

# MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

HELD IN DISTRICT CHAMBER, TOWN HALL

MONDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023 @ 15.30pm

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

**In Attendance:** District Manager Brian Gleeson  
District Engineer Pat Clarke  
District Administrator Joan Sinnott  
Georgina Franey, Senior Staff Officer  
Róisín Carroll, Assistant Staff Officer  
Wicklow People Myles Buchanan

Cathaoirleach Irene Winters opened the meeting at 3.30pm.

## ITEM 1

### Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023

It was proposed by Councillor Gail Dunne, seconded by Councillor Paul O'Brien and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023.

## ITEM 2

### District Engineers Report

Updates were provided by District Engineer Pat Clarke as follows:

#### Housing

- Relets/Prelets; 4 completed. 3 on site. 3 new relets received.
- DPGs; 2 Completed, 1 on site.

#### DTTAS Roads Programme

##### ❖ Drainage

Generally works on verge drains, gullies and road crossings to outlets are currently ongoing throughout the MD.

##### ❖ Restoration Maintenance

Location	Length of Works	Completed to Date
Ballymachara – Ballycullen, L5095	2.5km	Partially completed
Tomdarragh Lane	1.0km	Completed
Kilpoole - Magheramore R750	1.8km	To be completed
Raheenmore, Blainroe Upper, L1102	2.0km	To be Completed
Carrigower - Easthill L1039	4.0km	Completed
Garryduff, L6068	8.0km	Completed
Wicklow Gap, Brockagh, R756	2.5km	First layer Completed
Djouce – Sallys bridge, R755	2.5km	First layer completed

The Countywide Restoration Maintenance started in the Wicklow MD on the 12<sup>th</sup> June, the list above shows works completed to date, with some to be fully completed. Remainder of works to be completed by end of July.

Post works sweeping to be completed on all works by end of Aug.

#### ❖ **Restoration Improvement**

Tenders on Restoration Improvement works received early June. Works will include a variety of techniques depending on classification and condition of Road.

Working with various contractors to schedule works into their programmes over the next few weeks.

Advance works such as drainage and verge widening works to start on some RI Roads as soon as possible with a mixture of MD staff and sub contractors.

#### ❖ **CCSD**

Tender received for consultant for Coral grant funding for works from Large Scale Sport Infrastructure. WCC CCSD currently clarifying info.

#### ❖ **Public Liability**

1 personal injury. 2 material damage.

#### ❖ **WCC Projects**

- Roundwood footpath; Works are continuing in Roundwood road at L5061. Drainage, extruded kerb and backfill of footpath have been installed to date. Resurfacing works to take place on footpath and road next week.

The junction with R764 at Knockfadda will be improved with new signage and line markings for safety reasons.

- Brittas Bay footpath; start date has been pushed back to the end of the summer season due to the increased traffic volumes in this area.
- DRC Community Recognition Fund; Application made for projects in WMD. These were:
  1. Refurbishment of the Assembly Hall
  2. Installation of accessible outdoor gym equipment at the Murrough
  3. Improvements to the promenade linking the harbour and the Murrough

Funding has now been confirmed by the Department for all the projects within the WMD. A detailed review of works to take place over coming weeks.

#### ❖ **NTA Projects**

- Ballinahinch, Ashford footpath; wall facing complete. Works continuing on accommodation works. Concrete footpaths have been poured.
- 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.

#### ❖ **Fáilte Ireland**

- Abbey Grounds; Re-design of certain items of the project continuing with Architect/Engineers. Detailed designs have been progressing for Coach House building, Amphitheatre seating and performance area.

Details on lighting design and material finishes being worked through at present.

#### ❖ **OUTDOOR RECREATION**

- Brittas Bay Blueway funding for accessibility works. Tender docs for toilet building improvements and other works currently have been assessed. Works to proceed in September in order to reduce inconvenience to public during busy summer season.

Details progressing on signage for Brittas bay with Heritage officer and designer.

- Glenturn Cliff Walk Infrastructure Upgrades to start Monday 26<sup>th</sup> of June, in order to improve trail experience. Works to take 3-4 weeks approx.

#### ❖ **Town & Village Renewal**

- Wicklow Town – South Quay connections to Main Street, (Connectivity Project) tender has been evaluated and the successful tender notified. Stakeholder consultations still ongoing.

