



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON

THE 12th March 2025

Present: Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Peir Leonard, Leas-Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Miriam Murphy
Cllr. Warren O'Toole

Officials Present: Ms. Leonora Earls, District Manager
Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator
Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer
Ms. Catherine McCord
Mr. Larry Roe, Executive Engineer

Apologies: None

Press: Eoin MacRaghnaill

Public: None

Item 1: Votes of Sympathy.

The members expressed votes of sympathy to all families who have recently lost a loved one. A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes.

The minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 12th February 2025 were proposed by Cllr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

Item 3: Matters Arising.

None.

Item 4: Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

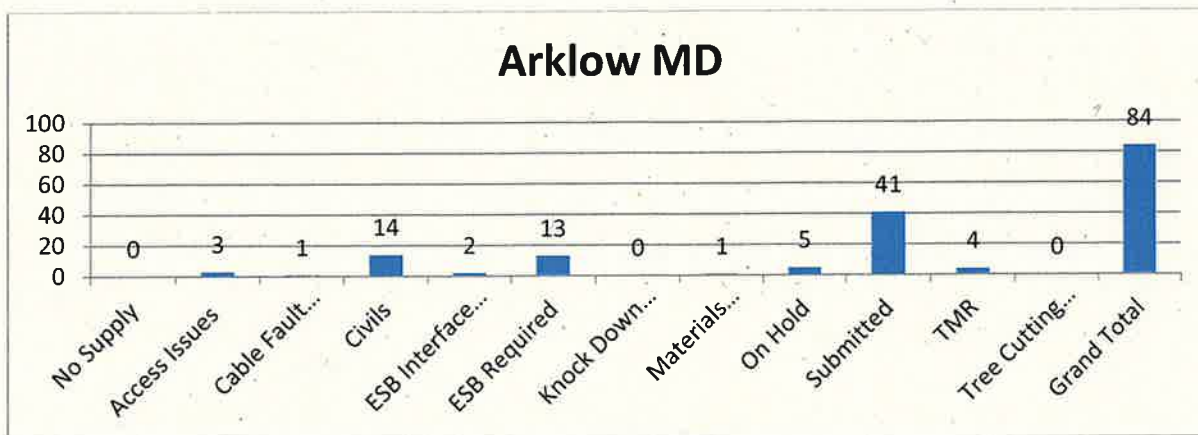
Public Lighting Update was presented by Larry Roe, Executive Engineer, Transportation & Infrastructure Delivery.

ARKLOW MD – PUBLIC LIGHTING STATUS – 11/03/2025

27 th JANUARY 2025			11 th MARCH 2025	
Status	Arklow MD		Status	Arklow MD
No Supply	5		No Supply	0
Access Issues	3		Access Issues	3
Cable Fault (Attend)	6		Cable Fault (Attend)	1
Civils	0		Civils	14
ESB Interface reqd	17		ESB Interface reqd	2
ESB Required	1		ESB Required	13
Knock Down (Attended)	0		Knock Down (Attended)	0
Materials required	1		Materials required	1
On Hold	5		On Hold	5
Submitted	106		Submitted	41
TMR	4		TMR	4
Tree Cutting Req	0		Tree Cutting Req	0
Grand Total	148		Grand Total	84
% Faulty	4.71 %		% Faulty	2.67 %

No. of Lamps (of 15750)	3142
Percentage of Total LA Lamps	19.95%
Faults Reported (Monday-Friday) 20/1 to 24/1	0
Faults Repaired (Monday-Friday) 20/1 to 24/1	22

No. of Lamps (of 15750)	3142
Percentage of Total LA Lamps	19.95%
Faults Reported (Monday-Friday) 3/3 to 7/3	7
Faults Repaired (Monday-Friday) 3/3 to 7/3	11



