

## MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

HELD IN DISTRICT CHAMBER, TOWN HALL

MONDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025 at 15.00pm

**Present:** Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr Graham Richmond, Cllr Danny Alvey, Cllr Shane Langrell, Cllr Paul O'Brien, Cllr John Snell

**Apologies:** Cllr Gail Dunne

**In Attendance:** District Manager, Brian Gleeson  
District Engineer, William Halligan  
District Administrator, Georgina Franey  
Assistant Staff Officer, Róisín Carroll  
Myles Buchanan, Wicklow People

Leas Cathaoirleach Graham Richmond opened the meeting at 15.34 pm.

### ITEM 1

#### **Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

It was proposed by Councillor Paul O'Brien and seconded by Councillor Shane Langrell and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

### ITEM 2

#### **District Engineers Report**

Updates were provided by the District Engineer, William Halligan as follows:

#### **Housing:**

##### **❖ Relets/Prelets**

- 4no. houses currently being worked on, through WCC Housing Framework by MD,
- 14no. houses are being managed by WCC Direct Labour,
- 2no. houses returned to WMD for refurbishment – To Be Tendered.
- 2no. houses returned to WMD for refurbishment – Tender Issued.

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

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

### **DTTAS Roads Programme:**

DTTAS Allocations for 2025 Projects on the Restoration Improvement and Maintenance Programme have been reviewed based on pavement condition ratings.

#### **❖ Restoration Improvement**

Tenders on Restoration Improvement works will commence in February 2025. Works will include a variety of techniques depending on classification and condition of Road.

Advance works such as drainage and verge widening works has started on RI Roads with a mixture of MD staff and sub contactors. Main list of RI 2025 projects below.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Length of Works (m)</b>	<b>Completed to Date</b>
L5099 Rockey Road Improvement Project	1200	Road Closure implemented from 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2025 to 29 <sup>th</sup> August 2025. Works being carried out by WCC NNR (Non-National Roads) Team.
L5036 Ballinastoe Rd	1427	Site meeting for advance work 24/01/2025
L5597 Milltown Lane	659	-
R765 Newtown - Roundwood	2038	Site meeting for advance work 24/01/2025
R750 Dublin Road Wicklow	740	Tender Document in preparation
L1096 Ashford-Ballymanus Lower	936	-
R772 Ashford	97	-
R764 Ashford-Roundwood	80	-
R-751 Marlton Road	222	-

#### **❖ Restoration Maintenance**

The Countywide Restoration Maintenance Programme 2025 will be prepared in February. Advance works such as drainage and verge widening works all completed before start of RM Roads. Main list of RM 2024 projects below.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Length of Works</b>	<b>Completed to Date</b>
R762 Glenealy Road	2.3km	Completed
L 11001 Knockrobin Estate Road	0.5km	Completed
R 755 Djouce To Calary	1.5km	Completed
R 756 Brockagh , Wicklow Gap	1.8km	Completed

L 1036 Stoney Pass Road	1.7km	Completed
L 1035 Powers Avenue	1.75km	Completed
L1039 Carrigower	2.45km	Completed
R755 Laragh – Rathdrum road	1.3km	Completed
L 97558 Wicklow Heather Road to R755	0.150km	Completed

#### ❖ **Drainage**

- General works on verge drains, drainage inlets, gullies and road crossings to outlets are ongoing throughout the MD.
- Programme for cleaning of gullies continuing within Wicklow MD. Drain surveys are still being carried out on problem areas as required.
- Installation of drainage pipes/ road crossings along Slaughter Hill all complete.
- Installation of gullies, road crossings and repair of footpath all completed on Glenealy road in advance of surfacing works.
- Installation of road crossings completed at Brittas Bay at location where flooding used to occur.
- Installation of drainage pipe on R755 in advance of LIS scheme near Raheen.

#### ❖ **Local Improvement Scheme Projects**

- Two LIS projects allocated to the Wicklow Municipal District. Both LIS project are now complete.

