



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON ZOOM PLATFORM ON WEDNESDAY
08th September 2021**

Present:

Cllr. Miriam Murphy, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Tommy Annesley
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Pat Kennedy
Cllr. Peir Leonard

Officials Present:

Mr. Colm Lavery, District Manager
Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator
Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer
Mr. Rob Mulhall, Exec. Engineer
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, ASO

Presentation :

Helena Fallon, SE Housing
Joe Lane, DOS Housing
Gillian Power, SEE Housing

Press :

Ms. E Dodd, WP

Public:

None

The members congratulated the LGFA Wicklow County All Ireland Junior Football Champions on their great final win in Croke Park – well done to the team and the management team, it has given a huge lift to the county. Also mentioned were the recent achievements of Paralympian Kate Kerr Horan and Bray boxer Katie Taylor. Cllr Leonard also mentioned the recent success of members of Arklow Rowing Club and Asgard Swimming Club. Cllr Murphy congratulated the Arklow Lawn Tennis Club on their recent centenary celebrations.

Item 1: Votes of Sympathy.

The Members expressed votes of sympathy to all families who have recently lost loved ones. The members offered condolences to the families of the following -

Anthony Farrell, Anthony Doyle, Anthony Dillon, Mairead Byrne, Charlie Sunderland and Fr. Oliver Crotty.

A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2 : Confirmation of Minutes from Ordinary Meeting held on the 14th July 2021.

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Annual Meeting held on the 14th July 2021 were proposed by Cllr Pat Kennedy and seconded by Cllr Tommy Annesley.

Item 3 : Matters Arising.

Claire Lawless DA confirmed that an update would be given at the next meeting on the proposal for a columbarium wall for St Gabriel's graveyard and the town twinning proposal received earlier this year.

Cllr Leonard and Cllr Annesley will follow up on locating a potential site for the axe throwing group.

Item 4 : To receive a presentation from Wicklow County Council Housing officials in relation to proposed Part 8 for 4 houses at Avondale Heights, Rathdrum

A presentation was given by Helena Fallon SE Housing – shared to the members. The proposed Part 8 is for 4 units under the 2019-2024 Traveller Accommodation Plan to be built at Corballis, Rathdrum. The units will be similar to what is already in the area and the tenants have requested that the green area is reduced. All issues with the proposed site have been investigated – Phase one has been built, Phase 2 is due to start and Phase 3 traveller accommodation is entering planning stage.

Cllr Murphy thanked the SE for the presentation and commented that the scheme looks fantastic – questioned the property access with regard to the Building Strategy for the development and are the targets realistic.

Joe Lane DOS commented that housing needs would be identified for the county and then broken down for each area – running out of land 5 years ago. The plan is ambitious and will be over a period of time.

Cllr Bourke welcomed the scheme and complimented the Housing Management Team on delivering on promises and looking forward to WCC getting going on the project. He raised the request by letter from the RDA about land in the same area and asked how close was it to this site – Joe Lane DOS acknowledged that he had not seen any letter and that the site is Housing land. Cllr Murphy confirmed that the request would be passed on.

Cllr Kennedy congratulated the DOS and the Housing team for their work on the Avondale Heights Housing Scheme – beautifully finished and he welcomed the start of phase 2. He queried the presentation figures used and Helena Fallon confirmed that the figures were from the LAP and would check the planning reference documents and revert back. The road safety concerns were discussed and it was confirmed that the consultant's study included other planning applications in the area.

Cllr Leonard welcomed the proposal and asked if it could be fast tracked – the proposed tenants are living in an unsafe environment – no utilities or facilities. Helena Fallon SE stated that the Part 8 would take a minimum of 4 months and hoped to have the contract out next year.

Item 5 : District Engineers Report.

Roads Programme

Work has commenced on the 2021 Roads Programme.

