Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON

THE 22nd of October 2026.

Present:
Cllr. Peir Leonard, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke, Leas-Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Pat Kennedy
Cllr. Miriam Murphy
Cllr. Warren O'Toole

Officials Present:
Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator
Ms. Helen Purcell, A/District Manager
Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer
Ms. Lorraine Hayes ASO

Guest Speaker: Mr. Brian Gleeson, DOS, Finance, Water & Information Systems

Press: Hugh O'Farrell-Walsh

Item 1: Votes of Sympathy.

The members expressed votes of sympathy to all families who have recently lost a loved one. A minute silence was observed.

Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes.

The minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 9th of September were proposed by Cllr. Kennedy and seconded by Cllr. Kennedy.

Item 3: Matters Arising.

- Overgrown Hedges at Knockenrahan, DE will send a reminder to landowner.
- A new valuation for the proposed memorial stone will be required, the stonemason recommended new stone as he could not guarantee the result of transporting or his work on the stone we have available.
- Traffic calming at Laragh school, The DE has spoken to the school to see what they can do regarding the steps, she has also spoken with NTA and is awaiting their input.

Helen Purcell informed the Chamber that she had just received the resignation of Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald following 27 years of service. She said that he would be sadly missed and wished him a very pleasant retirement.

Cllr. Fitzgerald stated he had a great time over his years in the Council and thanked everyone for their help over the years.

Cllr. Kennedy expressed that he has been friends with Cllr. Fitzgerald for a very long time and politics is losing someone with a wealth of knowledge and experience.

Cllr. Bourke paid tribute to Cllr. Fitzgerald stating he is both shocked and surprised at his departure. He wished Cllr. Fitzgerald a happy and healthy retirement and that Cllr. Fitzgerald will be sorely missed.

Cllr. Murphy acknowledged that from the start of her career Cllr. Fitzgerald guided her, his guidance and knowledge will never be replaced.

Cllr O'Toole also paid tribute to Cllr Fitgerald and added his best wishes for the future.

District Administrator wished Cllr. Fitzgerald all the best for his retirement on behalf of all the MD staff. She said his courtesy and kindness to all staff will be missed and wished him the Best of luck to you and your family.

DOS Brian Gleeson on behalf of the Executive Committee wished Cllr. Fitzgerald the very best for his retirement and thanked him for his years of service, his fairness and commonsense really stood out throughout his career. He will be sorely missed in the Chamber.

Cllr. Leonard said when she entered politics from a non-political background Cllr. Fitzgerald was very supportive and helpful. People have so much respect for Cllr. Fitzgerald, thank you for all your years as a Councillor, enjoy your family time.

Cllr. Fitzgerald thanked the Chamber for their kind wishes, saying he was delighted with everyone's good wishes and that he would now be leaving the meeting.

Item 4: Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

- To receive a report from District Engineer (circulated taken as read)

Municipal District of Arklow

District Engineer's Report

16th October 2026

Roads

Restoration Improvement - €1,940,365

Proposed Works	Status
R- 747 Vale Road	Complete
R-753 Aughrim	Partially complete. Remainder during mid-term
R-754 Knockanree to Kilmacoo	Complete
L-2172 Redcross to Barniskey	Complete
L-7212 Killaveny to Rosnastraw	Complete
L-7712 Rosnastraw to Coolalug	Complete
L-6150 Mucklagh – Macreddin West	Complete

Severe Weather Programme - €4,000,000

Proposed Works	Status
L-2140 Glen Rd - Chapel Lane Drainage	Complete
L-2167 Schoughmore-Kilmacoo Upper	Complete
L-6142 Edges Lane	Scheduled
L-97541 Beggar's Lane	Scheduled
L-6202-0 Kilpipe	Complete
L-6139-02 Cappagh Hill	Complete
L-62033-0 Coolalug	Complete
L-6150 Rosahane	Complete
L-2140 Greenane Beg - Aughrim	Complete
L-2196-0 Johnstown to Ballykillageer	Complete by 19/10
L-6629-0 Mucklagh – Ballyteige	Complete
L-5153 Rockstown	Scheduled
R753 Aughrim to Ballinaclash	Scheduled
R747 Aughrim to Tinahely	Scheduled
R-752 Moran's Garage Drainage	90% complete
L-2180 Beech Road Drainage	Complete