#### ❖ **Additional MD projects**

- Tenders awarded for all outstanding repairs at the Murrough playground and skate park and also for all repairs at the Newtownmountkennedy playground.
- Contractor for ‘Historic Monument Lighting in Wicklow Town’ has installed further lights at the Black castle and at the Wicklow Church of Ireland site’s. Certification is complete,

contractor to liaise the ESB to complete the power supply connections once lights have been mounted at the Stone Bridge.

- Public lighting columns to be completed with the installation of LED heads over the next coming weeks at the Black Castle steps.
- ESB have informed WCC that the Leg of Mutton lights are to be connected to their network within the coming week
- Applications submitted to ESB for power supplies to:
  - Laragh Pedestrian Crossing
  - Moneystown Pedestrian Crossing
  - Annamoe Pedestrian Crossing (part of Town and Village Scheme)
  - Annamoe additional Public lighting on bridge and street (part of Town and Village Scheme)

All applications have been processed by ESB who will now issue connection quotations.

- Line marking progressing around the MD, with yellow boxes being repainted in Wicklow town centre at certain locations. Ramps lining from the Leg of Mutton to Market Street have been refreshed also. Line marking from Beehive to Marlton Roundabout to take place in coming weeks.

#### MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

- Members paid tribute to the District Engineer on works done.
- Renewal of road markings from Beehive - District Engineer advised that this is a priority and will try to have it done next week.
- Road ramps in Glenealy, especially at Annsbrook, require repainting.
- Lot of weeds on footpath at Black Castle - Members were advised that it has become difficult to balance climate action responsibilities with keeping the district tidy and that eliminating weeds has now become very labour intensive. Matter to be revisited.
- Lights at Leg of Mutton – District Engineer advised members that the ESB were expected to connect the lights that week.
- Ball Alley – members would like to have it functional again. The District Engineer advised that a report was recently prepared.
- Condition of line markings around Wicklow town/disability space at Bethlehem School. District Engineer said that he will try to have these done when schools are closed. He advised the work for Market Street and Abbey Street has been tendered out and it is hoped works will be done in the next few weeks, possibly at night.
- Lot of roads around town in bad condition.
- Buses using Hopkins Hill are causing problems. District Engineer advised that Bus Eireann have been advised to stop using this route and signage will be installed.
- New bus stop near junction of Castle Street and Summerhill – still causing problems with sightlines, although the new hatching which moves the parked buses 3-4 metres further

from the junction is a slight improvement. District Engineer advised he recently met with the NTA and will hold further talks.

- Buses using Main Street causing difficulty.
- Bat Survey at Black Castle – has been carried out – confirmed that lights shine downwards and don't interfere with bats.
- Public lighting on steps at Sailing Club welcomed.
- Query regarding possibility of providing pedestrian crossing between Bridge Tavern and Bridge Street Books and possibly over to the bridge.
- Reinstatement of cycle lanes on Dunbur Road.
- Proposed Pump Track – Town Team – LEADER funding  
District Manager advised that a meeting has been arranged with the Town Team and the Part 8 process will be discussed. He confirmed that Leader is a rolling fund for a number of years and there is no deadline for applications.
- Replacement fence required at river – District Engineer advised this will be done.
- Assess costs for beach wheelchairs – comes under remit of CCSD Blueway fund.
- Concern regarding major problems at Main Street, Newtown – Fishers Junction.  
District Engineer advised that a meeting with the developers will be necessary and traffic flow to be reviewed.
- Disappointment that lights at Hillview still not working - District Engineer advised that ESB are currently under pressure.
- Reinstatement of section of path before turn for Milltown on N11 – eroded due to trucks parking – responsibility of TII.
- Church Lane, Glenealy – request for litter bins and road markings – to be put on road marking list.
- Illegal encampments on land near bridge in Rathnew – query regarding possible CPO of land.  
District Manager advised will refer to Director of Planning to see what the options are.

The Cathaoirleach requested that in future members email any queries for the District Engineer the week preceding the monthly meeting.

### ITEM 3

#### **Presentation on the final Draft of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) Framework document**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Deirdre Whitfield, Senior Executive Officer, to the meeting.

