required on an ongoing basis.
- Wicklow MD working closely with our WCC Uisce Eireann staff to deal with issues on the combined network, issue with damaged pipe at Hopkins Toy shop completed. Final surface to be laid after Christmas.

- Drainage works on the R772, between the Milltown lane junction and the junction to Bel Air is almost complete, before surfacing works start.
- Drainage works at Knockrobin completed which was causing severe damage to the road.

❖ **Restoration Maintenance**

The Countywide Restoration Maintenance started in the Wicklow MD on the 12<sup>th</sup> June, and it continued around the County, finishing up on the 9<sup>th</sup> August in WMD.

Post works sweeping has been on completed works sites.

Below are list of works completed in 2023.

Location	Length of Works	Completed to Date
Ballymachara – Ballycullen, L5095	2.5km	Completed
Tomdarragh Lane	1.0km	Completed
Kilpoole- Magheramore R750	1.8km	Completed
Raheenmore, Blainroe Upper, L1102	2.0km	Completed
Carrigower- Easthill L1039	4.0km	Completed
Garryduff, L6068	8.0km	Completed
Wicklow Gap, Brockagh, R756	2.5km	Completed
Djouce – Sallys bridge, R755	2.5km	Completed
Annamoe- Laragh R755	1.0km	Completed
Magheramore- Three Mile Water	1.25km	Completed
Togher Beg/ Vartry	1.0km	Completed

❖ **Local Improvement Schemes (LIS)**

Wicklow received funding for two Local Improvement Schemes in Round 1 and an additional scheme in Round 2.

To date the LIS in Croneybyrne is complete, the LIS in Laragh is ongoing, and the final LIS in Carrigower to be completed by a contractor by the end of November.

❖ **Restoration Improvement**

Tenders on Restoration Improvement works received in June/July. Due to additional funding further works have been tendered. Works will include a variety of techniques depending on classification and condition of Road.

Working with various contractors in scheduling works into their programmes. Weather conditions have affected all contractors' programmes this season.

Advance works such as drainage and verge widening works has been completed on all RI Roads with a mixture of MD staff and sub contactors. Main list of RI projects below.

Below is a list of main works for 2023

Location	Length of Works	Completed to Date
Raheenmore L1102	2.0Km	Completed
Kilbride L5659	2.3Km	Completed
Cloghoge R115	2.1Km	Completed
Carrigower Quarry L1039-38	0.100Km	Completed
Monalin - Kilmurry R765	1.0Km	Completed
Rathnew Old Village L5121	0.250Km	Completed
Abbey Street R750	0.150Km	<b>Completed</b>
Carrigower- Easthill L1039	0.400Km	Completed
Claramore L6586	1.2km	<b>Contractor appointed, works programmed for last week in Nov.</b>
Glenwood to Moneystown Hill L6088	2.3km	Completed
R772 Ashford (two sections)	1.3km	<b>Contractor appointed, works to start in coming weeks</b>

#### ❖ Safety Improvement Projects

- Improvement works carried out at Powers Avenue junction on R755, to improve sight-lines. Resurfacing has been completed improve surface and to improve vertical alignment.
- Vehicle Activated Signage installed in advance of Djouce Crossroads on the R755, for to warn drivers of crossroads.
- Vehicle Activated Signage completed at Railway Bridge area of Glenealy on R752.
- Pedestrian Crossing to be finished at Mountain view in Newtownmountkennedy in the interest of safety for pedestrians next week.
- Drop kerb and tactile complete at school at Newtownmountkennedy completed.
- Upgrade of crossing point at St Laurence's school for safety reasons over mid-term break has commenced, surfacing to be completed in coming weeks.
- Upgrade of Road markings on R755/ R756 between Wicklow Gap and Djouce has started, approx. 8km of centre line to be completed plus edge markings in coming weeks.

## ❖ **WCC Projects**

- Brittas Bay footpath; commencement date was pushed back to the end of the summer season due to the increased traffic volumes in this area. Hedge cutting of verge area completed, so survey works can be completed as part of design process.
- Bike shelters erected at Glendalough Upper Car Park, Newtown Bus stop opposite the Town house pub, and at Rathnew Inbound Bus stop.
- Erection of Speed limit signs is completed around the Wicklow MD within the last few weeks. There may be a small few old signs that need to be removed in areas.

## **Fáilte Ireland:**

### ❖ **Abbey Grounds;**

- Project continuing with Architect/ Structural Engineer and a Quantity surveyor working on tender package for the Coach House area at present. Tender will be issued by end of Nov.
- Detailed designs still progressing for Amphitheatre seating and performance area.
- Fire certs and Disability Access drawings have been submitted.
- Stripping back and cleaning of old stone bridge linking Abbey Street Car Park has been completed.
- Initial works on tree trimming and scrub removal has taken place to enhance the Abbey and the grounds itself. Material finishes being worked through at present on certain elements of the design.
- Connection agreements with Utility providers are being progressed also.
- A detailed archaeological survey of the existing ruins to be completed.
- Site compound for construction works to be installed in next few weeks.