Discretionary Funding

Proposed Works	Status
Footpath at Fairgreen	Complete
Footpath Repair Riverwalk	Commenced drainage works
Footpaths at St. Peters Place	Works Reviewed, contractor to be appointed
Footpaths at Lower Main Street	Reviewed with Contractor, Awaiting Starting Date
Duck Pond	Review of Maintenance Requirements - Assessed as part of Seaview Avenue Masterplan
Public Lighting in Greenane, Ballinaclash and Annacurra	KLS has been appointed to recommission and get public lighting connection operational
Educational Signage - Beaches	Liaised with the Biodiversity Officer - Awaiting Further Information
Pedestrian Crossing - Rathdrum	Part of Traffic Study
Repair of Footpath at Currans Corner	

Climate Adaptation

Proposed Works	Status
Beech Road	Detailed design. Application for further funding being submitted
Stump of the Castle	Complete

Local Improvement Schemes

Proposed Works	Status
Ballymoney	Scheduled
Clogga	Scheduled
Coolmore	Scheduled
Greenane	Complete
Cronbeg	Scheduled to commence 19/10
Blindwood	Complete
Rockstown	Scheduled

Other Projects

- Rathdrum Traffic Study – Detailed design drawing complete, next stage Road Audit being finalised and comments will be incorporated into construction issue drawing.

The following matters were raised and discussed:

- Crews have prepared the district for storms Austen and Boelo.
- DE will check with Harbour Master that the slip will be closed off.
- Order for schemes is decided by the Roads Department.

- Routine maintenance is in place for drains; some is proactive and others reactive.
- DE has spoken with Flood relief team regarding removal of silt in the riverbed. A contractor will be hired in May 2027. There will be a public interest day in January 2027. It was agreed that the DA would write to the OPW on behalf of the Members to request silt removal at the earliest possible time.
- AB relayed the Councillors have a direct line to Uisce Eireann and can contact them directly for any reports.
- Insurance is an issue for tenants of South Green.
- Aughrim is prepared for storms with drains and gullies cleared, Sandbags are available also.
- Avoca has been prepped for the storms also.
- DE will check arborist report on tree in cemetery and come back to the Councillors regarding this.
- Environmental Department can provide a report on the flood protection.
- Roads Department can provide a report on the Port Road.
- Beech Road is part of the planning permission for the school.
- DE has not been out to Ballycapple Crossroads yet.
- DE will look at road signage at the bridge in Aughrim.
- DE had a traffic study of Barnisky/Snugborough carried out and there was no speeding cases reported.
- DE will have a traffic study at Kirikee carried out.
- DE has engaged with Coillte regarding ditch and hedge cutting, she will send reminder letters to landowners also.
- Ballyteigue Bridge to Aughrim has a steep drop off the bridge and needs topping up.
- DE explained the stop sign in Barndarrig is in the correct place as it is on a minor road, it has been reviewed. The road markings have not been done yet.
- DE will look at bushes opposite Circle K as they have been reported as being very dangerous.
- DE will contact the landowner at Sunbeam Services hedges are very overgrown.
- DE will get the contractor to look at The footpath at Curran's Corner when works start of Lower Main St.

Item 5. Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting

- ❖ To consider report on the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal Districts in respect of the year ending 2027. (for decision)

Brian Gleeson delivered the draft Budget to the Elected Members and explained he cannot commit to Festival Funding at this stage as the Corporate Policy Group set the parameters. At present there is no Festival Funding.

The following matters were raised and discussed:

- Bray get extra allocations of finance due to their income from parking. Byelaws are currently being reviewed to bring Arklow in line with Greystones and Bray. The Elected Members will decide on the increases. Byelaws are currently under review with the Law Department.
- BG explained we are very different compared to other Councils regarding parking and that Bray will deliver a presentation to The Chamber.
- SB expressed that we are the authors of our own misfortune as Elected Members had the vote on LPT. Traffic Wardens appear to have zero tolerance in the Town.