#### ❖ **Safety Projects**

- Pedestrian crossing civil works completed on the Dunbur Road, issue with cranked pole which is delaying install. Installation to be completed on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. ESB to energise after this.
- Pedestrian crossing to be installed as part of a housing development condition in Ashford, at junction with R763 and R764 within coming weeks.
- Pencil Bollards installed at St Laurence O'Tooles School in Roundwood.
- Bollards have been installed in Wicklow (AIB bank), Rathnew (Lucy's Hairdressers) at locations where parking has been an issue.
- Works completed on Wicklow Gap edge protection for 2024.
- Works completed on Slaughter Hill in respect of edge protection works in advance of the surfacing work.
- Vehicle activated signage erected on both approaches of the regional road at Killiskey Cross Roads.
- Solar powered vehicle activated signage have been ordered for Blainroe Cross Roads, and Wicklow Hospice. Expected commissioning in approx. 3 weeks. Poles have been erected in advance by WCC.
- Solar powered driver feedback signage has been ordered for Ballinahinch, Laragh and Newtownmountkennedy. Poles have been erected in advance of commissioning by WCC at two of the sites. Expected commissioning in approx. 3 weeks.

- Solar powered vehicle activated signage erected on entry to Roundwood from Annamoe side.
- Solar powered vehicle activated signage erected on entry to Rathnew from Glenealy side.
- Footpath linking St Ernan's and St Brigid's Terrace on the R772 has been completed.
- Preparations for the Speed limit review underway, pole install completed, ready for signs. Circular RST-04-2024 issued by Department of Transport on Speed Limits Implementation revised date of 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

#### **Abbey Grounds:**

- Project Ongoing. Contractor commenced works on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Schedule for completion of works has been moved back to February 2025 due to prolonged period of poor weather. Schedule of completion of coachhouse works
- Windows installed, allowing first-fix electrical work commenced on 9<sup>th</sup> December.
- Detailed designs still progressing for the Amphitheatre and performance area.
- Siberian Larch finish for new buildings now installed.
- Connection agreements with utility providers have been progressed. Both water and sewer connections now installed. Utilities connection progressing on site.
- Works for new pedestrian entrance alongside completed service entrance onto Wentworth Place commenced on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Masonry Works complete, bollards and railing to be installed in coming weeks.
- Works for new entrance to Parochial House now complete. We would like to thank Fr Duffy for his cooperation throughout this process.
- Conservation and restoration works to existing footbridge at Abbey grounds completed at the end of September.

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

- Brittas Bay Blueway funding for accessibility works; works are completed on upgrade to toilet facilities. Chestnut fencing to be erected in coming months in order to protect the dunes.
- The Assembly Hall facility works are now complete internally. Ducting for ESB & Eircom connections now completed, awaiting ESB to connect power. ESB and Eircom have now made their connections, heating to now be commissioned and electrical snags to follow as may be necessary.
- Wicklow Seafront Toilets – Refurbishment is completed and new doors installed. Awaiting ESB connection. Outdoor shower installed. ESB connection has now been made, installation of the automation of doors is scheduled for end of Jan.
- Light projectors being installed at the Courthouse and on Abbey Street, Wicklow to illuminate buildings for different events/or seasons of the year, so as to enhance the ambiance of the area.
- Repairs to the Handball alley have commenced.
- Water fountains installed.

#### **Town & Village Renewal:**

- Wicklow Town, Connectivity Project – three ornate arches with lanterns are currently being fabricated for installation along the Doctor's Steps. Town team on design. Town team meeting fabricator end of Jan to finalise fabrication and install dates.
- Lighting heads along the Mall and Market Square have been completed.
- Compactor bins have been installed in Glendalough, Laragh and Roundwood to promote a cleaner environment but also to increase efficiency from an operational point of view. These

bins have smart technology built into them and will communicate back to base when full and require emptying. Efficiency of big belly bins has increased from 12% at year start (2024) to 38% presently.

#### **NTA Projects:**

- Consultants still working on pedestrian and cycle improvement scheme as part of the Pathfinder project, initial survey completed on the Marlton Road and Rocky Road, linking to the train station on Station Road. A topographical survey of roads and footpaths has taken place along entire route. This information is required as part of the detailed design process.
- Working with NTA to look at Market Street junction with respect to turning movements of buses/ larger vehicles.

