

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

HELD IN DISTRICT CHAMBER, TOWN HALL

MONDAY 19th MAY 2025 at 11.30Am

Present: Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr Graham Richmond, Cllr Danny Alvey, Cllr Shane Langrell, Cllr Paul O'Brien, Cllr John Snell
Cllr Gail Dunne joined the meeting online

In Attendance: District Manager, Brian Gleeson
District Engineer, William Halligan
District Administrator, Georgina Franey
Assistant Staff Officer, Róisín Carroll
Myles Buchanan, Wicklow People

Leas Cathaoirleach Graham Richmond opened the meeting at 11.44am.

Graham Richmond thanked the District Manager, Brian Gleeson for his efforts in securing the purchase of the land at Magheramore.

ITEM 1

Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 28th April 2025

It was proposed by Councillor Shane Langrell, seconded by Councillor Paul O'Brien and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on 28th April 2025.

ITEM 2

To consider Material Contravention Report (as circulated) in accordance with Section 34 (6) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) – PRR25/29 Cedarbrick Retails Developments Ltd applied for planning permission for

Construction of 47 no. residential units (30 no. 3-beds and 17 no. 4-beds), 1-2 storeys in height in the form of 8 no. 4-bed semi-detached units (approx. 133.92 sqm), 1 no 4-bed detached units (approx. 113.92 sqm), 4 no. 4-bed semi-detached dormer units (approx. 158.49 sqm), 4 no. 4-bed detached dormer bungalow units (approx. 235 sqm), 14 no. 3-bed semi-detached units (approx. 113.2sqm) and 16 no. 3-bed dormer terraced units (approx. 125.2 sqm). Each residential unit has associated private open space in the form of gardens to the rear of each unit. A total of approx. 5,962 sqm public open space is proposed in the form of 3 no. open space areas and will include landscaped planting, lawns, children's play areas, seating areas and pedestrian linkages. The provision of 99 no. car parking spaces (94 no. onsite car parking spaces for each residential unit) and 5 no. accessible parking spaces. All pedestrian and vehicular access roads and footpaths will link to the northern Phase 1 of the overall development. The proposal provides for a new pedestrian link from the proposed development site to the Ballyguilemore Road at the south eastern corner of the site with a new pedestrian crossing across Ballyguilemore Road. All associated site and infrastructural works include provision for water services; foul and surface water drainage and connections; attenuation proposals; permeable paving; all landscaping works; boundary treatments; internal roads and footpaths; and electrical services. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared in respect of the proposed development and will be submitted

to the Planning Authority with this planning application at Lands known as 'Mariner's Point', Greenhills Road, Ballyguile More, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow.

The Leas Cathaoirleach welcomed Senior Engineer, Fergal Keogh and Executive Planner, Keara Kennedy to the meeting.

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

- Cllr John Snell noted that material contraventions are rare and that the council recently approved this development in the local area plan. He also suggested the development levies should support local groups such as St. Patrick's GAA.
Senior Engineer, Fergal Keogh responded that development levies are put in into a countywide fund and cannot be ring-fenced. He added that some development levy funding is still being used to cover the cost of the Wicklow Port Access and Town Relief Road.
- Cllr Paul O'Brien expressed concern about increased traffic on Greenhill Road, particularly near the dangerous bend at Bethlehem School. While residents are not opposed to the development, he emphasised the need to address the local road network in light of increased housing.
- Cllr O'Brien thanked the elected members for their cooperation during the Wicklow and Rathnew LAP process.

A vote was called and the members voted unanimously in favour of the material contravention.

ITEM 3

To consider report (as circulated) in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) in respect of the proposed development of the Murrough Waterfront Park, Wicklow Town.

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

- Cllr John Snell thanked the District Administrator, Georgina Franey for engaging with the Memorial Garden Committee.
- Cllr John Snell expressed support for the project but commented that there may have been a missed opportunity to include a dedicated base for existing Seafront users. However, he felt that the broader benefits of the development outweigh this concern.
- Cllr Paul O'Brien welcomed the progress on Aires Park, highlighting the urgent need for new community spaces in light of the closure of the town's cinema and other amenities. He described the project as a very welcome step forward in revitalising one of the most scenic but long neglected parts of Wicklow.
- A query was raised regarding funding sources. The District Manager advised that there are a number of different elements of funding available to support the Murrough Masterplan, the pump track is currently the main priority, with Town and Village Renewal funding already allocated. The Aires Park may be funded through roads levies. An application for funding under the Community Recognition Fund has been submitted to the Department also. The LEADER programme may also support different aspects of the wider Murrough Masterplan. It was noted that no single source will fully cover the development.
- Cllr Danny Alvey noted that there are no negative biodiversity impacts and added that the introduction of wildflowers, native trees, and shrubs will enhance the area's biodiversity and overall amenity.
- It was also noted that providing hotel accommodation will be key to encouraging more people to visit and stay in Wicklow.

