



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON

THE 8th of July 2026

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

Officials Present: Ms. Leonora Earls, District Manager
Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator
Mr. Damien Byrne, Executive Engineer
Ms. Catherine McCord, CO (minutes)

Guest Speaker: Conor Page, Senior Executive Engineer, Active Travel

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's silence was observed.

Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Arklow Municipal District.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of Arklow Municipal District held on the 10th of June 2026 were proposed by Cllr. P. Kennedy and seconded by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald. Agreed.

Item 3: Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Arklow Municipal District.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Arklow Municipal District held on the 10th of June 2026 were proposed by Cllr. M. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. S. Bourke. Agreed.

Item 4: Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

Item 5: Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

Presentation from Active Travel on Pedestrian Improvement Scheme – Coolgreany Road.

Following on from the Active Travel Presentation by Conor Page, S.E.E. the following issues were raised & discussed:

- The proposed scheme was broadly welcomed.
- The source of funding for the scheme was queried. The NTA gave an allocation for junction tightening & pedestrian crossings.
- The turning ability of large vehicles in the design questioned. Large vehicles can make the turning at the junctions if they go slow – aim of the scheme to slow vehicles down.
- The existing junction at Coolgreany Park – request for it to be investigated. Sightlines are poor and junction is tight at Lamberton Heights.
- Are ramps being removed?
- Will there be traffic lights on crossings if so what type?
- Landscaping queried & if the turning movements of lorries include the new width of lorries with mirrors were catered for.
- Timeline was questioned – Conor Page informed Elected Members Public Consultation will happen in next 2-3 weeks. Hope to be on site in 2-3 months.
- Will work with schools on the schedule
- An area at Coolgreany Park queried – kerbing with a sign, a legacy of previous scheme is an issue. The Executive Engineer and Conor Page will liaise with each other regarding this issue.
- The team was asked to liaise with the Principle of Glenart College regarding the bottom of park. This issue was discussed. It maybe outside the scheme.
- The Junctions at Coolgreany Park & Oaklands – it is important that footpath kerbs are high enough to prevent drivers from parking – request for Active Travel team to liaise with the Executive Engineer regarding the current issues.
- The tightening of the junctions will hopefully prevent drivers parking illegally which is an issue.

- Request that the pedestrian crossing at Abbey Street is not replicated as it impacts the visually impaired and there are issues with that type of crossing that are impacting their lives negatively.
- LE stated the design is to slowdown drivers – the scheme is to make people safer on the roads and footpaths.

 To Adopt the Arklow Municipal District Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2026 (report circulated to Elected Members previously)

Any questions/queries were put to the floor: -

- The Discretionary Fund Total was queried?
- De-Carbonisation – discussed including what is it spent on – LE will ask Environment Section to come down and explain. It is controlled centrally by Environment.
- Maintenance of Parks & Open Spaces €218K – queried – how is it spent.
- The Executive Engineer explained some of the expenses – Maintenance, playgrounds and grass cutting.
- For Playgrounds there is an Annual Inspection, from this report a program of work will go out to Tender. The technicalities of only a small number of suppliers available for supply and maintenance of playground equipment was explained.
- The budget for playground was spent when a replacement piece of equipment was requested was queried. It was explained that the budget for playgrounds is tight and not significantly changed in recent years.
- A Breakdown of Parks & Open Spaces expenditure was requested.
- Street Cleaning – queried what this includes – Waste Disposal, weekend work, Road sweeper Hire.
- The technicalities of repairing and replacing playground equipment was queried.
- The source of funding for Development & Promotion was queried – Answer is it is Central Budget Controlled by Economic Development Unit under the Planning Directorate.
- Staffing query – Past v Current Outdoor Staff levels.
- DM explained that pressure points were identified for 9 new positions across all functions.
- A Parks Inspector is being looked for but there are no funds for large scale numbers of staff.
- The Resources & Financing model is now self-financing. There was a forensic look at each District's resources.
- Playground Expenditure – summarised that some issues are there regarding the restrictions with procurement being tight for Playground Equipment.
- Questions – how playgrounds come under the remit of the Municipal District.
- LE stated the District Administrator will provide the details of the playgrounds & gym equipment under the Local Authority remit and responsibility.
- Since the Municipal District is being asked to do more and take on wider ownership i.e. taking in charge of playgrounds the executive should be asked for an increase in resources. It needs to be looked at a County Level as well as Local Level.
- Questioned if funding given to St. Peter's Place Playground. This project was funded through Community Recognition Fund.

- Local Adjustment Factor query – some of it was to go into outdoor staff. Answer, that particular amount was not agreed therefore no investment as discussed.
- The Engineers were complimented for their work in the district as no complaints about burial grounds. Executive Engineer explained that grass cutting was changed to a contractor only after agreement sought from District staff which is more effective.
- District Administrator explained the Voluntary engagement was very much welcomed for maintenance of St. Gabriel's Cemetery.
- Street Cleaning – how much is outsourced v own staff?
- Green Space maintenance – can we look at this going forward?

First preference for street cleaning and green space maintenance should be the Municipal District own resources before being contracted out. Contractors only used when the District don't have the expertise or equipment.

In conclusion the Cathaoirleach asked that these discussions are put forward for seeking funding from Development Contribution Levies.

The Arklow Municipal District Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2026 was proposed by Cllr. P. Kennedy and seconded by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald.