## **Community Recognition Fund/Outdoor Recreation:**

- Brittas Bay Blueway funding for accessibility works; works have commenced on upgrade to toilet facilities. The upgrade to also include a disabled toilet, improved water storage and improvement of security facilities. – Ongoing should be completed by mid-December.
- A proposal for outdoor gym equipment around Riverwalk/Murrough Area is being progressed at present, tender documentation to be published as soon as possible.
- Technical team working on tender package to upgrade Assembly hall facilities. Tender to be issued to contractors by end of November. Works to clean up at back of building have been completed.
- Repairs to Handball Alley to be progressed with specialist contractor through the Community Recognition Fund. These works will be completed when contractor becomes available

## **Town & Village Renewal:**

- Wicklow Town – South Quay connections to Main Street (Connectivity Project); stakeholder consultations are ongoing, with artist selection complete. Advance works such as cleaning buildings and plaster works have commenced and continue ahead of each element of work. Three Murals are now complete with a further three murals commencing during October and November. Decorative lighting (on lanes) and seating (at Scouts Hall) are currently being procured. Three ornate arches with lanterns are currently being fabricated for installation

along the Doctor's Steps. – 6 murals now complete, with lighting and seating elements still ongoing.

- Newtown - Streetscape Enhancement Project works are just complete. New bins are being provided, along with some additional street furniture to further enhance the appearance of Newtown.
- ❖ **NTA Projects**
  - Consultants still working on pedestrian and cycle improvement scheme, initial survey completed on the Marlton Rd and Rocky Rd, linking to Train Station on Station Road.

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

- WCC have issued payments for the following connections. WCC waiting on MPRN's to progress completion:
  - Laragh Pedestrian Crossing,
  - Moneystown Pedestrian Crossing,
  - Annamoe Pedestrian Crossing (part of Town and Village Scheme),
  - Annamoe additional Public lighting (part of Town and Village Scheme).

Scheduling of ESB to energise equipment as soon as possible is being progressed by WCC staff.

It should be noted that WCC are continuously following up with the ESB on the connection of the Historical Lighting around Wicklow town. Due to the storms in recent months ESB resources have had to concentrate on faults and emergencies, as these take precedence over the connection of these lights. The ESB have energised some locations with remainder carried out as soon as their programme allows.

- Road markings progressing around the MD, with yellow boxes being repainted in Wicklow town centre at certain locations.
- Murrough Masterplan being worked on at present, with concept drawings completed, landscape architect required to detail up concept.

#### **MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS**

- Members acknowledge the scale of works carried out during the recent inclement weather.
- Queries were raised regarding provision of salt/grit boxes at entrances to housing estates to allow residents to spread the grit themselves during frosty weather and costing of same. It was pointed out that the area from Greenhill Road to Convent Hill in Wicklow town was particularly bad and also the villages of Laragh, Glendalough and Roundwood. It was agreed that estates located on hills should be supplied. The District Engineer indicated that he would examine the matter and report back to the members.
- Cutting back of trees at Staffords Fuels in Rathnew which obscure public lighting. District Engineer indicated that public lights were replaced here and some trees cut. The matter will be re-examined.
- Opening of toilets at Brittas Bay during the winter season and the possibility of providing an annual pass for Brittas Bay. The District Engineer advised that there may be a funding and franchise issue for the Environment Section.

- Security of boats moored in the harbour – it was pointed out that since the installation of the pontoon it is possible for people to step onto the boats. It was noted that this is a matter for the Harbour Authority and CCTV is under consideration.
- Query as to whether any funds were available to repair a short stretch of path outside the school at Brittas Bay. District Engineer advised that he would check it out.
- Lighting along promenade is out and the area is very dark. District Engineer advised that there was a cabling issue and that the cable ran through the wall. To be referred to public lighting team in Wicklow County Council.
- Bachelors Walk – trees cut back but lights not working on Garda Station side.
- Increased traffic at Ballinalea due to new development – ramp needs replacing and repainting and further parking needed. District Engineer advised that it may be possible to provide another ramp and signage but there may not be funding available for parking spaces.
- New lighting on Greenhill Road has made a huge difference. School Principal passed on thanks.
- Roadworks at Abbey Street were commended.
- Works at Ball Alley were commended. District Engineer advised that it was hoped to resume works, weather permitting.
- Request to keep Milltown on the agenda. District Engineer advised that this may be added to the safety programme for DTAS next year.
- Members indicated that there was very positive feedback regarding the murals recently commissioned around Wicklow town and also the streetscape project in Newtownmountkennedy has had a very positive impact. A query was raised as to whether funding could be sought to have this rolled out for Wicklow town also. The District Administrator advised members that the Town Team were hoping to apply for funding for a streetscape project.
- Update sought on acquisition of the old Garda station in Ashford.
- Glendalough Masterplan – members expressed frustration at the lack of progress. The District Manager advised that the masterplan was finalised but there was a problem with funding. He said he would check funding with Failte Ireland.
- It was pointed out that there were stumps protruding from the new path on The Murrough and that it becomes very muddy, a query was raised regarding possibility of putting down grit – refer to Irish Rail.

#### **ITEM 4**

##### **Correspondence**

The District Administrator advised that two applications for funding had been received as follows:

1. Organisers of Diwali Festival seeking €1,000 towards expenses – large Indian community currently living in the area. It was agreed to seek more information/invoices.
2. 17<sup>th</sup> Roundwood Scout Troup seeking discretionary funding. They indicated that they are currently in a difficult position financially and at risk of being disbanded. Their expenses include venue hire, printing, materials. It was agreed to seek more information. It was suggested that they could possibly explore other options of funding, i.e. community grants.

**ITEM 5**

**Any Other Business**

Members commented that there was a huge turnout at the switching on of the Christmas lights and that it was a great success. They paid tribute to the Council staff, the Chamber of Commerce, the Gardai and emergency services for all their work.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 15.40 p.m.

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

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

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