#### **WCC General Projects/Maintenance:**

- New anti-slip surface to be installed on bridge deck in late October.
- On-going maintenance of grass care and weed control around Wicklow town, with additional measures used to improve appearance for recent events in Wicklow town.
- OPW working along the Seafront, to be complete in a few weeks. This is not a project directly managed by WCC but the MD will work to assist the project to a positive completion. OPW works are completed with the exception of grass area reinstatement which will be completed when weather improves.
- Glendalough Upper carpark – bin store to be added for aesthetic reasons, line marking of car park completed. Traffic management at weekends managed by Wicklow MD now finished for 2024.
- Wicklow MD Playgrounds repairs and inspections ongoing. Certified bark mulch has been installed at the following Brockagh, Wicklow Hills, Newtownmountkennedy Community playground and Rathnew playgrounds. Wet pour repairs completed at Roundwood with minor repairs at other playgrounds completed also. Level access carousel at Roundwood playground will be repaired upon receipt of required spare parts (currently being sourced). New equipment ordered (delivery approx. six weeks):
  - The Murrough Playground – New Sand Digger at sand pit,
  - Ballynerrin Playground – New Cradle Swing set to replace the old broken unit,
  - Roundwood Playground – New ‘Wobble Bridge’ (to be located in green area adjacent to the Zip Wire).
  - Laragh Playground (Brockagh) – New accessibility swing seat ordered (four week delivery).

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

- WCC have issued payments for the following connections. WMD has received MPRN’s to progress completion:
  - Laragh Pedestrian Crossing,
  - Moneystown Pedestrian Crossing,

Both crossing have been energised and are operational.

- Road markings are being progressed around the MD, some have been carried out around the town, with others refreshed at certain locations. Double yellow lines have been completed at Magheramore. Road markings being progressed around Newtown and on RI

and RM projects at present. Extensive road markings completed in Hillview housing estate for safety reasons.

- Historical lighting mini pillars have been energised. Completion of lights in coming weeks. Lights at Stone Bridge require to be aligned and colour controller fitted, currently switched off – road user/pedestrian protection from glare. Lighting designer to visit site within next two weeks.
- Murrrough masterplan part 8 documents due to be finalised in December, lodgement of part 8 January 2025. Pump Track tender documents are complete. Presentation to Members at meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024. Engineers Report is being finalised with expected lodgement of Part 8 application on 29<sup>th</sup> of January.
- Footpath to GAA club in Wicklow 95% complete, one remaining Eir column to be removed and footpath can be completed. Additional resurfacing along this stretch also complete.
- New cross being manufactured for Three Mile Water cemetery to be erect in coming weeks.
- Road marking project in Wicklow Town to commence in January.
- 3 No. Electronic speed signs have been purchased and will be installed at Ashwood Roundwood, St Patricks Road, Wicklow and Greenhills Road.

#### **Discretionary Fund projects:**

- Roundwood – Two ramps from Playground to GAA Club. One ramp new has been installed and an existing ramp has been replaced/repared.
- Roundwood – Length of footpath Playground to GAA Club. All cables are now under ground. Pedestrian crossing will be progressed.
- Rathnew – Resurfacing of the Old village has been completed, road line marking has commenced.
- Newtown –Killmullen traffic calming, new sign has been installed. Site visit to assess possibility of installing anti-skid surface.
- Fund to upgrade footpaths in MD. Footpaths upgrade works at Saint Patricks Road, Wicklow Town is complete. Footpath improvement works taking place in Glenview Park, Kilpedder and Season Park, Newtown Mount Kennedy and will continue over the coming weeks to address severely damaged and hazardous areas in both estates.
- Church Hill Traffic calming – Consultation with National School, Gardai, Fire Service and Church of Ireland completed.
- All salt boxes have been distributed around the District.

#### **MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS**

- Members expressed their appreciation for the efforts of the MD staff and outdoor crews in response to Storm Éowyn and extended their gratitude for their hard work.
- An update was requested on the Brittas Bay footpath. While the funding has been ring-fenced, progress has been slower than expected. The District Engineer advised that the NNR crew have committed to take on the Brittas Bay project, with the next step being the Part 8 process. This will take place after the Rockey Road Improvement Scheme is completed.
- An update was requested on the one-way system, with concerns raised that some people believe it to be the completed project. The District Manager advised that an objective to undertake a Transport Plan has been included in the recently published Chief Executive Report on the Draft Wicklow & Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025-2031. He is liaising with the Roads and Planning Sections of the Council on the steps required to develop this transport plan. He advised that given the potential impact on the one way system of the proposed the

NTA pathway project from Marlton Road to the Train Station, the Rocky Road upgrade works, and other planned works on approach roads to the town, the design of the one way system should not be carried out in isolation and instead should be completed after the outcome of the transport plan to ensure a fully integrated approach is taken on the transport needs of the town.

