

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

HELD IN DISTRICT CHAMBER, TOWN HALL

MONDAY 20th OCTOBER 2025 at 15.00pm

Present: Cathaoirleach Cllr Graham Richmond, Cllr Danny Alvey, Cllr Shane Langrell, Cllr Paul O'Brien, Cllr John Snell, Cllr Gail Dunne (online)

In Attendance: District Manager, Brian Gleeson
District Engineer, Pat Clarke
District Administrator, Georgina Franey

Cathaoirleach Graham Richmond opened the meeting at 15.05pm.

ITEM 1

Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 15th September 2025

It was proposed by Councillor Shane Langrell, seconded by Councillor Danny Alvey and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on 15th September 2025.

It was proposed that members pause briefly to remember Eoghan Whelan, recently deceased, who had operated the canteen in County Buildings and more recently the café in Wicklow Gaol. A vote of sympathy was extended to his family.

A vote of sympathy was also extended to the family of Jacinta Dunne, recently deceased.

ITEM 2

To consider report on the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal Districts in respect of the year ending 2026

The report of the Chief Executive on the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal Districts of Wicklow County Council for the financial year ending 31st December 2026 had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting. The Draft Budgetary Plan was prepared in accordance with Section 102 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended by Section 58 of the Local Government (LG) Reform Act 2014.

District Manager, Brian Gleeson presented the Budgetary Plan to the members and advised that it forms part of the Draft Local Authority Budget which will be presented for consideration at the Annual Budget Meeting scheduled for the 24th November.

The General Municipal Allocation for Wicklow Municipal District is €305,901.

Members Observations:

- A query was raised as to the breakdown of the figure of €9,000 for economic development and promotion. District Manager advised that it includes Tidy Towns and economic

initiatives such as 'shop local' etc. The District Administrator noted that it is proposed to hold a Christmas market at Wicklow Gaol this year to promote 'Wicklow Naturally' and 'Wicklow Craft' products.

- It was stated that revenue generated from Glendalough and Brittas Bay car parks should be allocated to the Municipal District. The District Manager advised that these are considered County amenities and the costs incurred by the MD are included in the budget. He stated that the Environment Section incur considerable expenses for upgrade works which must be covered from this income. The District Engineer advised that a significant upgrade was carried out recently to the toilets at Brittas Bay.
- A breakdown of the sum of €25,000 for Festivals was sought. Members were advised that a sum of €20,000 is allocated for Christmas Lights in Wicklow Town. Members queried this level of funding and noted that there is a lack of recognition for the MD in relation to same. The District Administrator advised that this is a historic agreement going back to the time of Wicklow Town Council. She also advised that the Chamber of Commerce are seeking alternative sources of funding for the lights. The fund also includes a contribution to the Regatta Festival, St. Patrick's Day, Taste of Wicklow and Round Ireland Yacht Race.
- A query was raised as to whether there is flexibility to move money between headings. The District Manager confirmed that it is possible to make amendments during the year.

It was proposed by Councillor Paul O'Brien, seconded by Councillor John Snell and unanimously agreed to adopt the Draft Budgetary Plan for Wicklow Municipal District.

ITEM 3

District Engineers Report

Updates were provided by District Engineer, Pat Clarke as follows:

Housing:

❖ Relets/Prelets

WMD

- 4no. houses currently being worked on, through WCC Housing Framework by MD,
- 2no. houses returned to WMD for refurbishment.
- 3no. houses returned to Housing for allocation.
- 3no. houses to be used for decanting within estate.

Housing Direct Labour:

- 3no. houses are being managed by WCC Direct Labour.

❖ Maintenance and operations

- On-going repairs and maintenance being progressed as required on housing stock within the WMD.
- Significant repair works ongoing to Hillview duplex apartments to address existing defects. General repair requests here are predominantly completed with minor ongoing. 3no. Hillview apartments refurbished and will be utilised to rotate tenants as we complete further apartment works. Allocations for rotation underway with housing.