- Roads engineering staff of Wicklow County Council have held a number of meetings with KLS and a rolling programme of work has been agreed in order to reduce the backlog of faults which the company have complied with. This is reviewed on a daily basis to account for the dynamic nature of the works i.e. existing faults and the daily submission of new faults.
- Additional WCC Admin / Engineering (SEE) staff have been transferred to PL to oversee & assist contractor prioritise & progress repairs through the districts. In order to reduce the numbers, the programme needs constant revision due to the dynamic nature of the works.
- These resources also ensure the reported faults are being entered on the 'Deadsure' app from which the repairs are planned.
- Unfortunately following recent weather relating incidents KLS were stood down by ESB from carrying out repairs on ESB owned infrastructure for a number of weeks in January (over 50% of logged faults are located on such infrastructure). The contractor has indicated that additional resources have now been added to their team to assist in clearing the back log of faults including incomplete works from previous contractor This has been evident on the ground over that last few months.
- Following the lifting of the stand down at the end of January, the ESB are now being actively engaged with, to progress existing faults that are dependent on their presence or assistance.
- KLS are currently working in Arklow Town & Area on reactive and ordered civil works e.g. Aughrim Oaks. Upgrade & civil works are being planned for Templeraíney Heights & Meadowvale. (approx. 16 lamps)
- The faults on Heritage lights on Ferrybank & Main Street will require the removal of the current fitting to be replaced in the short term with new LED lamps. (approx. 13 lamps). These are examples where Traffic Management is required (TMR) to carry out works safely.
- Since the 27th January 2025 the percentage lights not working has been reduced from 4.7% to 2.67%. That is there were 148 active faults to the current 84 faults. 59 of the 84 faults are within the Arklow Town Area.
- KLS will also be visiting older fault reports that existed prior to their contract and will re-assess and schedule repairs as part of dealing with the backlog presented to them. This will include 'submitted' status which requires the fault to be categorised or attended to and closed when repaired.
- Where required Service Requests, Fault Reports & new unmetered connections are being submitted to the ESB ensuring ESB references recorded for follow up. (i.e. ESB required status)

Note on Faults in Older Developments

The following outlines the need for civil and upgrade works in many of the estates with existing faults and accounts for the need to upgrade adjacent assets in order to fix what appears like a single fault. E.g. Aughrim Oaks, Templarainey height & Meadowvale Crescent

Under the ESB "Requirements for Work on Public Lighting on ESBs Network", our public lighting maintenance contractor is forbidden to carry out repairs to any public light that is fed directly from the ESB network without the presence of a public lighting customer service (micro) pillar or network cut-out installed in the column. This is to allow public lighting contractors to undertake works to the lights by completely isolating the public lighting power supply without impacting on the general electricity network, by means of an appropriate interface.

These requirements negatively impact both the timescale in which repairs can be completed; and the cost of said repairs with the now necessary installation of column cut-outs/micro-pillars.

Prior to 2000, a large number of developments would have installed public lighting with feeds directly from the ESB network, usually with a feed taken from the nearest supply point, i.e. the nearest ESB LV service pillar.

The columns that were installed in housing estates are predominantly five or six metre tubular columns, which are generally not of adequate size to allow a cut-out be installed within the columns themselves, so a new micro-pillar(s) may be required in the estates that were constructed in this fashion. The number of micro-pillars that would be necessary in each estate is entirely dependent on how the public lighting is connected, i.e. each development will have a unique solution. A typical example would be a direct fed housing estate with 20 public lighting columns – these 20 columns could be fed from just two ESB pillars (two circuits) or maybe eight pillars, depending on how it was wired originally. There is no definitive way of knowing this until the ESB attend site to open their pillars and assist the public lighting contractor with opening of their pillars/cable tracing/survey.

Public lighting contractors are forbidden from undertaking any works directly on the ESB networks and thus ESB attendance is essential to ascertain the extent of works required in each estate (ESB Service Request).

Where faults are found on Public Lighting in scenarios as described, The public lighting maintenance contractor will then need to measure, cost and programme the required civil works (digging, ducting, cabling, pillar install). Once these civil works are completed and the new micro-pillars have been installed, the ESB will again be required on site for the service alterations, whereby they will need to divert their original supply cable from the ESB LV service pillar to the newly installed public lighting micro-pillar. It is important to note that ESB co-operation on these projects is the critical path to the timely and smooth installation of these new micro-pillars as they are a key stakeholder, for the above mentioned reasons

Please ensure the following is used for all PL related items

publiclighting@wicklowcoco.ie

Discussed:

- Aughrim Oaks – have residents been informed ?
- Templarainey Heights – still issues with lighting
- Meadowvale – issues awaiting repair
- Lighting at Bus Stop at Inbhear Mor Park reported
- Wider issue – will it be resolves fully before next winter season?
- Business case for Public Lighting Inspector was supported
- Civils figures were queried
- Procedures explained.
- Larry Roe will revert back with further information

The Wicklow County Council staff were commended and thanked for their work since January.

