

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

HELD IN DISTRICT CHAMBER, TOWN HALL

MONDAY 23rd January 2023 @ 3.00 p.m.

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

In Attendance: Acting District Manager Breda McCarthy
District Engineer Kevin Scanlon
District Administrator Joan Sinnott
Assistant Staff Officer Jason Smith
Wicklow People Myles Buchanan

Cathaoirleach Paul O'Brien opened the meeting at 3.00 p.m.

ITEM 1

Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Meeting held on the 19th December 2022.

It was proposed by Cllr Gail Dunne and seconded by Cllr Shay Cullen and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on 19th December 2022.

ITEM 2

To consider report (as circulated) in accordance with Part 8 of the planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) in respect of the proposed "Reconnect Wicklow Town Centre and the Quay through its network of laneways".

District Administrator Joan Sinnott outlined details of the Chief Executives Report and submissions received for the proposed development (Planning Reg. Ref P22/1133).

It was outlined that at this point it was not possible to define what murals would be selected as it would be dependent on the Artists impression of the concept being outlined for each site. However the overall theme will be Maritime and linked to the town.

Four submissions had been received and were taken into consideration in the report.

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

- The Project was welcomed.
- Members discussed the theme/designs of the murals and would like to see the proposed designs before they are awarded.
- Query if both sides of the Doctor's Step will be done. The District Administrator responded that permission had been given for one side.
- It was noted that a landowner on the South Quay had a request to remove double yellow lines outside his gate, however members asked if it was realised by the owner that the removal could not guarantee a parking space to his property and could lead to an actual blockage to his entrance if taken away.
- It was noted that the Doctors Steps has not been the best site in the world over the years and improvement would be welcomed.
- Members noted that the majority of the four submissions received were in favour of the project.
- Heritage Officer Deirdre Burns and also other staff involved in this project were commended.
- Consideration to be given to those who will be permanently in view of the murals.
- If the murals are done well they can be striking and visually enhance the areas.
- Businesses on the South Quay are thriving.

The above consideration was put to a vote by the members and was passed unanimously.

ITEM 3

District Engineers Report

Housing

- Relets/Prelets; 3 completed. 5 on site.
- 3 new relets received. 1 CPO house commenced.
- DPG 3 new applications. Work ongoing at 2.

Roads

- Ballinalea footpaths completed.
- Winter Gritting (Regional Roads) since 16th December; 16 out of 35 nights, 6 doubles, with 5 of these in a row since Jan 15th.
- Local roads gritted by WMD crews.

CCSD

- Advert for consultant completed and going to tender soon for Coral grant funding for works from Large Scale Sport Infrastructure.

Planning

- Section 254 applications. 0 completed.

Public Liability

- 1 personal injury. 4 material damage.

Projects

WCC

- The 3 footpath projects, 2 in Roundwood and 1 in Brittas Bay are currently being measured and assessed by WCC-Roads section for possible inclusion in their work programme.
- Brittas Bay branding and signage project progressed and to be discussed with Members in the coming weeks.
- Blueway funding for Brittas Bay available. Discussions ongoing with CCSD re accessibility works and options.
- Possible Blueway funding for Wicklow Seafront. Discussions ongoing with CCSD re accessibility works and options.

NTA

- Ballinahinch, Ashford footpath construction continuing.

DOE

CIS, Community Involvement Scheme

- Dunganstown Church road completed last week.

Town & Village Renewal

- Lighting materials for Annamoe street and bridge have been received. Installation arrangements being finalised.
- Awaiting ESB paperwork for Wicklow Town lighting.
- 3 umbrellas for Fitzwilliam Sq have been received. To be installed in January.
- Approval received for Newtown upgrade to shop fronts and facades. Discussions ongoing.
- Wicklow Town – South Quay connections to Main St; Part 8 decision due at January meeting.

Fáilte Ireland

- 2 umbrellas for Gaol have been received. To be installed in January.