Deirdre gave a presentation as follows:

#### **Wicklow LECP: Stages and Timeline**

- **Stage 1 & 2: Preparations and Consultations (September to December)**
  - Socio-Economic Statement
  - Draft Vision and High-Level Goals
  - Public Consultation on High-Level Goals
  - Revision of Statement based on consultation
  - Sign off from SPC and LCDC
- **Participative Consultation (Jan to March)**
  - Revision of Statement, Vision and High-Level Goals
  - Sign off from SPC and LCDC

- **Stage 3 – Objectives and Outcomes (May and June)**
  - Develop detailed objectives and outcomes
  - Preparation by Advisory Group
  - Sign off by SPC and LCDC
  - Final Draft to MDs and RAs for input
  
- **Stage 4 – Framework and Implementation (June onwards)**
  - Finalise Plan
  - SPC and LCDC to adopt final draft reflecting MD and RA input
  - LA to approve final draft
  - Submission to Minister and Published by LA
  
- **Stage 5 – Implementation**
  - Implementation Plans
  - Consideration of available Resources
  - Ongoing flexible implementation
  
- **State 6 – Monitoring and Evaluation**
  - KPIs to address proposed outcomes
  - Ongoing data collection including case studies
  - Implementation report

#### **Socio-Economic Statement**

1. Introduction to the Wicklow LECP and the approach taken by Wicklow County Council
2. LECP Advisory Team Survey
3. Wicklow LECP – Policy Context
4. Detailed Socio-Economic Profile
5. Strengths, Challenges, Opportunities and Threats (SCOT)
6. Wicklow LECP Vision and High-Level Goals (Revised and updated following public consultation)

#### **Consultations**

<b>Table 3.1 Consultation events and participant numbers</b>	
<i>Event</i>	<i>Participant Numbers</i>
Social Inclusion Women’s Network	60
Economic Breakfast Briefing	100
Wicklow Municipal District	18
Arklow Municipal District	30
Baltinglass Municipal District	22
Greystones Municipal District	27
Bray Municipal District	20
Webinar consultation	13
Written submissions	9
PPN Environment workshop	12
Comhairle na nÓg Summit	100
Online Survey	20
Stakeholder focus groups	45

Engagement with Marginalised Communities	
Migrants	20
Travellers	
LGBTQ+	
Older People	
People with Disabilities	
<b>Total consultees</b>	<b>496</b>

### Vision and HLGs – as approved by LECP ASG

- On 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023, the LECP Advisory Steering Group discussed the draft Vision and HLGs and comments received through consultation process
- Following detailed discussion the ASG recommends the following Vision and set of six High-Level Goals for the Wicklow LECP 2023-29

**Health, Resilience and Well-Being**  
**Enterprise, Innovation and Creativity**  
**Climate Action**  
**A Connected County**  
**Equality, Diversity and Just Transition**

### Vision

Our vision is for a vibrant and sustainable County (which provides a high quality of life and well-being for all; which values socially inclusive urban and rural communities; is driven by a dynamic and innovative economy; promotes sustainable development and the rights of all; building on the County's unique and rich natural and cultural heritage.)

#### Goal 1 Objectives

##### Climate Action

- 1.1 Ensure that all plans, strategies, policies, programmes, projects and funding schemes are environmentally proofed
- 1.2 Lead the Community Climate Action programme to build capacity and initiate and support community climate action initiatives
- 1.3 Support enterprises and communities to deliver on climate change targets
- 1.4 Support protect and enhance Biodiversity
- 1.5 Support the development of renewable energy opportunities

#### Goal 2 Objectives

##### Enterprise, Innovation and Creativity

- 2.1 Support skills development in the county, matching with market demand
- 2.2 Promote sustainable tourism in the county having regard to environmental impact
- 2.3 Develop a strong and vibrant creative and screen sector
- 2.4 Support the sustainable expansion of the food and beverage sector
- 2.5 Support the development of the circular economy and community wealth building

- 2.6 Capitalise on natural resources such as the maritime economy ensuring nature-based solutions
- 2.7 Continue to develop the social enterprise sector
- 2.8 Promote the development of a thriving green economy in which enterprises are supported to take advantage of emerging green business opportunities
- 2.9 Promote climate action and green skills in training and education in partnership with KWETB, SETU, Clermont Campus and LEO
- 2.10 Support the development of the circular economy
- 2.11 Support the growth and development of lower carbon enterprises through supplier development programmes that align with green procurement strategies
- 2.12 Address gaps in enterprise centre space in the county