Rathdrum Traffic Study presented by the District Engineer.

Discussed:

- Concerned with Large Long Vehicles – Turning Movements.
- Plastic Bollards – alternative options
- 2 Phases explained
- Time limits
- Signage is very important for both local and tourist traffic
- Possible solutions for preventing HGV traffic turning
- Information delivery to local households, on display to public & through the Consultation Hub
- Project fully supported by elected members

District Engineer’s Report.

Municipal District of Arklow

District Engineer’s Report

6th March 2025

Roads

Restoration Improvement - €1,824,130

Restoration Maintenance - €429,525

Safety Improvement Works - €90,000

Proposed Works	Project	Status
Johnstown Village, Arklow	Installation of Safety Signage	Foundations & poles installed
R-772 near rugby club	Installation of Safety Signage	To be tendered
L-1113	Installation of Safety Signage	To be tendered
R-747 Woodenbridge to Aughrim	Installation of safety barrier	To be tendered
R-752 Rathdrum to Glenealy	Installation of safety barrier	To be tendered

Discretionary Funding 2024

Proposed Works	Status
Heritage Signage for Villages	Installation Commenced - 80% Complete, final locations to be agreed on site
Footpath Repair - Ferrybank	Complete. Further request for bollards'
Pottery Cross	Tarmac to be completed
Infill Lighting Annacurra	Quotation received for €22,675
Public Lighting at the Birches, Ballinaclash	Quotation received and budget confirmed.
Tree Management	Arborist is working through areas and completing reports. Recommendations will be tendered in time for hedge cutting season in September.
2024 Footpath Repair Riverwalk	Some drainage works required in advance, some works done.
Bus Shelter in Annacurra	NTA are looking at this location
Repair of Footpath at Currans Corner	

Pedestrian Crossing - Rathdrum	Considered in Wider Scheme
Public Realm - Arklow	
Public Realm Furniture Upgrade - AMD	
Public Realm - Rathdrum	
Footpath - Conary	
Educational Signage - Beaches	Liaised with the Biodiversity Officer - Awaiting Further Information
Footpath - Arklow Bearing Services	

Community Involvement Scheme

Proposed Works	Status
Ballinlea	Contractor to Confirm Dates

The following concerns were discussed:

- No Climate Adaptation funding for 2025
- Quotation received for lighting in Annacurra. €10,000 set aside in 2024, consider top up from 2025 Discretionary funding to reach €22,135 required.

Requests from members for following:

- Tactile paving at Papa Pizza needs repairing – Urgent
- Dangerous paving at Ferrybank, just past previous location of phone box.
- Paving at Centra & Pharmacy on Ferrybank needs attention – damage due to HGV parking on footpaths.
- Harbour Court Footpath needs repairing
- South Quay – traffic situation, vehicles going wrong direction, car parking & Junction needs attention.
- Roadstone Trucks impacting town – going out back road as opposed South Quay – update after follow up to be sent out to Residents. District Engineer will approach Roadstone & request drivers be reminded of Haulage Routes.
- Back of The Brook needs attention.
- Meadowvale – traffic speeding, can traffic calming solutions be looked at.
- Additional parking in housing estates discussed. Advised that Council do not put in additional parking by using Green Spaces.
- Safety Barriers on rural roads very successful – requested more in some areas e.g. Glenmalure. – District Engineer explained the locations are chosen by accident data from the Road Safety Authority and Locations of Interest are provided by the Department of Transport.
- Greenan – road/ditch needs to be looked at – dangerous
- Vale Road potholes need attention. Funding for 2026 & 2027 queried.
- Running Track – funds queried for track to be ready for County Championships. District Administrator working with Department for funding & requested from members for Event Applications to be submitted for the Track to show demand for use.
- Requested that a letter be sent to all clubs informing them they need to submit Event Application forms.
- District Engineer explained that they need to be informed of any races or events planned to be held on or using public roads for various reasons.
- Sports Partnership to be requested to do a survey regarding events in the District.

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

No other business set forth.

Item 6: Notice of Motions (for decision)

(a) To consider the Notice of Motion in the names of Cllrs P Leonard and W O'Toole. received on 16th January 2025

"That Arklow MD fund and repair the two concrete access ramps on South Beach and investigate the possibility of constructing a public seating area by replacing the existing kerbing with a poured concrete seat with composite timber seat on top (similar to the style of the benches in the harbour) so that the area can be enjoyed by the local community"

District Engineer reports:

Access ramps would fall under the remit of the environment section of Wicklow County Council.

