



**Wicklow County Council  
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

**ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON THE ZOOM PLATFORM ON THE 8<sup>th</sup>  
DECEMBER 2021**

**Present:** Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Leas Cathaoirleach  
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke  
Cllr. Tommy Annesley  
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald  
Cllr. Peir Leonard

**Apologies:** Cllr. Miriam Murphy, Cathaoirleach

**Officials Present:** Mr. Colm Lavery, District Manager  
Ms. Helena Dennehy, SEO  
Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator  
Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer  
Mr. Rob Mulhall, Executive Engineer  
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, ASO

**Press :** Mr. R Clune WP

**Public:** None

Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr Kennedy chaired the meeting.

**Item 1: Votes of Sympathy.**

The Members expressed votes of sympathy to all families who have recently lost loved ones, there have been a number of deaths over the last few weeks and a few known to all are –

Angela Walker, Patricia Lott, Kay McLoughlin, Maggie Condren, Emilene Whelan Farrar. Cllr Annesley gave special mention to Cllr Fitzgerald's uncle who recently passed away.

A minutes silence was observed.

**Item 2 : Confirmation of Minutes from Ordinary Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021.**

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were proposed by Cllr Annesley and seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald.

**Item 3 : Matters Arising.**

Cllr Leonard proposed a suspension of standing orders to discuss a notice of motion – Cllr Kennedy proposed that the suspension is discussed at 5.15pm if need be.

**Item 4 : To discuss biodiversity, tree protection and tree planting in Arklow.**

Cllr Kennedy confirmed that there is a policy document already drafted which will be going before the next SPC meeting – Should the discussion wait until after this meeting.

Cllr Leonard is requesting an update on quantifying what resources are available to carry out any proposed plans – existing and future plans. WCC need to have an over-arching plan – what we need, funding and guidance on how plans are to be implemented.

Cllr Kennedy enquired if there would be extra resources available to the district from WCC.

Avril Hill DE confirmed that Arklow Tidy Towns have had a biodiversity study carried out and on the back of that funding will be sought and plans can be actioned.

Cllr Bourke stated that AMD will need to keep in mind that there may be a scarcity of trees nationally – Cllr Leonard stated that at this stage we should be planting seeds – we have forests on our doors to do this – don't try an re-invent the wheel.

Cllr Kennedy asked Cllr Leonard to follow up on this.

Cllr Leonard also enquired about funding that had been set aside for The Marsh – Claire Lawless DA said she would look into this. Cllr Leonard enquired about the process for changing NHA status for an area – Avril Hill DE replied that this is an area for NPWS to deal with – Cllr Leonard suggested arranging a meeting with a representative from the NPWS. Cllr Kennedy asked the DA to arrange this.

**Item 5 : District Engineers Report.**

**Roads Programme**

**Regional Roads**

<i>Road No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
R753	Aughrim to Ballinaclash	Resurfacing & line marking.	Due to start 22/11. Contractor to confirm start date once temperatures increase.

**Local Roads**

<i>Road No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
L-2900	Emoclew Road, Arklow	Resurfacing, reconstruction of existing ramps & line marking.	Due to be completed this week.

Our Roads Programme for the next three years has been completed.

### **Safety Improvement Works**

Safety Improvement works have been completed.

### **Former National Roads**

<b>Proposed Scheme</b>	<b>Status</b>
Wexford Road Arklow – Rehabilitation Project	Resurfacing works have been completed. Ironworks to be finished. Some entrances to be tidied up and some line marking to be completed.

### **Footpath Schemes**

1. Rathdrum 90% complete – Contractor has commenced on site with the works.
2. R747 Vale Rd – Finished on Merck side. Waiting on contractor to review kerb on Ballyraine side.

### **Town & Village Renewal Scheme**

Redcross: Works are progressing on site. Footpath works are complete. Cobble drains are 75% complete. Parking bays to be surfaced – Due to finish this week.

### **Local Improvement Scheme**

Round 2 for the District to be completed. Contractor to confirm start dates but should be due to commence shortly.

Clonerkin, Rathdrum  
Ballykillageer, Arklow

### **Community Involvement Scheme**

Kilahurler, Arklow - Drainage works complete, contractor to surface.

Applications made for three schemes for 2022-

Kimacoo Avoca  
Nursery Way Aughrim  
Three Wells Aughrim

### **Fáilte Ireland Outdoor Dining Area**

Site clearance has taken place at Abbey Lane – Site fenced.

Consultant to commence preliminary design of proposed structure.

### **NTA Schemes**

The 2021 allocations for Arklow have been confirmed as follows. Projects are being led by NTA team in WCC with input from AMD.

<b>Project Code</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Description</b>
WCC/11/0004	Arklow – Woodenbridge - Shillelagh	Greenway project. Currently compiling the Planning Application.
WCC/20/0003	Arklow Transport Study	Baseline assessment is currently underway, next stage will be stakeholder engagement. AMD met with consultant and NTA to discuss and walk site.
WCC/21/0007	Dublin Road to Wexford Road	Tender documents are being prepared for appointment of consultant.
WCC/21/0009	Arklow Main St to Train Station	
WCC/21/0013	Lower Main Street, Tinahask Road & Dock Road to South Quay	
WCC/21/0024	R747 Vale Road	NNR crew are working on this at present.
	Rathdrum	Completed.