DTAS Roads Programme:

DTTAS Allocations for 2025 Projects on the Restoration Improvement and Maintenance Programme have been reviewed based on pavement condition ratings.

❖ **Restoration Improvement**

Tenders on Restoration Improvement works commenced in February 2025. Works include a variety of techniques depending on classification and condition of Road.

Advance works such as drainage and verge widening works has started on RI Roads with a mixture of MD staff and sub contractors. Main list of RI 2025 projects below.

Location	Length of Works (m)	Completed to Date
L5099 Rocky Road Specific Improvement Project	1200	Opening date 15 th October 2025, Works Complete
L5036 Ballinastoe Rd	1427	Works Complete
R765 Newtown - Roundwood	2650	Works Complete
R750 Dublin Road Wicklow	740	Works Complete
L1096 Ashford - Ballymanus Lower	936	Works Complete
L5070 Ashford - Ballinalea	405	Works Complete
R764 Ashford - Roundwood	80	Works Complete
L1096 Ashford	410	Works Complete
R-751 Marlton Road	262	Works Complete
L5099 Rocky Road (Wicklow Town)	333	Works Complete
New Street	155	Works Complete
Market Street	80	Contract awarded works to commence in the coming weeks

❖ **Restoration Maintenance**

The Countywide Restoration Maintenance Programme 2025 was submitted in February. Advance works such as drainage and verge widening works all completed before start of RM Roads. Main list of RM 2025 projects below. The road Maintenance programme commenced in Wicklow MD at the L5157 Dunganstown 14th May.

Location	Length of Works (m)	Completed to Date
L1036 Stoneypass	1119	Complete
L5056 Slemaine	2817	Complete
L5056 Baliliam Lane	703	Complete

L5077 Raheen	1069	Complete
L1059 St John's Road	1185	Complete
R764 Knockatemple-Tomcoyle	5362	Complete
L1059 Loughdan-Drummin	4494	Complete
R764 Inchanappa south to Killiskey cross	2588	Complete
L5157 Dunganstown	1421	Complete
L5092 Sleanlough	1500	Complete

❖ **Drainage**

- General works on verge drains, drainage inlets, gullies and road crossings to outlets are ongoing throughout the MD.
- Programme for cleaning of gullies continuing within Wicklow MD. Drain surveys are still being carried out on problem areas as required.
- Installation of drainage pipes/ road crossings along L1091 Moneystown at junction with Knockaphrumpa Lane commenced 19/02/2025.
- Installation of drainage pipes/ road crossings along R764 Ashford-Roundwood road commenced 21/02/2025, advanced works for RI and RM Project.
- Installation of drainage pipes/ road crossings along L5036 Ballinastoe Rd completed in advanced works for RI Project.

❖ **Local Improvement Scheme Projects**

- One LIS project has been allocated to the Wicklow Municipal District for 2025 at Wicklow Gap Road, Glendalough. Works are 100% complete.
- Additional funding for LIS Project has been made available. Request for tender issued for LIS L5061 Road, Knockatemple, Roundwood 2025. Works are 100% complete.

❖ **Safety Projects**

- Works to increase visibility and road safety at Castlekevin, L5087 junction with L1076 and L5087 junction with L5587 complete.
- Pedestrian crossing to be installed as part of a housing development condition in Ashford, at junction with R763 and R764. Works complete.
- Bollards installed at St Joseph's School in Newtownmountkennedy.
- 4 No. Electronic speed signs have been purchased and will be installed at Ashwood Roundwood, St Patricks Road, Wicklow, Greenhills Road and Newtownmountkennedy (delay in order from supplier). All units expected delivery in approx. 2 weeks.
- Speed limit review. Circular RST-04-2024 issued by Department of Transport on Speed Limits Implementation revised date of 7th February 2025. All works Completed.
- Pedestrian crossing civil works completed on the Dunbur Road, issue, ESB to energise after this.
- Solar powered driver feedback signage has been ordered for Ballinahinch, Laragh and Newtownmountkennedy. Poles have been erected in advance of commissioning by WCC at

two of the sites. Additional order for feedback sign at Marlton Road, poles to be installed. Order delayed at supplier end. All units expected delivery in approx. 2 weeks.