Regional Roads

<i>Road No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
R754	Redcross Main St.	Resurfacing & line marking	After T&V Renewal Scheme
R755	Rathdrum Main St.	Resurfacing & line marking	Completed

Local Roads

<i>Road No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
L-6124 & L-6125	Ballyteige, Rathdrum	Resurfacing, surface dressing & line marking	Line marking to be completed in the coming weeks
L-2180	Beech Road, Avoca	Resurfacing, surface dressing & line marking	Line marking to be completed in the coming weeks
L-2900	Emoclew Road, Arklow	Resurfacing, reconstruction of existing ramps & line marking	Due to commence in the next 4 weeks
L-6204	Tocher Hill, Killavaney	Resurfacing, surface dressing	Due to commence in the next 3 weeks

Safety Improvement Works

Proposed Scheme	Status
R747 – Woodenbridge to Aughrim – Safety Barriers	Completed
R752 at Avoca – Safety Barriers	Completed
R747 - Arklow and Woodenbridge – LED warning signs	Tender awarded
R752 Rathdrum & Laragh – LED Warning signs	Tender awarded
Ballycoog National School	Tender awarded
Bearnacle National School	Finalising design
Carysfort National School	Finalising design

Arklow MD has been advised that the LED warning signs are in stock so we will be liaising with the supplier to get these installed in the coming weeks.

Former National Roads

Proposed Scheme	Status
Wexford Road Arklow – Rehabilitation Project	Preliminary Design

Scheme will look at constructing footpaths and cycle way to the Wexford Road. Currently seeking prices from Consultants for design.

Footpath Schemes

1. Rathdrum 90% complete – Design has been completed. Awaiting start date from contractor. We have requested an update from Eir with regard to the removal of the stay cable.
2. R747 Vale Rd – WCC crew have begun progressing the footpath works.

Other Road Projects

1. Saville's Cross – Pedestrian Crossing (90% complete – line marking to be undertaken)

Town & Village Renewal Scheme

Redcross: Was on hold due to filming. Filming completed on 23/08 and crew have dismantled set. Start date from contractor to be confirmed but expected to be in early September.

Climate Adaption Funding

Garrymore : completed : Road was surface dressed last week.

Local Improvement Scheme

One local improvement scheme has been completed so far in 2021.

Knockanree, Avoca – 220m of road – complete.

The other scheme at Kilahurler, Arklow – 630m of road is due to be completed in the next 5/6 weeks

Round 2 for the District –

Clonerkin, Rathdrum

Ballykillageer, Arklow

Currently awaiting a start on those schemes.

Community Involvement Scheme

Kilahurler, Arklow - Drainage works complete, contractor to surface

Additional Outdoor Infrastructure Fund

We have received funding for 2 schemes in the district

Arklow - €65,000 – Response has generally been positive. We have received some comments from businesses on the street and we have made arrangements for a drop-off/pick-up space (10 mins) to be included. Will be implemented as soon as signage is erected.

We are working with the parking section to ensure disabled space and loading bays are being used correctly.

Rathdrum - €50,000 – Complement the resurfacing and relining works to the main street and the square. First delivery is expected 30/08 with the final delivery due 13/09.

Clár funding

AMD were unsuccessful in application for funding in Kilpipe in the Clár funding stream.

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.

Project Code	Project Name	Description
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.
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 commenced on site on 6th September.

Housing Construction

No changes to previous report.

Delany Park Phase 2

The site consists of 47 houses, structurally all houses are completed with doors & windows in place, all external ongoing, first fix M&E started, IW & ESB not connected to date, revised finishing programme indicates end of November 2021.

Avondale Phase 2

The site consists of 20 houses, currently out to tender as original successful contractor had to withdraw due to resourcing issues, new successful contractor should be on site no later than August 2021 with a completion date anticipated for August 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. The project has commenced on site, and the completion date is expected to be in July 2022.

Comments –

Cllr Bourke commented that there was a lot in the report. Cllr Bourke asked how AMD can qualify for funding under the climate adaptation grant. Complaints have been received about the roads in the Blindwood area – we are now under pressure to do something with this stretch within the roads programme.

Cllr Fitzgerald congratulated the staff on the range of works being carried out. He raised an issue with the pedestrian crossing at Curran’s Corner – people are continuing to use the crossing even though the signs advise that it is not an active crossing, there have been many near accidents.

