

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY BUILDINGS & BY ZOOM

MONDAY 28th February @ 3.00p.m.

Present: Cathaoirleach Gail Dunne, Councillors Mary Kavanagh, Shay Cullen, John Snell, & Paul O'Brien

Absent: Cllr Irene Winters

In Attendance: Acting District Manager Breda McCarthy
District Engineer Kevin Scanlon
Executive Engineer Alan Martin
District Administrator Joan Sinnott
Assistant Staff Officer Josephine Hayes

Zoom Attendees: Myles Buchanan Wicklow People
Margaret Hartnett Senior Resident Engineer WCC
Niall McMenamin Consultant Engineer
Deirdre Whitfield CEDO
Tony Quirke Executive Engineer WCC
Professor Des McCafferty ICLRD
Dr. Brendan O'Keeffe ICLRD

Cathaoirleach Gail Dunne opened the meeting at 3.00 p.m.

ITEM 1

Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Meeting held on the 24th January, 2022.

It was proposed by Cllr Paul O'Brien and seconded by Cllr John Snell and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on 24th January, 2022.

ITEM 2

Presentation by O'Connor Sutton Cronin Consulting Engineers on Part 8 Newtownmountkennedy Town Centre Refurbishment Project

Niall McMenamin from O'Connor Sutton Cronin Consulting Engineers presented the Part 8 design for Newtownmountkennedy– the proposal included

- Footpath – new layout and additional widths
- Prioritise pedestrian
- New junction layout at Fishers
- Cycle lane
- Parking – Age Friendly/Disability/Bus/loading Bays
- Vehicle charging points
- Civic Space area outside Hotel
- New traffic light junctions
- North and South gateways
- Green areas and civic areas
- Riverside walkway

Members made the following queries/observations:

- All Councillors welcomed the new proposal but expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of information provided to members before being made public.
- Part 8 on public display without any consultation with the WMD Members
- Members expressed issues with the parking layout in the new proposal and excessive use of lights at junctions.
- Concerns with buses pulling up and delaying traffic
- Concerns about cycle path and would like them to be separated from the motor vehicle pathway.
- Concerns for safe set down areas for deliveries
- Members agreed that much more consultation was required to advance the proposal with more public consultation.

ITEM 3

Presentation by Professor Des McCafferty and Dr. Brendan O'Keeffe from the International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD) on InPLACE study which examines the impacts of pre- and post-COVID commuting patterns. Newtownmountkennedy has been selected as a key town in this research.

Professor McCafferty gave a brief introduction to the research which will provide policy and practice recommendations to support the role of local government, among others, InPLACE shaping, place-making and promoting resilient places in a post-COVID world.

Dr. Brendan O'Keeffe gave members detailed information about the research.

- International research project which includes Newtownmountkennedy at its core
- Preliminary findings
- Future support needed to enhance the research
- Benefits for the village and members going forward
- Statistics on numbers commuting from Newtownmountkennedy pre and post Covid
- Research aims to investigate how communities are affected by Covid 19

Members thanked both for the presentation and discussed various elements of the research project which included:

- Very welcomed addition of Newtownmountkennedy as a key town in their research
- Support in future involvement
- Actively encouraging local groups and residents to participate in the research
- Members requested a further presentation when the research was completed to discuss the outcome and future benefits of the research for the community of Newtownmountkennedy.

ITEM 4

St. Patricks Day Parade

District Administrator Joan Sinnott advised members that the St. Patricks Day Parade would be going ahead this year and will commence from Station Road at 3.15 p.m.

Members agreed unanimously to support the Parade with a contribution of €1,500. Proposed by Cllr. Shay Cullen and seconded by Cllr John Snell.

ITEM 5

Update on Trial One Way System for Main Street Wicklow Town

Executive Engineer Alan Martin updated the members on the progress of the new One Way System and outlined proposed changes to be introduced over the coming weeks.

- Set down area to be removed
- Bollards to be replaced with new planters

Members discussed various elements of the new One Way System which included:

- Set down lane
- Junction at Hopkins Toy Shop and Fitzwilliam Road.
- Line markings to be replaced where necessary.
- New planters due shortly to replace temporary bollards,
- One way system at Church Hill still problematic.
- Should be promoting the

The Members thanked Mr. Martin for his work in getting the One Way System up and running so successfully. It was agreed to remove the One Way System from the agenda for the next three months. Proposed by Cllr Shay Cullen and seconded by Cllr John Snell.

ITEM 6

District Engineers Report

District Engineer Kevin Scanlon outlined details from the Engineers Report.