- Zebra crossing equipment to be installed at Roundwood playground on 18/09/25, awaiting ESB connection.
- Driver feedback (speed display) sign at the Roundwood AFC for traffic approaching the village to be installed on 23/10/25.

❖ **Former National Road Rehabilitation Works**

- Tender competition completed and contractor appointed for surface restoration project on the R772 Newtown Mount Kennedy works will be completed in both Wicklow Municipal District and Greystones Municipal District. Works commencing September 15th 2025. Works are 100% complete.

Abbey Grounds:

- Project Ongoing. Refurbishment of Coach House, new toilet blocks and bin store complete.
- Works to fit out café kitchen to starting in coming weeks, approx. 4 weeks to complete.
- Works to fit out front café area to start mid November, approx. 6 weeks to complete.
- Kerbing of footpaths around Park, 85 % complete. Completion of all of kerbing not possible until Amphitheatre is full constructed.
- Final grading of stone to footpaths to commence in coming weeks, with 2 surfacing layers to be laid by end of Q4 2025.
- Block Paving of certain sections of footpath to commence mid-November
- New sliding gate mechanism and gate installed to Wentworth place /Abbey Street Car park entrance now complete.
- New piers completed to new entrance at Abbey Car Park entrance/ Pedestrian Bridge into Abbey Park, new sliding gate being currently manufactured.
- Planting programme for the park has been completed on Wentworth side of Park, planting for maze to be progressed in mid-November.
- Lighting around Abbey ruins being progressed, ducting complete, base for spots to be constructed in coming weeks.
- Tender being progressed for the Amphitheatre and performance area.

Community Recognition Fund/Outdoor Recreation:

- Brittas Bay Blueway funding for accessibility works; Chestnut fencing to be erected in coming months in order to protect the dunes.
- Wicklow Seafront Toilets – Project complete.
- The Assembly Hall facility works are now complete internally. ESB have connected power - works here completed.

Town & Village Renewal:

- Wicklow Town, Connectivity Project – three ornate arches with lanterns are currently being fabricated for installation along the Doctor's Steps. WTT liaising with fabricator to finalise fabrication and install dates.
- Compactor bins have been installed in Glendalough, Laragh and Roundwood to promote a cleaner environment but also to increase efficiency from an operational point of view. These bins have smart technology built into them and will communicate back to base when full and

require our staff resources to empty. Efficiency of big belly bins has increased from 12% at year start (2024) to 38% in 2025, increasing their overall value to the district by over 200%.

- New Big belly bins have been installed at Glenturn car park, Rathnew bus stop and Fitzwilliam Square. Restrictors have been placed on bins due to complaints of domestic waste abuse.

NTA Projects:

- Consultants still working on pedestrian and cycle improvement scheme as part of the Pathfinder project, initial survey completed on the Marlton Road and Rocky Road, linking to the train station on Station Road. A topographical survey of roads and footpaths has taken place along entire route. This information is required as part of the detailed design process.
- Working with NTA to look at Market Street junction with respect to turning movements of buses/ larger vehicles.

WCC General Projects/Maintenance:

- On-going maintenance of grass care, weed control and hedge cutting around Wicklow town.

