

**MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING  
MONDAY 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 @ 3.00PM**

**HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM.**

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

**In attendance:** District Manager Brian Gleeson,  
District Engineer Kevin Scanlon,  
District Administrator Joan Sinnott,

Colm Lavery, Director of Services, Transport Water & Emergency Services  
Michael Flynn, Senior Engineer  
Conor Page, Senior Executive Engineer  
Brendan Doyle, Senior Executive Engineer

Myles Buchanan, Wicklow People,  
Ciara Perks PPN  
Muireann Dalton,  
Secretary to John Brady TD – Lindsay O'Neill.  
Phyllis Farrell (Ashford)

Cathaoirleach John Snell opened the meeting at 3.00 pm.

**ITEM 1.**

**Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021.**

It was proposed by Cllr Gail Dunne, seconded by Cllr Shay Cullen and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021.

## **ITEM 2.**

### **Presentation on NTA projects**

Michael Flynn gave an update and background to the NTA projects. He outlined the importance of the GDA Transport Strategy which is up for review every 5 years and is due February 2022. He stated that a detailed submission to this document is crucial and he went on to outline projects for inclusion.

**M11/N11 Interim bus priority project** – feasibility study completed.

**Rail Service** - NTA have indicated that there is potential to bring the battery operated Dart to Wicklow Town and back.

**Connecting Ireland** –Rural link service

**Safe to Schools programme** – to encourage greater pedestrian and cycle facilities on the approach to schools.

**5 year sustainable Transport Plan**

Colm Lavery informed the meeting that his department would continue to make the case to Irish Rail for the Dart and the electrification of the line from Greystones to Wicklow. He also stated that there are plans to construct a new footbridge connecting the Port Access Road to Wicklow Train Station.

The overall 77 projects and funding allocation of €7,616,000 for the Wicklow NTA Projects 2021 were outlined by Conor Page, as well as the 2021 project selection process and the NTA project completion process was also outlined.

Brendan Doyle, discussed the **2021 Implementation Team Projects for Wicklow MD** which included the following:

**Safety to Schools Support Programme** – Various Locations – to encourage pupils to walk and cycle to school €600,000

**Active Travel** – Rathnew/Glenealy – provision of footpath on R752 linking Rathnew to Glenealy €400,000

**Active Travel** – Wicklow Town to Dunbur – pedestrian/cycle infrastructure improvements €30,000

**The 2021 Design Team Projects for Wicklow MD** include the following:

PAR Wicklow Train Station – Station Road – New footbridge connecting the Port Access Road to Wicklow Train Station €75,000

Rocky Road – Wicklow Town – Improvement of pedestrian and cycle facilities along Rocky Road €50,000

Wicklow Main St to Marlton Road – provision of cycle facilities €30,000

Bridge Street to Wicklow Port – Improvement works for pedestrians/cyclist €20,000

R772 Ashford – Main Street Ashford – provision of cycle facilities €30,000

**Members observations:**

- Complimented the proactive team on the significant increase of funding.
- Are the Council in possession of the land where the pedestrian bridge is going on the Port Access Relief Road?
- Is lift over train track being considered for the elderly?
- Has there been communication with landowners for the construction of footpath from Rathnew to Glenealy?
- Do we make submissions from Members?
- Any update on Park & ride site identified in Ashford?
- Implementation, one thing having funding, however important that work is done within the timeframe.
- Safe school programme very welcome will reduce congestion outside schools

**ITEM 3**

**District Engineers Report**

**Covid:** Staff stood down for lockdown 3 on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January. Essential works only currently.

**Housing:**

- Work continuing on essential maintenance and repairs.
- Technical support to WCC-Housing Dept:
  - Re-lets and emergency accommodation:  
9 standard, 2 emergency accommodation, 6 returned to WCC Housing Dept, 10 have works continuing on site, 0 house purchases being finalised.
  - DPGs: No update
  - 2 fire damaged houses work in progress.

**Roads:**

- 2021 Roads Programme Supplementary RM details sent last week with additional roads.
- Pothole repairs continue.
- Drainage jobs at Laragh and Dunbur completed.
- Tender for Microsurfacing in estates received last week. Currently being assessed.
- Gritting since 20<sup>th</sup> March, 5 single and 0 double runs
- Road Opening Licences (approx. 25) continue to be processed and agreed.