 **Report from Damien Byrne, Executive Engineer (report circulated to Elected Members previously)**

Municipal District of Arklow

District Engineer's Report

8th July 2026

Roads

Restoration Improvement

Proposed Works	Status
R- 747 Vale Road	Overlay Scheduled for 20th July
R-753 Aughrim	Drainage Surveys Commenced, estimated start date at 03/08/2026
R-754 Knockanree to Kilmacoo	Start date to commence 6th July
L-2172 Redcross - Barnisky	Surface Dressing to be completed
L-6629-0 Mucklagh - Ballyteige	Est. Start Date of 03/08/2026

Restoration Maintenance

Works Completed

Discretionary Funding

Proposed Works	Status
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Johnstown/Ballycoog Signage	Signage Purchased, works to fitting signage to be completed
L-6125 & L-6124 Junction Improvement	Completed
Footpath at Fairgreen	Contractors for Civils and Surfacing appointed, dates TBC
Footpath at Aughrim	Contractors for Civils and Surfacing appointed
Footpaths at St. Peters Place	Works Reviewed, contractor to be appointed
Footpaths at Lower Main Street	Reviewed with Contractor, Awaiting Starting Date
Tree Management	Tree Surgeon Undertaking Works
Footpath at Barndarrig NS	Waiting on Response from Board of Management
Duck Pond	Review of Maintenance Requirements - Assessed as part of Seaview Avenue Masterplan
Public Lighting in Greenane, Ballinacash and Annacurra	KLS has been appointed to recommission and get public lighting connection operational
Heritage Signage for Villages	One Sign to be installed in Greenane
2024 Footpath Repair Riverwalk	Some drainage works required in advance
Educational Signage - Beaches	Liaised with the Biodiversity Officer - Awaiting Further Information
Pedestrian Crossing - Rathdrum	Installation Complete
Repair of Footpath at Currans Corner	

Climate Adaptation

Proposed Works	Status
Beech Road	Drainage & Road Rehabilitation
Stump of the Castle	Drainage Works

Other Projects

- Rathdrum Traffic Study – Designer appointed as PSDS for works, tender documents and drawings being drafted

Other works

The following matters were raised and discussed:

- Compliments were given to the team for the works at Barniskey. DB stated the works are to be completed.
- Compliments were given to the team for the surface dressing works. The additional monies are to be welcomed, the team was thanked, The Director and CEO for putting the work into claiming the funding. It was also noted The Director and CEO were available during the Storm Chandra Event.
- One-Way System for Rathdrum update – DB informed Elected Members a meeting with ARUP Consultants is due to discuss finer details. Liaising with Uisce Eireann and ESB. Also liaising with the Q.S. Realistic start is November.
- Enquiry made for Barndarrig – progress is going ahead. Enquiry made about Ballycapple Crossroad which was discussed.
- Barndarrig – carpark wall near shop – landownership is in question.
- St. Mary's Crescent – sinkholes – temporary repair has been carried out it will take longer for a permanent repair.
- Fr. Redmond Park – a request for a first cut on grass, a commitment from residents that they will cut it after that.
- Fernhill – issues with rats and overgrown hedges. Was advised that rats are an Environment issue.
- Delany Park – grass cutting – was advised that residents are responsible as per their tenancy agreement. That a resident's association is suggested. The resident's association can then avail of the various funding avenues for maintenance of estate.
- LE requested members put together future funding wish list within a certain criterion and submit on spreadsheet. LE also said additional money is very welcome. Arklow Municipal District will get a significant portion of the funding, but it will come with significant challenges for the District Engineer, the Executive Engineer & the technician.

- Road surface needs repair at following locations: -
 - St. Patricks Well – road surface has disappeared.
 - Blackberry Glade & Harbour Court
 - Manholes at Tinahask

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Executive Engineer for all the work with the tendering process.

Item 6: Correspondence

AB read correspondence received from Dave Thomas, Wicklow Pride Director. Requesting €3,000 funding from the Discretionary Fund supported by a budget breakdown.

Elected members agreed that other funding streams which are available should be suggested – e.g. Community Awards Schemes & Festival Funding Grant.

Cathaoirleach complimented Dave Thomas on all his good work and suggested two to three other alternative funding streams that she will inform him of.

Regarding the suggestion of other funding streams Cllr. Kennedy agreed/proposed and Cllr P. Fitzgerald seconded.

AB also read correspondence received from Reece Doyle who is 7 Time Kickboxing Ireland National Champion (3 Titles won this year in all Tatami Disciplines) and the current WAKO European Champion for 2025 in Full Contact. Once again, he will proudly be representing Ireland on the international stage at the Wako World Kickboxing Championships in Jesolo, Italy in September. They are seeking financial help to fund this trip.

It was discussed that he previously received funding. That a caveat should be added to every application for donation – suggested every 5 years.

Cllr P. Kennedy proposed donation of €200 with Caveat of 5 years gap before next donation application.

Cllr. M. Murphy seconded this proposal.

Cathaoirleach asked that Reece Doyle be congratulated for his achievements.

Item 7: Any Other Business

Issues over at the Leisure Centre and basketball Court on Seaview Avenue, Arklow: -

- There is no blue marking for a disabled parking bay inside the barrier at the swimming pool. Weeds need treating and it needs tidying.
- Gravel on path at back of Leisure Centre & Basketball court makes it non-accessible. This is the path from Bridgewater car park.

A meeting with Cllr Murphy and the Executive Engineer at the Leisure Centre was suggested to clarify location and discuss issues.

It was requested that councillors be kept informed regarding the discharge into the dock area. It was suggested to liaise with Pat Fox, former staff member regarding mapping out drainage system in town.

A request was put forth for the disabled space outside the post office in Aughrim be remarked.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday

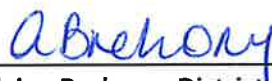
9th September 2026.

Signed:



Cllr Peir Leonard, Cathaoirleach, Arklow Municipal District

Signed:



Ms. Alvina Brehony, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District