WMD Playgrounds:

- Wicklow MD Playgrounds repairs and inspections ongoing.
 - The Murrough Playground – New Sand Digger at sand pit, completed. Damaged Zip-wire cable has been replaced.
 - Ballynerrin Playground – New Cradle Swing installed, all play surfaces have now been cleaned, including industrial hoovering of astro-pitch surface.
 - Tender pricing documents to be sent to playground contractors for the supply and install of two disabled access pieces of play equipment, one for Rathnew and one for the Murrough playgrounds. Type dependant on tender results. Tenders due for return on 31/10/25.
 - Five play areas at the Vartry Trails now handed over to WCC.
 - Vartry Trails Upper Carpark Pump Track – Tender awarded, due to commence start of November.
 - Three Newtown estate playgrounds added to WMD, Alderway, Haven Green, and Glendarragh.

Additional MD projects:

- Chief Executives Report for the Murrough Part 8 has been finalised. Pump Track contract has been awarded to contractor, project will break ground over summer. Pump Track is underway and proceeding as planned, estimated completion of September. Tarmac Surface finished, landscaping and fencing ongoing.
- Derrybawn Car Park, Laragh to begin Part 8 process to regularise existing use. Ecologist has been brought on to complete environmental screenings for Part 8. New Eco toilet to be installed as part of proposal. Complete. Negotiations to extend lease duration required at request of law agent. Negotiations with Derrybawn representative started/ongoing.
- New Eco Toilet to be installed at Magheramore Temp Car Park. Complete.
- New Eco Toilet to be installed at Vartry Trails Carpark. Complete.
- Footpath and kerb repairs in Laragh are complete.

- Glendalough Upper Car Park has received new line marking and new Bin Store. New Defib to be installed here in coming weeks. New Defib is installed.
- Moby Mobility bike scheme, bike parking locations works commenced 19th May.
- Brittas Bay footpath. Site meeting held with NNR crew, procurement of consultant to prepare a design and Part 8 planning documents is complete. Site meeting with National School Principal has been held. Land owner engagement commenced.
- Footpath resurfacing works Ballinahinch Ashford (footpath from Ashford to Nun's Cross school). Work being under taken during school mid-term. Works complete.
- Footpath resurfacing work at L1096. Complete.
- Footpath resurfacing works Roundwood Village. Complete.
- Footpath repairs in Glenview Park, Kilpedder complete. A number of sections in the estate, of varying length, were identified and replaced by Local Authority outdoor staff.
- WCC have issued payments for the following connections. WMD has received MPRN's to progress completion:
 - Laragh Pedestrian Crossing,
 - Moneystown Pedestrian Crossing,
 Both crossing have been energised and are operational.
- Road markings are being progressed around the MD, some have been carried out around the town, with others refreshed at certain locations. Double yellow lines have been completed at Magheramore. Road markings being progressed around Newtown and on RI and RM projects at present. Extensive road markings completed in Hillview housing estate for safety reasons.
- Historical lighting, all sites have revised design lights and power supply in place. WMD to finalise light adjustment and Bluetooth controls with original lighting designer. Possible modifications required at Stone Bridge to prevent glare for traffic. Lighting designer on site 23/06/25 to arrange finalising controllers and commissioning.
- Footpath to GAA club in Wicklow complete, remaining Eir column removed. Additional resurfacing along this stretch also complete.
- Consultations with relevant Contractors for the preparation of cost and specification proposals for the Aires Park are ongoing.

Discretionary Fund projects:

- Footpath Repair project at Heatherbrook Marlton Road commenced 11th September. Works are 100% complete.
- Footpath Repair project at Mount Carmel, Contract awarded.
- Pedestrian crossings and paving of car parking area at the Roundwood Playground commenced Tuesday 26th August.
- Pedestrian crossings at the Friary, works completed.
- Improvements to footpath at bridge entering Newtownmountkennedy. Works completed.
- Footpath at Merrymeeting Hill, Rathnew. Works are complete.
- Wicklow Heights car parking. Works are complete.
- Roundwood – New Paved Parking Area and Pedestrian Crossing at Roundwood Playground. Contract awarded. Works commenced on site.
- Roundwood – Two ramps from Playground to GAA Club. One ramp new has been installed and an existing ramp has been replaced/repared.