Cllr Leonard asked how will WCC give access to members of the public to the transport study and the national speed review.

Cllr Annesley also complimented the staff on the works done and in progress. He raised concerns about a section of road at the junction of South Quay and Bridge St – A gentleman was in a wheelchair crossing the road and the wheel of the chair got stuck in a pothole, there is a crack appearing in the tarmac, most likely from the trucks coming from South Quay. The surface needs to be repaired soon as heavy goods traffic will increase with building works beginning. Cllr Murphy also noted that there is a dip in the road just after the ramp, at the gully cover, that needs attention.

Cllr Leonard stated that the heavy trucks using Lower Main St are also a problem – flagged in the Transport Study.

Cllr Kennedy expressed sincere thanks to the staff – AMD is a large area to cover, both rural and urban. Cllr Kennedy asked if there has been extra funding allocated for then 4 way signal junction at Saville’s Cross. He asked that the traffic situation in Rathdrum is addressed prior to installing any street furniture.

Cllr Kennedy noted that the SRM crew have been fast and efficient and doing excellent works – working with communities. Fully supports the need for re-surfacing in the Blindwood area. Both Cllr Kennedy and Cllr Bourke asked that hedge cutting in the district get priority.

Item 6 : To receive an update on the Arklow URDF project.

Avril Hill DE confirmed that the start date for works is 13th September – small crew initially and things will ramp up in October. Cllr Murphy asked how long the works would take – Rob Mulhall EE confirmed that the estimate is 9 months – 3 main phases both sides of the street and St Mary’s Road. There will likely be traffic disruption with a plan for a temporary one-way system from Jan-Mar 2022 to facilitate works. There are also plans for a 4 day road closure at St. Mary’s Road – will minimise impact on schools where possible. There is not likely to be much disruption around deliveries to businesses as works are mainly concentrated in the Parade Ground area. Cllr Murphy asked if the St Mary’s Park/Bandstand works could coincide with these works.

Cllr Leonard welcomed the fact that a liaison officer would be available to address any concerns from school, businesses and members of the public.

The members highlighted issues that have been experienced with one-way systems in the past and stressed that all affected needed to be notified prior to works starting. Rob Mulhall EE stressed that there were limited options in Arklow – no side streets can accommodate diverted traffic to maintain 2 way traffic – flagging it early.

The members discussed potential problems for buses and larger vehicles – trial run with bus/artic lorry suggested. It was agreed that information was the key to keeping the community onside – Rob Mulhall EE confirmed that regular updates would be received from the contractors with a view to publishing them online through social media. The members foresee problems with larger vehicles and want confirmation that funerals will still be allowed up the Main St.

Item 7 : Civic Memorial Policy – To agree the draft Community Memorial Application.

The adoption of the Community Memorial Application form was adopted – proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Bourke.

Item 8 : To receive an update on the Arklow Waste Water Treatment Plant

Colm Lavery DM said it was great to see this project finally happening, an investment of 140m, it will be a 4 year construction project and operational by 2025 with treatment capacity for 35-36k people. The contract has been awarded to Ward & Burke Construction Ltd. Initial meetings have taken place to initiate the works to locate all existing infrastructure and what works are required. It will be disruptive for the town as Cllr Leonard pointed out the intention is to ensure that contractors on the all ongoing projects minimise cross over and synergise all works to reduce disruption.

Traffic management will go through a public consultation process where members of the public will be given the opportunity to voice concerns through the consultation hub. Feedback will be required for baseline data – WCC are keen to hit the ground running.

Cllr Bourke welcomed the turning of the sod on the site – had doubts after first proposals 30 years ago and paid tribute to that vision at the first information night. He queried whether septic tanks in the local environs could connect to the system – survey property owners locally would be ideal.

Cllr Leonard suggested using Coillte’s method of liaising with stakeholders – committee should be put in place for residents and businesses affected.

Cllr Leonard suggested that the planned design for the Ormonde Castle area is reviewed, given the recent news that The Alps site has been sold. This could change how the Castle grounds are preserved – an important heritage site.

