

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

HELD IN DISTRICT CHAMBER, TOWN HALL

MONDAY 24th MARCH 2025 at 15.00pm

Present: Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr Graham Richmond, Cllr Danny Alvey, Cllr Shane Langrell, Cllr Paul O'Brien

In Attendance: District Manager, Brian Gleeson
District Engineer, William Halligan
Assistant Staff Officer, Róisín Carroll

Apologies: Cllr Gail Dunne, Cllr John Snell
District Administrator, Georgina Franey

Leas Cathaoirleach Graham Richmond opened the meeting at 15.00 pm.

ITEM 1

Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 24th February 2025

It was proposed by Councillor Paul O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Shane Langrell and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on 24th February 2025.

At the outset Councillor Paul O'Brien proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Teddy Dunne RIP, uncle of Councillor Gail Dunne who was a former Independent Councillor and also involved with Wicklow Rovers AFC.

Councillor Shane Langrell proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Marie Dunne RIP, sister-in-law of Councillor Gail Dunne.

ITEM 2

Update from the Public Lighting section of Wicklow County Council

The Leas Cathaoirleach welcomed Larry Roe, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation and Infrastructure Delivery who presented an update as follows:

4 th February 2025			21 st MARCH 2025		
Status	Wicklow MD		Status	Wicklow MD	
No Supply	0		No Supply	0	
Access Issues	4		Access Issues	3	
Cable Fault (Attend)	0		Cable Fault (Attend)	0	
Civils	0		Civils	0	
ESB Interface reqd	0		ESB Interface reqd	0	
ESB Required	18		ESB Required	27	

Knock Down (Attended)	0		Knock Down (Attended)	1
Materials required	2		Materials required	2
On Hold	3		On Hold	5
Submitted	103		Submitted	26
TMR	2		TMR	6
Tree Cutting Req	3		Tree Cutting Req	2
Grand Total	135		Grand Total	73
% Faulty	3.50 %		% Faulty	1.89 %

No. of Lamps (of 15750)	3858
Percentage of Total LA Lamps	24.43%
Faults Reported (Monday-Friday) 27/1 to 31/1	0
Faults Repaired (Monday-Friday) 27/1 to 31/1	9

No. of Lamps (of 15750)	3858
Percentage of Total LA Lamps	24.43%
Faults Reported (Monday-Friday) 10/3 to 14/3	6
Faults Repaired (Monday-Friday) 10/3 to 14/3	17

- Roads engineering staff of Wicklow County Council have held a number of meetings with KLS and a rolling programme of work has been agreed in order to reduce the backlog of faults which the company have complied with. This is reviewed on a daily basis to account for the dynamic nature of the works i.e. existing faults and the daily submission of new faults.
- Additional staff have been transferred to the public lighting area to oversee & assist the contractor and to prioritise & progress repairs through the districts. In order to reduce the numbers, the programme needs constant revision due to the dynamic nature of the works.
- These resources also ensure the reported faults from multiple sources are being entered on the 'Deadsure' app from which the repairs are planned.
- Following weather relating incidents KLS were stood down by ESB from carrying out repairs on ESB owned infrastructure for a number of weeks in January (over 50% of logged faults are located on such infrastructure). The contractor has indicated that additional resources have now been added to their team to assist in clearing the back log of faults including incomplete works from the previous contractor. This has been evident on the ground over that last few months.
- Following the lifting of the stand down at the end of January, the ESB are now being actively engaged, to progress existing faults that are dependent on their presence or assistance.
- KLS are currently working in the Wicklow MD area on reactive faults & also categorising faults where further input is required e.g. access, materials, civil works, knock downs.
- The faults on Main Streets & areas of high traffic such as N81 will require a traffic management setup (TMR) which KLS will program as required to carry out works safely.
- Since the 4th February 2025 the percentage lights not working has been reduced from 3.5% to 1.89% (135 active faults to the current 73 faults). This included repairs to many clusters of lamps out e.g. High Street area of Wicklow town.
- KLS will also be visiting older fault reports that existed prior to their contract and will re-assess and schedule repairs as part of dealing with the backlog presented to them. This will include 'submitted' status which requires the fault to be categorised or attended to and closed when repaired.
- Where required, Service Requests, Fault Reports & new unmetered connections are being submitted to the ESB by KLS ensuring ESB references are recorded for follow up. (i.e. ESB required status)

Note on Faults in Older Developments

The following outlines the need for civil and upgrade works in many of the estates/areas with existing faults and accounts for the need to upgrade adjacent assets in order to fix what appears like a single fault. e.g. Ashford Downs fault repair for a single cable fault may require complete new run of cabling and new poles to fix the repair while also upgrading the section in line with description below.

Under the ESB “Requirements for Work on Public Lighting on ESBs Network”, the public lighting maintenance contractor is forbidden to carry out repairs to any public light that is fed directly from the ESB network without the presence of a public lighting customer service (micro) pillar or network cut-out installed in the column. This is to allow public lighting contractors to undertake works to the lights by completely isolating the public lighting power supply without impacting on the general electricity network, by means of an appropriate interface.

These requirements negatively impact both the timescale in which repairs can be completed; and the cost of said repairs with the now necessary installation of column cut-outs/micro-pillars.

Prior to 2000, a large number of developments would have installed public lighting with feeds directly from the ESB network, usually with a feed taken from the nearest supply point, i.e. the nearest ESB LV service pillar.