Engineers Comments:

- Due to low temperatures in January 16 out of the 35 nights gritting was provided twice daily.
- Ballinalea Footpath completed last week.
- Brittas Bay – Deidre Burns (Heritage Officer) is currently looking at rebranding for the signs at the two beaches and will report back regarding funding for the rebranding.

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

- Cathaoirleach Paul O'Brien looked for an update on the last Engineers report.
- Concerns raised about the pedestrian crossing at the convent, there is an issue with the speed of traffic going across to Bayview, and could there be consideration for the provision of a Lollypop person. Ramp is very severe.
- Cllr Shay Cullen discussed the footpath from McDaniels to Brittas Bay and stated that he was keen to see it located on the right hand side.
- Cathaoirleach Paul O'Brien and Cllr Gale Dunne were also in favour that the right hand side was a more suitable option. Both Cllr Irene Winter and Cllr Mary Kavanagh also commented that the right hand side would be a safer and more usable option.
- Kevin Scanlon informed that which side has not been decided and will consider the pros and cons for both sides and feedback.
- Cllr Shay Cullen identified a cross section of ongoing projects since 2018 which included Ballinastoe Traffic Calming, Backlighting of Historical Sites and Slaughter Hill. Other projects in 2019 and 2020 were also mentioned. His frustration was expressed at the lack of movement of these projects and that they are getting longer to achieve and not being resolved. He felt that now the citizens do not trust what we are saying and are being let down by the system. If money is not being spent by next year then it may not be possible to support the LPT.
- Members acknowledged Cllr Shay Cullen's frustration over the remaining works yet to commence or complete.
- Members expressed disappointment over the last couple of years over the situation of manpower and appealed to the District Manager to review the situation. Existing projects need to be completed.
- Cllr John Snell thanked the staff for their gritting and works in Ballinalea.
- It was noted that a large number of vacant units and with a large number of people requiring housing, a review was required on the vacant property turnarounds.
- A section of footpath is missing in Ballinabarney and needs to be reviewed.
- An update is needed as to the graveyards in Glenealy.
- The development at Rosanna (117 units) – the road is destroyed with heavy vehicles and resurfacing is needed.
- Ball alley grant, we need to be aware of the closing date for this.
- Nuns Cross National School, needs review of the footpaths, we need to look to the NTA to find funding for these projects as pedestrian safety is paramount.
- Was it possible to prioritise the projects in relation to safety.

- Deer signs are needed in Ashford
- Update on Ashford Playpark.
- Gullies are blocked at Merrymeeting & Nuns Cross.
- The Lifeguard hut (Brittas Bay) is at risk of being swept away.
- Quarantine Hill – issues with large vehicles using the road.
- The one-way system – Future discussion is needed.
- Acting District Manager Breda McCarthy pointed out that the Wicklow Municipal District still had the same level of staff when it was formed in 2014. The District has been inundated by funding in recent years, including Covid, Active Travel, Fáilte Ireland, Market Square, Abbey Grounds etc.,. It was also pointed out that it was important to remember the projects that have been achieved also
- Cathaoirleach Paul O’Brien acknowledged that Wicklow Town never looked so well and pointed out that we now have Market Square, Fitzwilliam Square, the new library and new lights at the pier. It’s not all negative and all the positives have to be acknowledged.

ITEM 4

Correspondence – None

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

- Cllr Mary Kavanagh enquired as to if there is an update on Ashford Park.
- District Administrator Joan Sinnott advised that Wicklow County Council is currently in discussions to find a resolution that will facilitate the reopening of the playground.
- It was agreed that there needed to be regular updates and feedback relating to this issue as the playpark is a vital service for the Ashford area and residents.
- Town Twinning meeting to be a hybrid meeting next Monday at 3.30pm

ITEM 5

A.O.B

- Estate Development Grants to be advertised in early February.

CATHAOIRLEACH PAUL O’BRIEN CONCLUDED THE MEETING AT 17.23 P.M.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Date: _____