- AB explained the wardens are changed around, and illegal parking is a huge issue in the Town. All day and illegal parking are causing issues for the footfall in local businesses.
- PK enquired about the roundabout scheme and questioned if we should review it as it is self-funding.
- AB explained we have a waiting list. She said some companies are looking for yearly contracts also.
- BG stated the 55m figure will change by the final budget but the 29m is locked in.
- BG said funds can be reallocated but to be careful if moving funds and to ensure the Elected Members look at the impact the moves might have.

The budgetary plan was proposed by Cllr. Bourke and seconded by Cllr. Murphy. All Members agreed to adopt the plan as outlined.

Item 6. Notice of motions.

(a) **To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr P. Leonard received on the 2nd of September 2026**

"That Arklow Municipal District allocates €20,000 from its discretionary fund towards a number of small placemaking, enhancement and regeneration projects in the Fishery, Harbour and South Beach areas of Arklow, to celebrate and commemorate the 200th anniversary of Arklow RNLI."

This motion was proposed by Cllr. Leonard and seconded by Cllr. Murphy however the following matters were raised.

- SB cannot support this motion based on the budget situation we are facing he suggested deferring the motion until finances are finalised.
- PL agreed there are several smaller projects we could do she will draft a plan and bring it back to chamber.
- AB advised the Members this is not under AMD remit it will have to go through Environment and the harbour office. Following a query, she advised the 20k previously allocated for Seaview Avenue was just for Consultancy fees and the development plan.
- PL said that funding has been secured for one part of the DeWadden, it will be placed in the harbour.
- PK proposed to hold 20k for this as there is a plan being drawn up for the area.
- AB advised that the area had received funding from the Town and Cities Regeneration fund and that perhaps let that plan come to fruition and then allocate money to a project.
- All members agreed to ringfence 20k for works once a plan is in place.

(b) **To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr P. Leonard received on the 2nd of September 2026**

"That Arklow Municipal District requests Wicklow County Council to undertake a comprehensive assessment of tourism signage on the motorway network and throughout the District, and to fund and install any necessary new or improved signage to ensure that major tourism attractions are clearly signposted.

This should include, but not be limited to, Avoca Handweavers, Avondale Tree Top Walk, the beaches and harbour areas within Arklow Municipal District, local golf clubs and other significant tourism and heritage attractions."

This motion was proposed by Cllr. Leonard and seconded by Cllr. O'Toole however the following matters were raised.

- MM said it was previously mentioned the companies should do their own signage.
- PL can engage with the companies.
- PK understands the sentiment, but we should not be funding signage for big/private businesses.
- PL stated Avoca is a small village and has the oldest mill in Ireland, but business is suffering in the village.
- MM suggested this should be highlighted at the Tourism Networking Conference.
- PL enquired who funds heritage signage.
- AB said it depends on who owns the business. If it is Council owned the Council pay if privately owned the private company pay themselves. The majority is on the business owners as the Heritage Officer does not have much funding for signage.
- PL is happy to take the private companies off the motion. We want to promote tourism can we go ahead with signage for the beaches, harbour and pyramid.
- All Members agreed on signage for beaches, harbour and pyramid.

(c) **To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr P. Leonard received on the 2nd of September 2026**

"That Arklow MD request Wicklow County Councils Biodiversity and Climate Team to assist in making a plan to work with the local residents and community in creating a sustainable maintenance plan for the native tree planting project at Fernhill, Arklow".

This motion was proposed by Cllr. Leonard and seconded by Cllr. O'Toole however the following matters were raised:

- PL has met with Jim Callery regarding this, there was a plan to maintain and upgrade this. Residents are concerned as it is overpopulated. The bio-diversity officer suggested some pruning around the body of the trees and thin out trees.
- WOT supports the motion. A good plan is vital, talking to residents can alleviate the concerns. The project is an asset to the town.
- MM relayed there had been some antisocial behaviour, and residents need to see immediate action.
- AB notified the members there is no funding available for these works. When projects are created the future should be considered. This area exceeded all expectations.
- HP suggested AMD request assistance in making a plan for this project. All members agreed PL will work with Jim Callery and Hannah O'Kelly and she will come back to chamber with their suggestions.

