

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MONDAY 18TH OCTOBER, 2021

Present: Acting Cathaoirleach Councillor Paul O'Brien, Councillors Mary Kavanagh, Shay Cullen, John Snell, Irene Winters

Apologies: Cathaoirleach Gail Dunne

In Attendance: District Manager Brian Gleeson
District Engineer Kevin Scanlon
Executive Engineer Alan Martin
District Administrator Joan Sinnott
Assistant Staff Officer Josephine Hayes
Wicklow People Myles Buchanan

Acting Cathaoirleach Paul O'Brien opened the meeting at 3.00 p.m.

ITEM 1

Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on 27th September, 2021

It was proposed by Cllr John Snell and seconded by Cllr Irene Winters and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on 27th September, 2021.

ITEM 2

To consider report on the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal Districts in respect of the year ending 2022.

District Manager Brian Gleeson outlined the details of the budgetary plan.

The Members discussed the possibility of expanding the revenue from roundabout advertising and the possible locations where advertising would be of interest to local businesses.

District Manager Brian Gleeson accepted that a new expression of interest would be looked into and re advertised.

The Draft budgetary Plan 2022 was proposed by Cllr Shay Cullen and seconded by Cllr John Snell.

ITEM 3

Tidy Towns Funding

The Tidy Towns Funding was proposed by Cllr Paul O'Brien and seconded by Cllr Shay Cullen that the following be paid from the Discretionary Fund to the Tidy Town Groups in the Wicklow Municipal District.

€5,000 to be paid to Wicklow Tidy Towns
€1,000 to be paid to Roundwood Tidy Towns
€1,000 to be paid to Ashford Tidy Towns
€1,000 to be paid to Newtownmountkennedy Tidy Towns
€1,000 to be paid to Laragh Tidy Towns
€1,000 to be paid to Glenealy Tidy Towns
€1,000 to be paid to Rathnew Active Forum

Members discussed the breakdown of the funding and unanimously agreed that the funding represented excellent value for money and commended community groups for their volunteer work and contribution to local communities through the Tidy Towns Groups.

A query regarding the hanging baskets and the irrigation system in Wicklow Town was raised.

District Administrator Joan Sinnott agreed the system was old and needed a complete overhaul and explained that a complete inventory of the system is planned to take place in January/February of next year.

The Members requested that a letter issue to the Court Services regarding the deterioration of the exterior of the Courthouse in Wicklow Town.

ITEM 4

Update on proposed One Way System for Main Street Wicklow Town

Executive Engineer Alan Martin gave an update on the progress on the new One Way System for the Main Street in Wicklow Town.

Sunday 31st October was the provisional date to commence the one way system. It was agreed to keep Members up to date with the progress of the new system before the next monthly meeting.

It was outlined that meetings have already been held with the Chamber of Commerce and that there is a proposal to commence the communication process through Social Media and the display of the plan in strategic places following this meeting.

Disabled parking spaces were discussed and details of all Disabled parking spaces were outlined to the Members.

Various junctions were discussed as to possible problem areas that could arise and the Executive Engineer Alan Martin informed the Members that all areas will be monitored and any issues that arise during the trial period will be reviewed.

The lack of Taxi designated spaces was discussed and how this could be resolved.

It was outlined by the Members that people do not like change, however that it was up to the Members to remain strong and give this One Way System a chance.

District Manager stated that the rationale behind this proposal was based on the Wicklow Town Team's Parking & Traffic Flow Recommendations Report of 2019. This report was based on surveys undertaken by the Town Team in 2018. The views of consumers and retailers were taken into consideration in the survey which went forward to formulating the recommendations contained in the document.

Item 5

District Engineers Report

District Engineer Kevin Scanlon gave the Members a summary of the District Engineers Report.

Councillors discussed various elements –

- Surface dressing in Sycamore/Ballinalea estate, contractors have given undertaking to address issues.
- Playground works welcomed.
- Back lighting is nearing completion and will be a new attraction for the town.
- Rathnew to Glenealy footpath recess was discussed.
- Knot Weed in river walk in Ashford Village and elsewhere is a problem. National procurement is underway to address this issue.
- Cycle lanes requiring new markings.
- Re-letting houses timescale and turnover times. District Engineer Kevin Scanlon will supply information and timescales of relets and DPG's.
- Toilet facilities in rural areas were invaluable and possibility of extra funding was discussed
- Delays in mobility grants
- Pedestrian crossing at the Grand Hotel to be investigated and repaired

ITEM 6

Correspondence

District Administrator Joan Sinnott outlined details of a food festival proposal for 1st May, 2022 by Tabero Food Truck which provide a high quality diverse cuisine. This would be a one day ticketed event and would propose to use the Funfair site in Wicklow Town.

ITEM 7

A.O.B.

No other business was raised at the Monthly Meeting.

ACTING CATHAOIRLEACH PAUL O'BRIEN CONCLUDED THE MEETING AT 4.40 PM.

Signed: _____
 ACTING CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
 DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Date: _____