### **Goal 3 Objectives**

#### **A Connected County**

- 3.1 Improve transport infrastructure in the county
- 3.2 Promote the development of sustainable transport infrastructure in the county
- 3.3 Support the roll out of quality broadband throughout the county
- 3.4 Increase facilities for remote working and co-working
- 3.5 Ensure increase in digital services does not lead to further exclusion from services and participation in society

### **Goal 4 Objectives**

#### **Equality Diversity and Just Transition**

- 4.1 Support the diversity of groups in our society including integration of minority groups
- 4.2 Implement community development principles of inclusion, equality and meaningful engagement of marginalised groups
- 4.3 Implement a fair and inclusive approach to climate action through a just transition model
- 4.4 Address gaps in service delivery in the county
- 4.5 Address the issue of supported services for those experiencing domestic violence
- 4.6 Support the adoption of the Public Sector Duty Act for service delivery

### **Goal 5 Objectives**

#### **Health, Resilience and Well-Being**

- 5.1 Drive the environmental, economic and social regeneration of County Wicklow's towns and villages and their hinterlands
- 5.2 Strengthen and sustain strong civil society with actively engaged and connected communities
- 5.3 Support the provision of community, sport and recreational infrastructure for communities
- 5.4 Improve the health and quality of life for all especially those most vulnerable
- 5.5 Drive health equity by addressing the social determinants of health impacting on at risk communities
- 5.6 Support the wellbeing of our children and young people
- 5.7 Improve the safety of our communities through the JPCs and safety measures in the public realm
- 5.8 Support the well-being and quality of life of our ageing population



- 5.9 Continue to provide the strategic direction for service delivery in the county including but not limited to SICAP and LEADER

#### **Next Steps for LECP**

WCC to add connections between Objectives and to UNSDG Goals and Regional Objectives

1. WCC to liaise with Regional Assembly and MDs to issue SE Statement for review
2. WCC to undertake SEA of revised SE Statement and further develop the objectives
3. In parallel to 1 to 3, the Implementation Plan will need to be developed, led by LECP Advisory and WCC:
  - to identify the Target/Beneficiary Groups
  - to identify, agree and finalise Lead Agencies and Collaboration Mechanisms; and
  - to agree Timeframe for action

#### **ITEM 4**

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

Councillor Paul O'Brien raised the issue of 14 defibrillators for supply to housing estates for which €14,000 was sanctioned from the discretionary fund. He advised that a deal had been obtained and a saving of €2,100 made leaving the cost at €11,900. He advised members that cabinets could be obtained for the defibrillators at a cost of €3,927 and asked if they would be agreeable to allocating this additional sum.

It was envisaged that residents associations would be responsible for power supply and installation.

A query was raised as to responsibility and liability for the defibrillators. It was agreed to check the matter with the Law Agent and IPB and that the defibrillators wouldn't be given out until the matter is clarified.

It was proposed by Councillor Paul O'Brien, seconded by Councillor John Snell and agreed to proceed as outlined.

#### **ITEM 5**

##### **Correspondence**

An email was received from Wicklow Rovers FC regarding facilities required by the club. They enquired about a site at Hawkstown Road designated for sport/recreation. Members were advised that CCSD are compiling an audit of sports organisations and this request is premature before the audit. In any event it is not a matter for the Municipal District.

Correspondence was received from Wicklow Regatta Festival Committee in relation to funding. They indicated their overall costs would be in the region of €20,000 and were seeking a grant of €3,000 towards fireworks. It was proposed by Councillor Mary Kavanagh, seconded by Councillor Paul O'Brien and agreed to provide the sum of €3,000 to the committee.

District Manager, Brian Gleeson, advised that representations had been received from the Age Friendly Officer on behalf of an elderly lady with a disability containing hundreds of signatures in relation to reinstatement of disabled parking spaces near AIB in Wicklow Town. It was agreed to examine the matter and the possibility of installing age friendly spaces.

CATHAOIRLEACH IRENE WINTERS CONCLUDED THE MEETING AT 17.27pm

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

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

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