

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Baltinglass held in Blessington Civic Offices on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 10.30am**

**Present:** Cathaoirleach Avril Cronin  
Councillor Patsy Glennon  
Councillor Gerry O'Neill  
Councillor Peter Stapleton  
Councillor Jason Mulhall  
Councillor Pat Mahon

**In Attendance:** Ms. Theresa O' Brien, District Manager  
Mr. Liam Cullen, District Administrator  
Mr. Patrick Byrne, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr. Dermot Graham, Executive Engineer  
Ms. Christina Brophy, Clerical Officer

**Presentations:** Councillor Tom Fortune, Local Community Safety Partnership  
Ms. Trish Carmody, Local Community Safety Partnership

Cathaoirleach Avril Cronin opened the meeting of Baltinglass Municipal District and welcomed all present.

**Votes of Sympathy**

Cllr. O' Neill expressed a vote of sympathy to the family of Sean Brophy, Dunlavin who passed away on 08<sup>th</sup> April 2026. Cllr. Glennon asked to be associated with this while also conveying his sympathy to the family of Ann O' Reilly, Valleymount who passed away on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

Mr. Byrne conveyed his sympathy to the family of Christy Redmond from Laois who recently passed away, he worked for Callingtons ltd and did a lot of roadworks in the District.

Cllr. Mulhall expressed his sympathy to Cllr. Stapleton and family on the recent passing of his Grandfather Matt Duffy, Hacketstown, who passed away on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

May he rest in peace. A minutes silence was observed.

**1. To confirm and sign minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026.**

It was proposed by Cllr. Mulhall, seconded by Cllr. Stapleton and unanimously agreed by all members to confirm and sign the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Baltinglass dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026.

**2. Matters Arising.**

No Matters Arising

**3. To receive a presentation from the Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP).**

Cllr. Tom Fortune introduced the Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) to the members and provided background on its establishment. He explained that the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act came into effect on 2nd April 2025, requiring all Local Authorities to establish Local Community Safety Partnerships.

Under this Act, LCSPs have replaced the former Joint Policing Committees in each Local Authority area.

Membership of the LCSP consists of 30 members, including representatives from state agencies such as the HSE, Tusla, and An Garda Síochána, along with local authority members and community representatives. Cllr. Tom Fortune serves as Chairperson of the Wicklow LCSP and acknowledged the significant work and effort contributed by Lorraine and Trish in establishing the partnership.

The Wicklow Local Community Safety Partnership was officially appointed by the Minister for Justice on 1st December 2025. Its mission is:

"To lead and coordinate partnership-based actions that enhance community safety, strengthen trust, and support the wellbeing of all communities across Wicklow."

Ms. Carmody added that at a subsequent meeting held on 16th February 2026, three LCSP working groups were established as follows:

- Domestic Violence
- Roads and Road Safety
- Anti-Social Behaviour

She advised that the partnership meets a minimum of six times per year and reports directly to the National Office. She also noted that three reserved seats are allocated for individuals from disability and mental health backgrounds. Those selected will be required to complete non-disclosure agreements.

Ms. Carmody further informed the members that several public consultations will take place across the District over the coming months, with details shared at the meeting.

She encouraged members to follow and share updates from the LCSP Facebook page to help raise awareness within the community.

Cllr. Fortune added that all minutes from meetings are displayed on their website, everything that the partnership does will be public. He also stated that the first 3 years will be focused on getting things right

#### Members Comments and Observations

Cllr. Stapleton queried what the ultimate goal of the Partnership. Ms. Carmody responded that the initiative is “a marathon, not a sprint,” emphasizing that once crime occurs, it is often too late, and therefore the focus is on crime prevention and early intervention. She noted that a national strategy is currently being developed, with plans expected to filter down locally over time, while local feedback will also inform national direction.

Cllr. Stapleton wished the Partnership well and asked whether the public consultations would take the form of drop-in sessions. Ms. Carmody clarified that the consultations will be structured.