### **Wheelchair accessible bus stop**

Works to the footpath have been completed. Road was resurfaced. Ironworks to be completed with rest of Wexford Rd.

### **Housing Construction**

#### **Delany Park Phase 2**

The site consists of 47 houses, structurally all houses are completed with doors & windows in place, all external on-going, first fix M&E started, IW & ESB not connected to date. Revised programme indicates a finishing date of April 2022. Contractor is hoping to deliver 37 units in early January 2022 and remaining 10 mid-February.

#### **Avondale Phase 2**

The site consists of 20 houses. Successful contractor Cleary Doyle now appointed for this project. Substructure and ground floor slabs are in place. Anticipated completion date is September 2022.

#### **Sheehan Court (Old Fire Station)**

The project consists of a terrace of 7 no., 2bed houses, and is now fully approved by the DHLGH. Timber frames are in place and roofs, doors and windows due next, the completion date is expected to be in July 2022.

The members commended the Roads team for all works carried out during the year. Cllr Bourke asked if there was any funding left – Avril Hill DE conformed that AMD were nearly at 100% spent on

budgets for the year. Cllr Bourke asked if Blindwood was included in the 3 year programme and Avril Hill DE confirmed it is.

Cllr Annesley asked if the team could look at a section of the footpath near the graveyard that is difficult to navigate for wheelchair users – cannot do it alone. A Hill DE confirmed that she would look into this.

Cllr Kennedy asked about the works at the Meetings – contractors are back there, is there a timeframe for completion of works. Rob Mulhall EE replied that works should be completed by Christmas and that three other areas needed attention.

#### **Item 6 : To discuss request received for Town Twinning funding.**

Cllr Kennedy outlined the request received from the CBS in Arklow – teachers and students involved with counterparts in Wurzburg.

This was discussed with WCC and it was agreed to allocate €3000 of the available funding to the school. Proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Annelsey.

Cllr Leonard suggested that the balance left could be used to exchange craft experiences and produce with towns that are twinned with Arklow. It was agreed to research this further.

#### **Item 7 : Correspondence**

No correspondence received.

#### **Item 8 : A.O.B.**

Cllr asked that the DE contact ESB Networks about getting the lights in Aughrim switched on – Installed 4 months and still not working.

Cllr Bourke asked the team to look at installing some dog poo bins in the Templeraíneí area.

Cllr Annesley commended the engineers and outdoor crews for their work throughout the recent horrendous weather. He commented that it was a blessing that no one was injured – slates flying off the roof of the old 56 building on Main St. It is not right that the AMD can leave the building like this – is there any immediate action we can take – Cllr Leonard supported this request and also included the old cinema building – sheets of asbestos that can be loosened in windy weather and damage could be caused. Can AMD organise an audit of vacant buildings in the district. Cllr Fitzgerald reiterated their concerns and said that letters should be going out to the property owners. Avril Hill DE confirmed that she had spoken to her colleagues and that letters to the property owners had been sent from Planning and Environment.

Cllr Leonard raised concerns about the lighting on the Wexford Road and asked if AMD would explore the idea of installing solar powered lighting to give some form of lighting on the unlit side of the street.

Cllr Fitzgerald confirmed that a decision had been made to remove lighting from one side and that what remained was sufficient – there is a deficit in public lighting and this issue needs to be addressed. Rob Mulhall confirmed that the lighting is sufficient and adequate for the area – nothing

will be added here as WCC is working to the standards required. Cllr Fitzgerald requested a new survey for lighting in the area. Rob Mulhall said the survey results can be circulated again.

Cllr Bourke requested that the engineers look at the crossing on Lower Main St and consider adding beacons here – traffic does not stop for the stop signs.

Cllr Kennedy agreed to draft the letter to go to the HSE in relation to the lack of ambulance service on certain days in Arklow.

**Standing Orders were suspended to allow for discussion on the Notice of Motion –**

Notice of Motion in the Names of Cllr Peir Leonard & Cllr Sylvester Bourke. Date Received : 8th December 2021

“That Arklow Municipal District put forward a notice of motion for the next WCC meeting to direct WCC to write to An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin T.D. and An Tánaiste Leo Varadkar T.D requesting the Irish Government set up an impartial Investigation case into all aspects of the former Irish registered and Arklow based m/v Mary Kate WD30 from new build, to when she came under Irish registration incorporating the three countries involved, Holland where she was built, and Germany where she was registered and who stamped her official EU documentation and to determine how an incorrectly stamped German Stability Book and a valid Sailing Certificate issued every two years by Germany when certified professional evidence confirms that this fishing boat contained 20 tons of unaccounted steel present since new build resulting in a totally unstable vessel unfit for purpose and to assist Mr CJ Gaffney and his family in accessing EU compensation from European Fisheries Fund their catastrophic loss”.

The members discussed the notice of motion and agreed to contact the Gaffney family and will support them in any way they can. Cllr Leonard thanked the members for their consideration and support on this. Claire Lawless DA will pass on the notice of motion to WCC.

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Cllr Kennedy wished all a Happy Christmas on behalf of the Cathaoirleach.

**Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

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

**Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.**

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

**Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District**