

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

HELD IN DISTRICT CHAMBER, TOWN HALL

MONDAY 18th December 2023 at 14.30pm

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

In Attendance: Acting District Manager, Denise Kinsella
District Engineer, Pat Clarke
District Administrator, Georgina Franey
Assistant Staff Officer, Róisín Carroll
Wicklow People, Myles Buchanan

Apologies: Brian Gleeson, District Manager

Cathaoirleach Irene Winters opened the meeting at 14.30 p.m.

ITEM 1

Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Meeting held on the 20th of November 2023

It was proposed by Councillor Shay Cullen, seconded by Councillor Gail Dunne and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on 20th November 2023.

ITEM 2

To discuss the proposal to submit a Section 183 Notice of Disposal; Lands at Aquaskiff Boat House, Castle View, Wicklow Town and Lands at former Garda Station, Ashford, Co. Wicklow, two proposed submissions to be put forward for the Ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council on 08/01/2024.

Lands at Aquaskiff Boat House, Castle View, Wicklow Town

These lands, upon which the clubhouse is built, have been occupied by Wicklow Rowing Club and Wicklow Sub Aqua Club since circa 1956. It is intended to formalise the current position by way of a Sporting Lease.

Lands at former Garda Station, Ashford, Co. Wicklow

These lands are proposed to be disposed by way of a Lease to Ashford Development Association CLG, for a period of 30 years for the delivery of a community centre.

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

- The rowing club is there a long time, the property needs to be standardised in order to claim grants. It's a growing club and a tradition within Wicklow Town.
- Great facility for Ashford, especially as the town has growing population due to all the houses being built.

- Members also made comment that the Ashford development is for the community of Ashford and would hope that community groups can avail of the facilities without any difficulties.

ITEM 3

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 of a recreational play area at Mullinaveagh, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow (Roundwood Reservoir Recreation Project).

Cathaoirleach Irene Winters welcomed Caroline Fox A/Senior Executive Officer and Carol Coad, Strategic Development Officer, Wicklow Partnership, to the meeting.

A/Senior Executive Officer, Caroline Fox, updated the members in respect of the development. Caroline advised that the Part 8 was advertised in October and went on public display for 4 weeks, two submissions were received: Liaise with Dublin City Council to ensure that the development proceeds in the manner that prevents any potential impact on the Vartry Reservoir as a drinking water source and to ensure that the signage and information boards provided and installed in the project are in the Irish language or bilingual languages, the Chief Executive report was issued last week.

Members thanked Caroline and Carol for the huge amount of work done to date, looking forward to the finished project; it's a great amenity for the local people and the district.

A query was raised regarding completion of the project, Carol Coad commented that they will aim for June 2024 as they have a department deadline for July 2024. They will need to look at visitor numbers and also the road access going into the development which they will discuss with the District Engineer.

A vote was called and the members voted unanimously in favour of the Part 8 in respect of the proposed development of a recreational play area at Mullinaveagh, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow (Roundwood Reservoir Recreation Project).

ITEM 4

To consider the election of Leas- Cathaoirleach, following the resignation of Cllr. Shay Cullen.

The outgoing Leas Cathaoirleach Shay Cullen thanked the members for electing him to the position for the last 6 months.

Cllr Shay Cullen proposed Cllr Mary Kavanagh for the position of Leas Cathaoirleach for the following 6 months and Cllr Paul O'Brien seconded the proposal.

ITEM 5

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.
- 2no. houses being worked on, through WCC Housing Framework, 3 completed.
- 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, delayed by tenant until 2024.

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 be completed 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. Verge inlet maintenance on Wicklow gap complete.
- Works on verge drains are completed on Callow hill, installation of pipes to construct a French drain have been installed at certain locations depending on outfalls. Road crossings and gullies installed as well.
- Programme for cleaning of gullies continuing within the Wicklow MD. Drain surveys are being carried out on problem areas as required on an ongoing basis.
- Drainage works on the R772, between the Milltown lane junction and the junction to Bel Air is completed. Surfacing works start in early Jan 2024.
- Drainage works at Knockrobin completed which was causing severe damage to the road. Surfacing works to be completed in Jan 2024.

❖ Restoration Maintenance

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

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- Maheramore 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 and Carrigower have been completed. This programme is now completed in full.

❖ 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	Completed
Carrigower- Easthill L1039	0.400Km	Completed
Claramore L6586	1.2km	Contractor working on project to be completed by the 19th Dec
Glenwood to Moneystown Hill L6088	2.3km	Completed

R772 Ashford (two sections)	1.3km	Contractor appointed, works to start 2nd week in Jan
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❖ 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 civil works is finished at Mountain View in Newtown. Installation of belisha beacon poles and fit out to be completed in Jan. ESB connection application has been submitted. Lowering of wall has been completed to increase visibility at this junction.
- Upgrade of crossing point at St Laurence's school for safety reasons over mid-term break has commenced, surfacing to be completed at school and barriers to be installed in coming days.
- Upgrade of Road markings on R755/ R756 between Wicklow Gap and Djouce has started, approx. 14km of centre line completed plus 4km of edge markings. Chevron signage and delineator posts to be installed on Wicklow Gap in Jan.