Housing:

Re-lets and emergency accommodation:

1 standard, 0 emergency accommodation, 2 returned to WCC Housing Dept, 2 have works continuing on site.

DPGs: 2 completed and 2 underway.

Roads:

- Roads Programme for 2022 currently being compiled.
- Road Opening Licences (approx. 30) continue to be processed and agreed.
- Winter Maintenance- 10 single and 2 double call outs up to Thursday 24th February.

Environment:

- Fencing works completed at Brittas Bay north beach car park. Awaiting animals to be moved onto site.

Planning

- Section 254 applications continue to be processed for tables/chairs (2) and NBI poles (1).

Playgrounds

- Adult gym equipment along Murrough – Awaiting delivery of three units ordered.

Public Liability

- 2 new cases (1 material damage, 1 personal injury) and 0 settled/closed.

Projects

NTA

- 2022 allocations received. 2 footpath projects approved for Ballyguilemor and Ashford.
- Bicycle rack funding for WCC currently being allocated. WMD has proposed locations and is awaiting tenders.
- Bus shelter funding for WCC currently being allocated. WMD to finalise proposed locations next week.
- Additional Outdoor Infrastructure.
 - Mount Usher footpath and crossing – Kerbing commenced in recent days.
 - Murrough cycle tracks and footpath improvements – Scope to be agreed and equipment to be procured.

DOE

- Roads grant for 2022 allocated to WCC. Currently finalising Roads Programme to decide on projects. This will include, overlay, surface dressing, supplementary surface dressing, drainage, speed limit signage, safety improvements and cycle safety signage.
- LIS projects currently being assessed. Reports and costs to be submitted to WCC in coming weeks for DOE application.

Fáilte Ireland

- Abbey Grounds. Site meetings held with Ecologist, Archaeologist and Engineer to assess pre-contract works. Works to commence during March.
- Outdoor Dining Scheme. Market Square and Wicklow Gaol application successful and works are in progress. Remaining 2 canopies at Market Square now in place. Two new

canopy bases and power supply ducting completed at Gaol. Awaiting delivery of canopies.

WCC

URDF

- Application in respect of Wicklow Harbour is currently being reviewed and prepared for the next round of funding, which is expected in Q1 2022.

Town & Village

- Grant of €221,000 approved for works between Wicklow Town South Quay and the adjoining laneways and roads.
- Roundwood Village – Start 15/03/22 (Footpath from Hardware Shop to Playground plus three pedestrian crossings, one at playground and two at school at Bray end of village)
- Wicklow Town – Backlighting Project. All groundworks now completed by WCC, Contractor due on site to complete light fitting in two stages: 1st, Church of Ireland, The Gaol and The Stone Bridge and 2nd will be Parnell Bridge, Black Castle and revised lighting at St. Patrick’s Church. High mounted lights in 1st stage complete.
- Annamoe – Main T&V 2020: Footpath works to commence 09/03/22.

Discretionary Fund (10 priority projects)

- New footpaths at Ashtown Lane/Merrymeeting. Tenders received. Ashtown Lane awarded and due to commence soon. Merrymeeting over budget and being reassessed for options.
- Barnbawn footpath currently out to tender.
- Footpath repairs at Seaview Heights. Tenders received and awarded. Due to commence soon.
- Sycamore Drive currently out to tender.
- Traffic management works at Ballynerrin/Djouce/Newtown to seek 3 quotes in coming weeks.

Members made the following queries/observations:

- Micro surfacing works at Rosanna Close and Sycamore Drive an issue
- Dunbur Crossing
- Mount Usher Pedestrian Crossing
- Dog Park issues
- Pot Holes/ramp at Convent Hill
- Abbey Grounds
- Main Road into Ashford near Glanbia in poor condition.
- Carry out an assessment of our rural roads to see if inlets need to be opened.

Responses to queries/observations:

- Mr. Scanlon advised members that the micro-surfacing works would be checked.
- Dog Park nearing completion and some minor issues to be resolved.
Advertising/Benches/Equipment to follow
- Pot Holes and Ramp at Convent Hill to be addressed
- Abbey Grounds at the ecology and archaeology stage

ITEM 7

Correspondence

District Administrator Joan Sinnott advised members that there was no correspondence.

ITEM 8

A.O.B.

District Administrator Joan Sinnott advised members of the upcoming Round Ireland Yacht Race on 18th June, 2022.

Due to County Development Plan meeting being held on the 28th March the Members agreed the 21st March, 2022 for the next Monthly Meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH GAIL DUNNE CONCLUDED THE MEETING AT 5.30 PM.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Date: _____