It was proposed by Councillor Paul O'Brien, seconded by Councillor John Snell and unanimously agreed to approve the Part 8 development of the Murrough Waterfront Park.

ITEM 4

To consider the 2025 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Wicklow Municipal District.

District Manager, Brian Gleeson, circulated the 2025 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

In accordance with Section 103A of the Local Government Act 2001, a schedule of proposed works to be carried out in each municipal district during the financial year must be prepared, taking into account the funding allocated in the local authority's revenue budget. This schedule is to be considered by Municipal District Members and adopted by resolution.

It was proposed by Councillor John Snell, seconded by Councillor Shane Langrell, and unanimously agreed that the 2025 Schedule of Municipal District Works be approved.

ITEM 5

District Engineers Report

Updates were provided by District Engineer William Halligan as follows:

Housing:

❖ Relets/Prelets

- 3no. houses currently being worked on, through WCC Housing Framework by MD,
- 7no. houses are being managed by WCC Direct Labour,
- 0no. house returned to WMD for refurbishment.
- 0no. house returned to Housing for allocation.

❖ Maintenance and operations

- On-going repairs and maintenance being progressed as required on housing stock within the WMD.

DTTAS 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 Rockey Road Improvement | 1200 | Road Closure implemented from 20 th Jan 2025 |

| Project | | to 29 th August 2025. Works being carried out by WCC NNR (Non-National Roads) Team. |
|----------------------------------|------|--|
| L5036 Ballinastoe Rd | 1427 | Works Complete |
| L5597 Milltown Lane | 659 | Tender Documents in preparation |
| R765 Newtown - Roundwood | 2650 | Works Complete |
| R750 Dublin Road Wicklow | 300 | Contract awarded |
| L1096 Ashford-Ballymanus Lower | 936 | Works Complete |
| L5070 Ashford-Ballinalea | 405 | Works Complete - additional project completed in conjunction on the L1096 |
| R764 Ashford-Roundwood | 80 | Works Complete |
| R-751 Marlton Road | 222 | Contract awarded |
| L5099 Rockey Road (Wicklow Town) | 333 | Contract awarded |
| Market Street | 80 | Contract awarded |

❖ 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 | - |
| L5056 Slemaine | 2817 | - |
| L5056 Baliliam Lane | 703 | - |
| L1060 Malones Lane | 803 | - |
| L5077 Raheen | 1069 | - |
| L1059 St John's Road | 1185 | - |
| R764 Knockatemple-Tomcoyle | 5362 | - |
| L1059 Loughdan-Drummin | 4494 | - |
| R764 Inchanappa south to Killiskey cross | 2588 | - |
| L5157 Dunganstown | 1421 | 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 commenced 24/02/2025, 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. Contract awarded, works commencing 19/05/2025.

❖ **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, awaiting connection.
- 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.

Abbey Grounds:

- Project Ongoing. Contractor commenced works on June 10th. Schedule for completion of works for the Coach House Cafe has been moved back to Q2 2025.
- Tiling complete in new toilet block. Main building tiling work to commence this week, followed by final electrical work.
- Paving to front and rear of Coach House to commence this week. All UG services installed to allow works to proceed.
- New sliding gate mechanism installed to front of building on Abbey Street side. Installation of gate to follow once paving is complete.
- Detailed designs continuing to be progressed for the Amphitheatre and performance area.
- Civil Works to install footpaths and ducting for services and drainage in the park area ongoing. Works carried out in cooperation with Local Authority Staff.
- Planting programme for the park has been completed for this season.

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. Still waiting for ESB to energise. ESB have connected power, works here completed.
- Repairs to the Handball alley are complete.

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 emptying. Efficiency of big belly bins has increased from 12% at year start (2024) to 38% presently.
- New Big belly bins have been installed at Glenturn car park, Rathnew bus stop and Fitzwilliam square.

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 Zipwire cable ordered.
 - Rathnew Playground – Broken climbing unit temporarily repaired with replacement parts to be ordered once procured.
 - Ballynerrin Playground – New Cradle Swing currently being installed.
 - Roundwood Playground – New 'Wobble Bridge' – Installation complete.