(d) **To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr W O'Toole received on the 3rd of September 2026**

"That Arklow Municipal District examine the extension of the existing path on the Coolgreany Road from its current termination point, continuing along the cemetery boundary to the side entrance of St Gabriel's Cemetery and onwards to the entrance to Arklow Celtic Football Club. Approximately 100m"

This motion was proposed by Cllr. O'Toole and seconded by Cllr. Bourke however the following matters were raised.

- DE explained the road and footpath width are an issue; we cannot set back the boundary to give way due to graves. She will check with planning regarding the 34 houses being built and see if a path is part of their planning.

- All members agreed to look at the costs and add to notice of motions when discretionary funding is available.

(e) **To consider the Notice of Motion in the name of Cllrs W O'Toole and M Murphy received on the 3rd of September 2026**

"That Arklow Municipal District examine the provision of a raised, universally accessible pedestrian crossing on the R754 at the Ballyhara junction, just below St Mary's Church, Barndarrig, to allow pedestrians to safely cross the road and access St Mary's Church."

This motion was proposed by Cllr. O'Toole and seconded by Cllr. Murphy however the following matters were raised.

- DE appreciates something needs to be done on the crossroads. It is more of an issue for Roads and NTA down to the funding needed. There are planning permissions in which include a pedestrian crossing. The whole area is being looked at with the proposed developments.

This motion was not agreed.

7. Correspondence

- ❖ Inbhear singers ladies choir sent a request for some sponsorship towards travel expenses to travel to the international music festival.

  MM proposed €300 and PK seconded the proposal. All agreed.

- ❖ Representatives from the Cove swimmers requested funding to repair the bike shelter.

- WOT proposed this as the bike shed is in the wrong place with no protection, it is a valuable asset.
- AB advised it is private property and was installed by Co. Wicklow Partnership. AMD do not have funding available for this. She suggested to bring this back to the next meeting as there are insurance details to be examined. We had nothing to do with supply or installation we had previously raised concerns before installation.
- HP stated if we proceed are we taking responsibility for the shelter. There is 60k left in the discretionary funding and no allocation for next year. Be conscious of your spending.
- AB has referred this to ORIS but has not got a reply. All members are happy for AB to clarify if ORIS will provide funding.
- PL said there is not enough clarity on who owns what. Can we arrange a meeting with Roadstone and work together to increase amenities.
- WOT highlighted the path was worn away after last year's storm and because it wasn't repaired more of it has eroded away.
- PL stated when port road goes ahead pedestrian access must be included.
- AH footpaths and cycle lanes are part of planning.

PK had correspondence from Aughrim Tidy Towns seeking help to replace their awning which is €25k as it was badly damaged in the storm. He acknowledged this a great space and we should help.

PK proposed €5000 and PL seconded this.

The funding is for this project only which was purchasing/replacing the awning. All members agreed.

8. Any other business

- WOT questioned if the money for remembrance stone is ring fenced.
- AB relayed while it is not ringfenced it will come out of the discretionary funding. A new quotation is needed as the stonemason could not guarantee his work or the transportation on the stone we had hoped to use.
- All agreed to get a new price for this.
- PK asked about the low-cost safety schemes, AH said 2 had been announced and she would get back to the Members.
- SB asked for potholes in Coolboy to be repaired. AH will look at it.
- PL asked for repairs on Blackberry Glade and Harbour Court, AH said the patching unit will fill them.
- MM reported the bollard at Ferrybank butchers is damaged, AH will get it repaired.
- WOT asked for lights on running track be on for longer, AB said with the clocks going back this weekend the matter would be addressed

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th of November 2026.

Signed: _____

Cllr Peir Leonard, Cathaoirleach, Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: _____

Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District