- Newtown - Kilmullen traffic calming, new sign has been installed. Site visit to assess possibility of installing anti-skid surface.
- Fund to upgrade footpaths in MD. Footpaths upgrade works at Saint Patricks Road, Wicklow Town is complete. Footpath improvement works taking place in Glenview Park, Kilpedder and Season Park, Newtown Mount Kennedy and will continue over the coming weeks to address severely damaged and hazardous areas in both estates.
- Church Hill Traffic calming – Consultation with National School, Gardai, Fire Service and Church of Ireland completed.
- Tender for Defibrillators has been completed and order will be complete within 2-3 weeks.

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

The members welcomed Pat Clarke back as District Engineer.

- The recent clean-up at Hillview was welcomed. However disappointment was expressed that dumping later took place which came from outside the estate. District Engineer advised that as CCTV can't be installed, the Council are restricted.
- Road crossing at Dunbur requires lighting and road markings. To be examined.
- The possibility of murals at the Ball Alley was raised. It was stated that graffiti has appeared since the refurbishment.
- Update on Aires Park.
- The Town Regeneration Team and Town Team were commended on the Black Castle project. It was requested that a presentation be made to the members. The District Manager suggested that Stephen Clarke, Town Regeneration Officer or the consultants give a presentation at the November meeting. He stated that the funding allocated to the Town Team under Town and Village renewal is solely for the preparation of a plan.
- Ramps and road markings required on road from Glenealy village towards Rathdrum. District Engineer to examine.
- Trip hazard on footpath outside post office in Newtownmountkenedy.
- Road marking at Nuns Cross. To be done as part of planning application. To be followed up.
- Speed sign Tomriland/Moneystown.
- Kerbs at Roundwood graveyard need attention.
- Completion of works at Roundwood playground, erect signs.
- Speed signs at Roundwood Soccer Club.
- Eco Toilet in the Vartry trails carpark, Roundwood requires emptying.
- It was stated that the majority of landowners have complied with Hedge Cutting notices but would like to see more issued across the District.
- Members complimented Roads staff and Municipal District staff on the road improvement works at Rocky Road and improved access to Wicklow town. It was noted that the District Engineer, Pat Clarke played a central role.
- Residents of New Street are delighted with the recent road surfacing works.
- Request to write to TII regarding signage on N11.
- Local access not being observed on Ashtown Lane. The District Engineer advised that traffic counters will be placed here.
- Anti-social behaviour at passive area at the Meadows, Marlton. The District Engineer advised that the benches are to be removed.
- Gap in street lighting at Ballyguile Road. The District Engineer advised that this is part of a planning permission and he will follow up.
- Completion of footpath at Avonvale Manor is noted as part of planning permission.
- Replacement of dog waste bins in Newtownmountkenedy Main Street. The District Engineer will arrange.

- Completion of pedestrian crossings at Saunders Lane/Wilton Manor/Brookfield/Kirvin Hill. The District Engineer to examine.
- Bus Shelter in Rathnew.
- 'Children at Play' signs at Springfield Heights removed. The District Engineer requested exact location.
- Open space area at Clermont Grove completely overgrown, dumping taking place, access to Main Street remains closed.
- The lack of funding streams for smaller towns and villages was raised. It was suggested that the Wicklow Town Team should cover Wicklow Town and environs.
- Members raised a query regarding completion of the Abbey Grounds. They were advised that it will likely be completed in Quarter 2 of next year. The coach house has been completed up to internal fit and a tender for the kitchen has been accepted. It was noted that the Members would be given a tour of the grounds at the November meeting. Work is continuing on footpaths, maze etc. The District Manager advised that there are about 10 mini projects involved.
- A query was raised as to when the pump track will open. Members were advised that it is very close to completion.
- The Cathaoirleach advised the Members that he was in the process of finalising a date for the in camera meeting to be held with the Oireachtas Members to discuss local matters. He advised that he will contact each Member regarding the agenda items.