Additional MD projects:

- Chief Executives Report for the Murrough Part 8 has been finalised.
- Derrybawn Car Park, Laragh to begin Part 8 process to regularise existing use.
- Glendalough Upper Car Park has received new line marking and new Bin Store. New Defib to be installed here in coming weeks.
- Moby Mobility bike scheme, bike parking locations works commencing 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, complete.
- Footpath resurfacing works Roundwood Village due to commence in May.
- 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.
- Footpath to GAA club in Wicklow complete, remaining Eir column removed. Additional resurfacing along this stretch also complete.
- New cross and gates erected at Three Mile Water cemetery.
- Road marking project in Wicklow Town commenced with new markings installed at Wentworth Place/Church Hill junction and Wicklow Gaol among others. Further renewals to be undertaken in the coming weeks.

Discretionary Fund projects:

- 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 commencing start of May.
- Roundwood – Two ramps from Playground to GAA Club. One ramp new has been installed and an existing ramp has been replaced/repared.
- Rathnew – Resurfacing of the Old village has been completed, road line marking has commenced.
- 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.
- All salt boxes have been distributed around the District.
- Tender for Defibrillators has been completed and order will be complete within 2-3 weeks.

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

- Members expressed their thanks to the District Engineer for the works completed since he began in the role. The District Engineer expressed his appreciation and noted that the progress made would not have been possible without the support of Georgina and her team, as well as the technical and outdoor staff, highlighting that it is a team effort and not a one person operation.
- Cllr. Paul O'Brien welcomed the installation of the big belly bins but he noted that there are currently four such bins in close proximity to each other in Laragh and asked if one could be relocated to Wicklow Town particularly for the summer months. The District Engineer advised that removing existing bins would be difficult but confirmed he would explore the possibility of allocating a bin at the Seafront.
- The new showers and toilet at the Seafront were welcomed and the status of the raft and pontoon was queried. The District Administrator advised that she had contacted the Harbour team and was awaiting a response. She advised that the lifeguards are scheduled to commence duty on the 1st of June.
- Cllr. Paul O'Brien expressed his frustration at the news that the extension of the DART to Wicklow Town has been delayed again. He stated that he had recently spoken with An Tánaiste, Simon Harris regarding the issue. Cllr. O'Brien stressed the need for all stakeholders to come together as a collective to put pressure on the NTA, highlighting that the Local Area Plan was developed with the expectation that the DART would be delivered within the original timeline.
- Cllr. Shane Langrell queried whether it would be possible to introduce a mapping system with QR codes in graveyards within the District. The District Administrator advised that the Municipal District only has a budget for the maintenance of graveyards and that such an initiative would fall under the responsibility of the Environmental Section centrally. It was noted that this is already in place in Rathnew Graveyard.
- Cllr. John Snell raised concerns about the high number of vacant social houses, noting that the District Engineers report states that WMD is managing three relets and the Direct Labour crew is handling seven. However, Cllr Snell noted that on the CE's monthly report (under Housing) there was a figure of 31 relets given for WMD. Cllr. Snell is looking for a list of these properties to be circulated to the six Wicklow MD members only and stressed that they are not for public viewing. He is also looking for figures in relation to timelines of vacant properties. Cllr Snell further requested a list of houses scheduled for retrofitting in the coming years. This would assist members in responding to tenants seeking updates on windows and doors, which are considered the tenant's responsibility (as per the tenants handbook).
- Cllr Gail Dunne raised concerns about the derelict building at Market Square, stating that while he notes that the Environment Section centrally are dealing with the matter, pressure needs to be maintained. The District Manager confirmed it was designated as dangerous structure in February. The owners have appointed an architect and builder. Updates will continue to be sought from the Environment Section.
- Cllr Dunne thanked the team for the works carried out to create additional parking at Wicklow Heights.
- Cllr Dunne noted that public lighting remains an issue at Kilmartin Hill Car Park. The District Engineer advised that the floodlights are not functional and that he has requested the Public Lighting Section to follow up and progress same.
- Cllr Dunne asked that a yellow box be given consideration at the leg of mutton.

- Cllr Alvey noted that residents of the Meadows Estate have requested the Marlton Road entrance to the passive open space be blocked off due to ongoing anti-social behaviour. The District Engineer is currently examining this matter.

ITEM 6

Correspondence

None.

ITEM 7

Any Other Business

None.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 13.00 pm.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Date: _____