**Environment:**

- Funding received for lighting upgrade and solar pv units in Town Hall.
- Funding received for electric vehicle charger at the Murrough Depot.

**Planning**

- 0 Section 254 applications processed for tables and chairs.

**Playgrounds**

- Procured repairs now complete and some equipment replacement for adult gym along promenade remains on order.

**Public Liability**

- 4 new cases (4 material damage, 0 personal injuries) and 1 settled/closed.

**Projects**

- Library. Restart date of May 4<sup>th</sup> planned. No change to last report. Late July is current estimate of opening date. On resumption there is approx. 14 weeks to opening.
- Fitzwilliam Square. Railings internal to monument area fabrication scheduled to be completed this week then to galvanisers for spraying then installation 2-3 weeks time frame. Bespoke planter boxes delivered this week. Schedule contractor for installation and filling within the next 2-3 week period. Information sign awaiting manufacture delays experienced due to supply issues no time frame have requested update.

## Comments/Queries

None

## ITEM 4

### Discretionary Fund

District Manager Brian Gleeson suggested to the Members that the District Engineer would put forward a priority list to the Members to decide upon. Due to the current shortage of contractors it was more feasible for the Engineering staff to know which projects stood a better chance of being done in-house.

This suggestion was proposed by Cllr. Cullen and seconded by Cllr Gail Dunne and unanimously agreed

## ITEM 5

### Fáilte Ireland Funding (Outdoor Seating, Outdoor Dining & Urban Animation)

The District Administrator, Joan Sinnott gave an overview of the 3 Fáilte Ireland Schemes (previously circulated to the members) that are available to support the tourism and the hospitality businesses.

1. **Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism and Hospitality Business Scheme** – this scheme will provide a level of financial support to tourism and hospitality businesses in our town centre to purchase or upgrade equipment to provide additional outdoor seating. Applicants can apply for a grant of up to €4,000. The Scheme runs from 12<sup>th</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.
2. **Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme** – this scheme will provide support to Local Authorities to implement remedial works to provide weatherproofing & Outdoor Dining Infrastructure. Each Local Authority can apply for up to €200,000 under the scheme and may submit proposals for up to a maximum of two towns.
3. **The Urban Animation Capital Investment Scheme** – this scheme is to support Local Authorities to develop sustainable public realm and urban animation projects that have the potential to transform and re-imagine urban centres for visitors, while creating vibrant and creative communities. Only 10 projects of between €250,000 and €500,000 will be selected nationally.

## **ITEM 6**

### **Ashford Update - Works carried out in past 3 years 2018**

Community Centre allocation	€2,500
Tidy Towns Contribution	€1,000

### **2019**

Footpath opposite Mount Usher	€22,000
IPB footpath repairs Rosanna	€28,000
Tidy Towns Contribution	€1,000

### **2020**

Weir clean up and debris removal	€9,000
Tidy Towns Contribution	€1,000
New footpath, wall, future cycle track at Ballinalea	€76,000

### **Works proposed in 2021-2022**

Footpath repairs and crossing north of Mount Usher	€20,000
New footpath from Main Street to Roundwood Rd junction	€200,000
Complete wall and footpath at Ballinalea	€50,000
NTA assess and design cycle facilities and footpaths	€30,000
Road surfacing from roundabout to co-op	€45,000
Estate roads surfacing at Ballinalea and Rosanna Close	€25,000
Tidy Towns Contribution	€1,000

## **ITEM 7**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

**None**

**ITEM 8**

**AOB**

A request was made to have Casual Trading included on the Agenda for next month's meeting.

Updates were requested for the timeframe for the awnings proposed for Market Square and on the Backlighting Project. District Manager Brian Gleeson advised that as we are still in Level 5 Restrictions unfortunately Awnings and back-lighting are not considered essential services. He also advised that once the restrictions were lifted work would recommence.

The issue of litter in Wicklow Town which was experienced over the last week end was raised under AOB. It was outlined that individuals need to take personal responsibility to take their rubbish/litter home with them and not leave it for others to clean up after them. It was also pointed out that the responsibility was not the members fault and not the Council's fault. Various ideas of combating the problem were discussed and considered, however the provision of skips were opposed by the majority of members.

A further request was made to have "Beating Hearts" First Responders to give a presentation at the next month's meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH JOHN SNELL CONCLUDED THE MEETING AT 5.30 PM.

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

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

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_