❖ WCC Projects

- 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.
- Parnell Bridge has started. Works required to stabilize steps and retaining wall area. New safety railings to be installed in Feb at this location. Duck feeder plinth to be installed before Christmas.
- Surfacing to Newtown Community Centre completed, white lining to be completed before Christmas.

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 package almost complete.
- Detailed designs still progressing for Amphitheatre seating and performance area.
- Fire certs and Disability Access drawings have been submitted on the BCMS.
- 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 has started.
- Site compound for construction works has been started. Erection of temporary site fencing to be installed around areas of interest on site.

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. – Delays with the water storage tank, this is due to arrive first week of January.
- 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 package has been issued to contractors. Tender submissions will be reviewed in early February when received. 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 in Q1 2024

Town & Village Renewal:

- Wicklow Town – South Quay connections to Main Street (Connectivity Project); 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. – 7 murals now complete. Installation of Fabricated ship to town hall gable complete. Installation of Heron sculpture at scouts den complete. 'Mini' murals around the town still underway, 3 completed so far. Lighting and seating elements still ongoing.
- Newtown - Streetscape Enhancement Project works are complete. New bins are being provided, along with some additional street furniture to further enhance the appearance of Newtown. These will be completed in Jan.

❖ 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 has been progressed at some sites.

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.
- Cliff walk signage installed, all documentation and proof of works will be sent back to Sports Ireland for review before Christmas.

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

- Lighting at the Murrough/Promenade has been out of action the last two months; this is very dangerous, this area has huge footfall and is a huge risk if a member of the public was to get injured. The District Engineer advised that there is a cable fault in the wall, the Public Lighting team in WCC is working with to resolve same.
- Ballinahinch Woods Ashford, lighting not working- The District Engineer advised that this is with the NTA team.
- Tarmac at Newtownmountkennedy Community Hall work has been complete. The District Engineer advised that road lining will commence shortly.
- Query of update regarding the provision of salt/grit boxes at entrances to housing estates. The District Engineer advised he is examining the proposal.
- Query in relation to emergency contact details over the Christmas Period. The District Engineer advised Waynua is still in place for emergency calls and that the District Councillors have his contact number for emergencies that may arise.
- Road L0562 was resurfaced quarter of the way some time ago; can the entire road be resurfaced? The District Engineer noted that this work was carried out before joining WMD and he will review.
- The trial period on the one way system in Wicklow Town, a decision needs to be made on the future of same.
- Update on the road at Brittas Bay school sought.
- Issues with trucks and buses at Castle Street.
- Issue with the pedestrian crossing at the Riverwalk during the Christmas markets, disrupting traffic movements. The District Administrator advised that the organisers of this event had been asked to put on extra stewards to help with the traffic flow.
- Query on the time it takes to turn around vacant/relet properties, can we make this a priority in 2024. The District Engineer advised vacant housing will be looked at in the New Year and mentioned every house will differ as it depends on the condition of the houses. The District Administrator advised that WMD have the second highest level of housing stock after Bray. She added that some relets are carried out by the direct labour crew in Housing and WMD would not be given that information as it is managed centrally.
- Update on the electronic school signage.
- Query in relation to Annamoe Public lighting. The District Engineer advised that we are waiting on the ESB to connect.
- Drainage and surface water very poor within the District, can this be looked into.
- Line markings need refreshing around the District. The District Engineer noted that a huge amount of work has been complete on line marking since his arrival in WMD.
- Ongoing problem of bins overflowing in Newtownmountkennedy. The District Engineer advised that new solar belly bins had been ordered and were due to be installed. He noted that when the bins are full a text message notifies the foreman that they need to be emptied. He further noted that there is an element of household rubbish being dumped into the bins.

- Traffic congestion in Newtownmountkennedy. The District Engineer advised that there are ongoing works at Fisher’s junction.
- Update sought on the URDF, Part 8 at Newtownmountkennedy.

ITEM 6

Correspondence

The District Administrator advised members of the below:

Invoice emailed to District Administrator from the organisers of Diwali Festival for a total of €1,000 towards expenses. Cllr Gail Dunne proposed and Cllr Paul O’Brien seconded. The District Administrator Georgina Franey asked Cllr Gail Dunne to acquire the bank details from the organisers to proceed with payment. Cllr Irene Winters noted that they could apply for community funding going forward.

Cllr John Snell stated that all funding requests should go through the District Administrator to allow for accounts, bank statement and a breakdown of same to be obtained in advance of the Council meeting.

The District Administrator reminded the members that a meeting with the St Patrick’s Day parade committee would take place in the Town Hall on Tuesday 19/12/2023 at 10.00am.

Cllr Irene Winters informed members that Wicklow Town has been selected to host the Lenister Fleadh 2024 which will run from the 12th to the 14th of July 2024.

ITEM 7

Any Other Business

Cllr Irene Winters expressed a vote of sympathy for Michael Bunn (father of Michelle Bunn, former Wicklow Town Council staff member) and gave condolences to his family.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 15.50 p.m.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Date: _____