Cllr. O’Neill thanked both presenters for their contribution and welcomed the inclusion of reserved seats for representative disabilities and mental health groups. He suggested that schools should play a significant role in the initiative, noting that while there is a strong focus on sex education, there are other issues that are equally important. Cllr. Fortune encouraged members to promote youth participation in surveys, highlighting the importance of communication.

Cllr. O’Neill also requested that Municipal District Members be kept regularly updated on developments.

Cllr. Glennon, drawing on his 39 years of experience with An Garda Síochána, expressed concern that since the amalgamation of Wicklow and Wexford into a single division, Wicklow may be at a disadvantage. He stated that Wicklow risks becoming the “poor relation” and suggested that a Superintendent should be based in West Wicklow.

Cllr. Fortune confirmed that he would relay these concerns. Cllr. Cronin concurred with Cllr. Glennon, noting that she has raised similar issues with the Chief Superintendent and will continue to do so when opportunities arise.

Cllr. Mahon thanked the presenters and queried what measures are being taken to promote the Partnership and engage the public. Ms. Carmody advised that Cllr. Fortune has participated in radio interviews and that advertisements have been placed in local newspapers. Cllr. Mahon suggested that flyers be distributed through An Post.

Cllr. Cronin also thanked the presenters for their informative presentation.

#### **4. To consider Roads Reports (national and non-national roads)**

Mr. Byrne presented the National Roads report to the members. He advised that there will be some traffic disruption in Blessington towards the end of the year due to the construction of the new Link Road.

He informed the members that the cycle scheme from Deerpark to the N81 is scheduled to proceed to Part 8 in May, and he will liaise with the Councillors in advance of the May meeting.

Mr. Byrne also noted that current indications suggest that there will be no additional funding provided to address the cost of storm-damaged roads.

He further advised that a tender has been issued for micro-surfacing works at Knockieran Bridge. However, the ESB is not yet in a position to commence the associated structural works.

#### Members Comments and Observations on National Roads

Cllr. O'Neill highlighted that there is still no pedestrian crossing at Blessington South, noting that the roundabout is proving to be very dangerous for pedestrians. He also queried the proposed plans for the Kilbride Road junction.

Mr. Byrne advised that the plans for the Kilbride Road junction include the installation of a pedestrian crossing and traffic lights.

Cllr. Glennon thanked both engineers for their continued work and stated that the official opening of the Hollywood Junction was a success. He also welcomed the progress being made on the Park and Ride facility, Baltinglass Bridge, and the Kilbride Road junction.

Mr. Graham presented the Non-National Roads report to the members. He reiterated that the outlook for funding to address storm damage is not positive and noted that blacktop prices have increased by approximately 25%.

#### Members Comments and Observations on Non-National Roads

Cllr. Mulhall queried whether the Coolboy to Hillbrook junction has been considered. Mr. Graham confirmed that the junction is included in next year's programme.

Cllr. Stapleton requested an update on the RI schemes. Mr. Graham advised that works are expected to commence in the coming months, with a preference for the summer period when schools are closed. Cllr. Stapleton also raised concerns regarding the potential lack of funding for storm-damaged roads and queried what measures could be taken in such circumstances.

Cllr. Glennon sought an update on the proposed bus stop at Coolkenno. Mr. Graham confirmed that the request has been forwarded to the relevant team in Wicklow County Council who have responsibility for bus stop infrastructure.

Cllr. Glennon also requested an update on the wooded playground in Hollywood. Ms. O'Brien advised that the plans are currently with the Law Department.

Cllr. Glennon further highlighted that the Johnstown Road is in very poor condition and stated that it should be prioritised for repair works.

Cllr. O'Neill expressed strong concern that no additional funding is being provided to repair roads following Storm Chandra, noting that in some cases roads were completely washed away. Cllr. Mahon concurred, stating that he has made several representations to TDs seeking additional funding and expressed disappointment with the outcome.