Cllr Kennedy acknowledged the work and effort put in to getting the WWTP project off the ground, from lobbyists to TD’s, past and present – no one person delivered this. He also acknowledged the quiet collaborative approach of WCC management staff and AMD members in keeping the scheme on the table.

Cllr Murphy acknowledged the people of Arklow who marched for this and thought of them when the sod was turned.

Cllr Bourke said that he had received correspondence from IW, inviting him to a Zoom meeting – Local Reps Support.

Cllr Leonard stated that the Cathaoirleach should have been given the opportunity to reflect the sentiments of constituents at the turning of the sod – Cllr Murphy acknowledged that and should have been in attendance. Colm Lavery DM stated that the event was arranged by IW and WCC protocol was not used – only 2 officials invited and very disappointing for many others – Covid restricted plans. It was a momentous day for Arklow and can only apologise that you did not get the opportunity to speak.

Item 9 : Town and Village Renewal Scheme – Streetscape Enhancement Measure 2021

The members discussed the uptake for the scheme and noted the short timeframe for works. A request for an extension for the scheme was suggested and it was noted that the season for painting outdoors is nearly over. This will be an issue nationally. The members will promote the scheme.

Item 10 : To discuss the maintenance of St. Gabriel’s Cemetery.

Avril Hill DE met with the contractor to discuss issues raised – A plan is now in place and extensive clean-ups were carried out. Cllr Fitzgerald acknowledged the improvement in works carried out. Rob Mulhall EE stated that there was an issue with water pooling between headstones and these areas could not be tidied -Will check if there are drainage options for these areas.

Cllr Kennedy put forward a proposal to establish a list of the number of voluntary groups looking after graveyards – not in receipt of usual funding at the moment. Would it be possible to find funding to assist these groups, possibly from the AMD budget.

Claire Lawless DA replied that the community grants through CCSD were open to the groups if they wish to apply each year. Cllr Kennedy countered that there wasn’t much in that pot – these voluntary groups are looking after areas for WCC, AMD need to take charge – large budget available for graveyards and this needs to be considered. Cllr Murphy said this will be on next month’s agenda.

Item 11 : Notices of Motions

(a) Motion in the name of Cllr Peir Leonard (Received on 03.07.21)

“That Arklow Municipal District identify a suitable location of council owned land and secure funding for a community pump park for the growing population of young people in Arklow”

(b) Motion in the name of Cllr Peir Leonard (Received on 03.07.21)

“That Arklow Municipal District identify a suitable parcel of council owned land for a community allotment.”

Cllr Murphy requested that the DE and EE check if there were potential sites for either proposal.

Item 12 : Correspondence

Correspondence was received from residents on the L1113 about reducing the speed limit along this road – Acknowledge receipt of the correspondence.

Correspondence was received from Dave Thomas in relation to the request to install a permanent rainbow crossing in the town. Avril Hill DE advised the members of safety concerns with changing the crossing. The only suitable crossing is the Main St crossing. The members confirmed support while voicing concerns about safety. Cllr Leonard asked that the proposal be reviewed by the Disability Committee, Avril Hill DE said it could be referred and advice sought from the NTA. Cllr Bourke reminded all that there were other agreed projects for any surplus budget.

Correspondence was received from the event committee for “Pause & Play” looking for a contribution to run the event. Cllr Leonard commended Rachel and Aisling on pulling this event together – their plans for the playground area will be transformative. The members agreed to contribute €400.00 from AMD festival funding budget 2021. Cllr Fitzgerald asked that the group to submit the insurance quote received. Claire Lawless DA confirmed that an event application has been submitted.

Correspondence was received from Coillte – all members received this. Cllr Kennedy asked that an invite to attend the next meeting is extended to Coillte – update on plans in the district.

Item 13 : A.O.B

Cllr Kennedy asked that a report is presented on Housing Rents in the district and an exercise carried out to identify what repairs are needed and where – particularly windows and doors. To be presented at the next meeting.

Cllr Leonard asked that the drains at Behan’s Corner and junction with the Beech Rd are cleared before the winter season.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 13th October 2021.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: _____

Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District