A request was made to change the date of the December monthly meeting from 22nd December to 15th December. This was proposed by Councillor Shane Langrell and seconded by Councillor Paul O'Brien.

A time extension until 17.30 was proposed by Councillor Paul O'Brien and seconded by Councillor Shane Langrell.

ITEM 4

To consider the Christmas 2025 parking arrangements

The District Administrator, Georgina Franey recommended that the same arrangements as last year, i.e. 2 hours free parking in the car parks and all day free parking at The Murrough carpark be permitted from 24th November 2025 until 1st January 2026. It is proposed that no free on-street parking be given.

It was proposed by Councillor Paul O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Shane Langrell and agreed to proceed with the recommendation.

ITEM 5

Discretionary Funding

Correspondence was circulated to members regarding an application from Inbhear Dee Athletic Club for funding in the sum of €1,886.19 for installation of temporary solar lights around the trail at Hawkstown Road in order to allow them to train 5 nights a week throughout the winter period.

It was proposed by Councillor Graham Richmond, seconded by Councillor Paul O'Brien and agreed to allocate this sum to the club.

Councillor Shane Langrell advised that he had received a request from Moneystown National School for funding for Christmas lights.

It was proposed by Councillor Shane Langrell, seconded by Councillor Gail Dunne and agreed to allocate the sum of €500.00 for Moneystown Christmas lights.

Reference was made to the fact that funding for Christmas lights is not distributed equally geographically and some communities are left behind. The District Administrator advised that no requests for funding were received from groups (with the exception of Wicklow Town).

Councillor John Snell recommended that an application based process be introduced for the Christmas light funding going forward. The Cathaoirleach, Graham Richmond recommended writing to all groups in the New Year advising them of same.

It was proposed by Councillor Paul O'Brien and seconded by Councillor Graham Richmond to allocate €6,500 from the discretionary fund to the following community groups for Christmas lights:

Rathnew Active Forum	€1,000
Roundwood Tidy Towns	€1,000
Ashford Tidy Towns	€1,000
Newtownmountkennedy Tidy Towns	€1,000
Laragh Christmas Lights	€1,000
Glenealy Tidy Towns	€1,000
Annamoe Tidy Towns	€500

It was proposed by Councillor Paul O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Gail Dunne and agreed to purchase 10 cabinets for defibrillators.

It was also agreed to circulate the locations of defibrillators to all Councillors.

ITEM 6

Correspondence

The District Administrator advised that correspondence was received from the twinning committee in Eichenzell advising that the town of Fulda will celebrate the official "Days of Hesse" event from 12th to 21st of June 2026. They invited Wicklow to participate in the event by taking a stall to sell and promote Wicklow produce. She added that she will be liaising with Evelyn Murray, County Wicklow Partnership and Wicklow Craft in relation to same and will revert to the Members.

The District Administrator advised that an update was received in relation to the derelict building at Market Square from the Climate, Environment, Recreation and Amenity Section of Wicklow County Council advising that a survey of the building to provide an engineer's report and recommendations to stabilise the building will be carried out in the week commencing 27th October.

ITEM 7

Any Other Business

The Bus Services planning unit of the NTA presented the Transport and Infrastructure SPC with their planned bus improvements for Wicklow on 15th September. The planning unit reviewed representations made regarding a bus loop service for Wicklow Town, agreed it was needed and are

planning to introduce this in early 2026. It is proposed to split the current 183 local link into two services. One will run from Arklow to Glendalough and the other from Glendalough to Sallins. The first one will include a loop around Wicklow Town incorporating Hawkstown Road, Primary Care Centre, Port Road and back through the town centre. The exact detail of the route and bus stops are still to be finalised and will be shared in their next update. The frequency will also increase to 6-7 per day in each direction. There will be a special Wicklow Town fare.

The Members welcomed the service improvement but urged caution in relation to issuing a press release from the MD at this stage.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 17.33pm.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Date: _____