The District Manager requested patience as the matter is being addressed.

- It was also noted that the planters beside the pedestrian crossing at the doctor's steps on the Main Street are considered an eyesore and a potential hazard to pedestrians. The District Engineer advised that he will look into the matter.
- The District Engineer informed members that the consultation on the Church Hill one-way system was completed with the Church of Ireland, the school and emergency services, with feedback indicating that reverting to a two-way system would have a negative impact. It was agreed to pause any infrastructure changes until the completion of the Rocky Road project, which is expected to alleviate traffic in this area.
- An update was requested on the derelict building at Market Square. The District Manager advised that the Environment Section had contacted the agent, who attempted to reach the owner without success. The Council may have to engage a contractor to complete the works and recoup the cost from the owner.
- An update was requested on the pedestrian crossing in Ashford. The District Engineer advised that the responsibility for progressing this project lies with the developer.
- The continuous white line on the Dublin Road in Ashford needs to be reinstated following resurfacing.
- Graffiti at the IPAS Centre in Newtownmountkennedy requires cleaning. The District Engineer advised he will look into it.
- Ramps at the Murrough need repainting.
- In Beechwood, Laragh road markings have been painted, but additional measures are needed to reduce speed.
- Dog fouling remains a significant issue in Wicklow Town at two key areas: the Murrough and Hawkstown Road. Cllr. Danny Alvey outlined that he is liaising with the Environment Section in relation to an awareness campaign. The District Administrator advised members that WMD is currently trialling extra dog bins, which may help address the issue.
- The Environment Section removes most bins from the Brittas Bay car parks during the winter months. However, locals have raised concerns that waste continues to accumulate. Could we consider keeping dog waste bins in place throughout the winter? The District Administrator advised that Brittas Bay currently has one general waste bin and one dog fouling bin in the south car park.
- It was noted that the salt boxes are proving to be a great success around the Municipal District.
- Concerns have been raised about the large-scale felling of mature trees in Newtownmountkennedy, which took place while the Council was closed for Christmas.
- Update on the Ball Alley was requested. The District Engineer advised that works are currently ongoing.
- An update was requested on the usage of the road sweeper and whether we are scaling back. The District Engineer advised that WMD is the only district with a dedicated road sweeper but it has broken down and is beyond repair. He noted that the green machine is being used in urban areas at present & this is proving successful.
- A query was raised regarding public lighting. The District Manager advised that the Roads Department are responsible for providing an update on this matter.
- An update was requested on the playgrounds, with a request for further details on the repairs outlined in the engineer's report.

- Bins collected by waste companies should be returned to their original locations to assist visually impaired individuals. It is noted that this initiative may require bye-laws and should be examined by the Environment Section.

#### **ITEM 4**

##### **Correspondence**

Correspondence was received from the Mayor of Montigny-Le-Bretonneux thanking the MD and the twinning committee for their attendance at the Christmas markets. They noted the huge display of products from Wicklow and the visit was a great success.

Correspondence was received from Eichenzell inviting the Male Voice Choir, Wicklow Municipal District and the Twinning Committee to visit from 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2025. The District Administrator added that she would reach out to the Male Voice Choir to coordinate a shared bus to Dublin Airport in order to reduce costs.

#### **ITEM 5**

##### **Any Other Business**

The District Administrator, Georgina Franey reached out to the current St. Patrick's Day Committee in Wicklow regarding the necessary road closure application. She was informed that all but one member was stepping down for personal reasons. Georgina advised that she had lodged the road closure application and traffic management plan due to the statutory timeframe. The Members agreed to reach out to various groups and former committee members to assist and form a new committee. They also expressed disappointment at the prospect of not having a parade in the County Town, highlighting the success of previous years and the significant effort involved in organising them. The District Administrator stated that she would liaise with the Members and keep them updated.

Cllr. Paul O'Brien expressed sincere condolences to Cllr. John Snell on the passing of his sister in law, Yvonne Snell. This sentiment was shared by all members and the staff.

Cllr. Shane Langrell asked for an update on the Community Hall in Ashford. The District Manager advised that the Community Section is looking after this matter.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 4.26pm.

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

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

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