The car park and the access road are not in the ownership of Wicklow County Council.

If the members are happy to fund the benches with discretionary funds for 2025 then we can certainly locate some benches in the public space in our charge.

(b) To consider the Notice of Motion in the names of Cllrs P Leonard and W O'Toole. Received on 16th January 2025

"That Arklow MD fund a redesign of the existing entrance to Croghan Industrial Estate including an assessment of the public lighting which is inadequate together with investing in new signage at the entrance to support the many businesses which occupy this important local employment zone"

District Engineer reports:

The entrance was designed to the standards appropriate to the time and junction is appropriate for the sightlines and speeds of the roads.

All signage at the entrance is the responsibility of the individual businesses and they require a Section 254 licence for the signage to be in place. Ownership of land at location of signage is required. Businesses need to come together and apply for Section 254 Licence.

(c) To consider the Notice of Motion in the names of Cllrs P Leonard and W O'Toole. Received on 16th January 2025

"That Arklow MD support and contribute €2,500 towards a youth social inclusion project currently being supported by County Wicklow Partnership in conjunction with the charity Sail Training Ireland to bring the tall ship 'Maybe' to Arklow Harbour in August 2025 for a round trip to Aberystwyth in Wales"

Issues discussed:

- *Branding – Equal branding with other partners involved.*
- *Costs – details questioned.*
- *Competitors – who will be invited to apply.*
- *Benefits of the initiative.*
- *Supported by Cllr O'Toole.*
- *Cllr Bourke will support up to a certain level.*

Seconded by Cllr. O'Toole.

AGREED by the elected members to be taken from Discretionary Fund

(d) To consider the Notice of Motion in the names of Cllrs S Bourke and P Fitzgerald. Received on 16th January 2025

“That the council make provision for the installation of public lighting in the village of Greenan. Ducting is in place to facilitate easy installation”

District Engineer reports:

€15,500. Could be considered as a 2025 Discretionary Fund project.

Item 7: Correspondence

Three requests for donations received.

1. Dave Thomas & Bella Vision – proposal for “A Short Film Funding Scheme”
Members discussed and agreed that there are other sources of funding and national funding streams that can be applied for.
District Administrator will respond – elected members not in a position to provide funding etc.
2. Jackie Byrne – Funding for Oisín Byrne, competing in Taekwon Do from the East Coast Taekwon Do Club based in Dublin.
3. Paula Murphy – Arklow Baton Twirlers, 6 athletes competing in Italy & Spain.

Both 2. & 3. were discussed together with criteria for choosing which clubs to donate to and the budget for donations.

Discussion included:

- Channelling through the Sports Partnership
- Considering a 2nd Bursary to Katje Taylor’s Bursary
- Consideration of a Film Bursary
- Management of the Budget for donations, protocol, expressions of interest, similar to Estate Grants.
- Needs further discussion.
- DA will write to applicants & inform them.

Standing Orders were then suspended – Proposed by Cllr. Bourke & Seconded by Cllr. Leonard.

Item 8: Any Other Business

(i) Twinning Events & funding discussed. Manager explained that an agreement was made 2 years ago for funds for students in our schools. No child should be excluded but issue is getting enough Irish Students to exchange. Secondary Schools will be written to for expressions of interests. €3,000 To be given to this event. When explained Cllr O’Toole supported this.

Proposed by: Cllr. Bourke

Seconded by: Cllr. Murphy

(ii) Goal Posts for Fernhill – replacement of 2 sets of posts for 5 aside pitches

- (iii) Environment – Waste and dumping in laneways is ongoing. Members requested a message to send out to public regarding Enforcement.
- (iv) Duck Feeding Station – Cllr. Leonard liaised with company for feeding station. Proposed 1 station at the Duck Pond & 1 station on Riverwalk. Suggested to incorporate the Autism Group in the town in its operation.
- (vi) Racketball Club is hosting events. 97 competitors with families coming to the town – request for support.
- (vii) Arklow Utd. asked can they have a land swap – the Manager will communicate with Environment & the Law Department & relevant Directors regarding giving Arklow Utd the contact details.
- (viii) RDF application for Rathdrum is at the 2nd stage.
- (ix) Sites for Units in Rathdrum discussed.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th April 2025

Signed: Pat Kennedy
Cllr Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: Alvina Brehony
Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District