Cllr. Cronin requested updated road markings at Donard School and at the Bunditch in Dunlavin. She also queried the possibility of installing traffic calming ramps in the Coolattin Oaks housing estate in Carnew. Mr. Byrne advised that he has recently engaged a new line marking team and welcomed the funding that has been allocated for road marking works.

Cllr. Stapleton sought an update on the Section 38 scheme in Carnew. Mr. Graham confirmed that the scheme is progressing.

## **5. Correspondence**

Mr. Cullen informed the members that he has received correspondence from the Donard Community Group, who wish to attend the next meeting to deliver a presentation on a proposed community garden.

Mr. Cullen suggested that the next Municipal District meeting be hosted at St. Patrick's Missionary Society in Kiltegan. He advised that the Kiltegan Fathers have offered to host a Mass at 9:30 a.m., prior to the meeting scheduled for 10:30 a.m.

This proposal was put forward by Cllr. O'Neill and seconded by Cllr. Glennon and unanimously agreed by all present.

Cllr. Cronin informed the members that she will be attending a meeting with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) regarding the N81 and N11. It has been proposed that the Cathaoirleach from each District attend. She confirmed that she will relay any concerns raised by the other councillors.

## **6. Any other Business**

Cllr. O'Neill informed the members that residents of Stratford have expressed significant dissatisfaction with Stratford Tidy Towns regarding the placement of mounds on green areas within the village. He described the material as subsoil rather than topsoil and raised concerns about safety. He noted that children are using the mounds as ramps, creating a safety hazard, that the mounds negatively impact sightlines due to their proximity to the road, and that their elevated positioning allows direct views into nearby residential properties, affecting privacy. Cllr. O'Neill further stated that the current group is disregarding community views, and he requested that the Council address the matter. Ms. O'Brien advised that the Planning Department has reviewed the issue and found no

planning breaches, and that the Environmental Department is currently reviewing and investigating the matter. Mr. Byrne stated that sightline issues had been identified at two of the mounds and confirmed that these had been repositioned to his satisfaction. The Environmental Department will complete its investigation and report its findings.

Cllr. Mulhall requested that Baltinglass RRDF be reinstated as a standing agenda item. Mr. Cullen confirmed that both Baltinglass RRDF and Blessington RRDF will be included as standing items on future agendas.

Cllr. Stapleton requested an update on Carnew Playground and queried whether further consideration had been given to a mulch-based solution. Mr. Graham advised that he is continuing to research possible solutions and noted that the current location of the playground is contributing to ongoing issues at the site. Mr. Byrne stated that replacement of the ground surface would cost approximately €60,000 and expressed the view that the issue is primarily related to the location. Cllr. Mulhall concurred, noting ongoing late-night anti-social behaviour in the area. Ms. O'Brien reported that she recently inspected the equipment, some of which remains in reasonable condition, and suggested that a new location for the playground should be considered. She also queried whether it would be possible to open part of the park as an interim measure. Mr. Byrne added that playgrounds require regular inspections and that the annual parks maintenance budget is €25,000. It was agreed that alternative solutions and potential relocation options will continue to be explored and that the feasibility of partially reopening the park as an interim measure will be considered.

Cllr. O'Neill inquired if there was any further update on Baltyboys Graveyard. Ms. O'Brien stated that she is working to finalise the report. The report will be finalised and circulated.

Cllr. Mulhall questioned if there is any progress on the provision of a columbarium wall for Burgage Graveyard. Ms. O'Brien confirmed that columbarium walls for Rathnew and Burgage will be issued to joint tender in the coming weeks and that this process will now proceed.

## **7. Date and venue of next meeting.**

The date of the next ordinary meeting will be Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May in St. Patricks Missionary Society in Kiltegan, at 10:30am.

There being no other business, Cllr. Cronin, concluded the meeting.

Signed: Avril Rowe  
CATHAOIRLEACH

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

Dated: 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026