The columns that were installed in housing estates are predominantly five or six metre tubular columns, which are generally not of adequate size to allow a cut-out be installed within the columns themselves, so a new micro-pillar(s) may be required in the estates that were constructed in this fashion. The number of micro-pillars that would be necessary in each estate is entirely dependent on how the public lighting is connected, i.e. each development will have a unique solution. A typical example would be a direct fed housing estate with 20 public lighting columns – these 20 columns could be fed from just two ESB pillars (two circuits) or maybe eight pillars, depending on how it was wired originally. There is no definitive way of knowing this until the ESB attend site to open their pillars and assist the public lighting contractor with opening of their pillars/cable tracing/survey.

Public lighting contractors are forbidden from undertaking any works directly on the ESB networks and thus ESB attendance is essential to ascertain the extent of works required in each estate (ESB Service Request).

Where faults are found on Public Lighting in scenarios as described, the public lighting maintenance contractor will then need to measure, cost and programme the required civil works (digging, ducting, cabling, pillar install). Once these civil works are completed and the new micro-pillars have been installed, the ESB will again be required on site for the service alterations, whereby they will need to divert their original supply cable from the ESB LV service pillar to the newly installed public lighting micro-pillar. It is important to note that ESB co-operation on these projects is the critical path to the timely and smooth installation of these new micro-pillars as they are a key stakeholder, for the above mentioned reasons.

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

- Members complimented Larry and the public lighting team on their work and stated that there has been a huge improvement of late.
- Reference was made to a light located between Lidl and Synnotts garage which appears to be a new fitting but has never worked.
- Lights at Bellview Court, Ashford Downs were mentioned. Larry indicated that some of the older lights required re-wiring by ESB.

- Two lights require repair in Newtownmountkennedy, one at Ballinahinch and one on Main Street.
Larry indicated that repair of these lights is more complex, but there is a plan in place.
- A few lights out in Laragh, near Mc Coys shop.
Larry to check, may require ducting.
- District Manager stated that it is never possible to have 0% faults and the current figure of 1.8% is good in context.
- Larry advised that each district will receive a monthly update going forward.

ITEM 3

District Engineers Report

Updates were provided by District Engineer William Halligan as follows:

Housing:

❖ Relets/Prelets

- 5no. houses currently being worked on, through WCC Housing Framework by MD,
- 7no. houses are being managed by WCC Direct Labour,
- 1no. houses returned to WMD for refurbishment – To Be Tendered.
- 2no. houses 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 Rocky Road Improvement Project	1200	Road Closure implemented from 20 th Jan 2025 to 29 th August 2025. Works being carried out by WCC NNR (Non-National Roads) Team.
L5036 Ballinastoe Rd	1427	Advanced drainage works ongoing. Resurfacing contract awarded
L5597 Milltown Lane	659	Tender Documents in preparation
R765 Newtown-Roundwood	2038	Resurfacing contract awarded
R750 Dublin Road Wicklow	740	Tender Documents in preparation

L1096 Ashford-Ballymanus Lower	936	Resurfacing contract awarded. Resurfacing works commencing 24/03/2025
R772 Ashford	97	-
R764 Ashford-Roundwood	80	Advanced drainage works ongoing. Resurfacing contract awarded
R-751 Marlton Road	222	Tender Documents in preparation

❖ 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 is due to commence in Wicklow MD mid-May. Chipping is currently being delivered to depots around the district.

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	-

❖ 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

- To date, no LIS projects have been allocated to the Wicklow Municipal District for 2025.

❖ **Safety Projects**

- Works to increase visibility and road safety at Castlekevin, L5087 junction with L1076 and L5087 junction with L5587.
- Pedestrian crossing to be installed as part of a housing development condition in Ashford, at junction with R763 and R764 within coming weeks.
- 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.
- Second-fix electrical work ongoing.
- Detailed designs continuing to be progressed for the Amphitheatre and performance area.
- Siberian Larch finish for new buildings now installed.
- Conservation and restoration works to existing footbridge at Abbey grounds completed at the end of September. Similar works for Pedestrian Entrance and ramp to Wentworth Place access completed.
- 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 commenced.

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.
- 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.

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. Certified bark mulch has been installed at the following Brockagh, Wicklow Hills, Newtownmountkennedy Community playground and Rathnew playgrounds. Wet pour repairs completed at Roundwood with minor repairs at other playgrounds completed also. Level access carousel at Roundwood playground now repaired. All previously ordered equipment now at WMD Depot.
 - The Murrough Playground – New Sand Digger at sand pit, - Installation to commence next week.
 - Ballynerrin Playground – New Cradle Swing set to replace the old broken unit, - Installation to commence after soft pour rubber base in place (weather dependant) approx. three weeks.
 - Roundwood Playground – New ‘Wobble Bridge’ (to be located in green area adjacent to the Zip Wire) - Installation to commence next week.
 - Laragh Playground (Brockagh) – New accessibility swing seat has been installed.

Additional MD projects:

- 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 mini pillars have been energised. Completion of lights in coming weeks. Lights at Stone Bridge require to be aligned and colour controller fitted, currently switched off – road user/pedestrian protection from glare. Lighting designer to visit site within next two weeks.
- 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. Closing date for receipt of tenders is 21/03/2025.
- Roundwood – Two ramps from Playground to GAA Club. One ramp new has been installed and an existing ramp has been replaced/repared.
- Roundwood – Length of footpath Playground to GAA Club. All cables are now under ground. Pedestrian crossing will be progressed.
- 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 sincere thanks for the new footpath at The Murrough and said it has made a big difference to people walking there and while it doesn't solve the erosion problem, it is as much as the Municipal District can do.

ITEM 4

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

ITEM 5

Any Other Business

A request was made on behalf of The Boathouse CCÉ for a contribution of €2,000 to their upcoming visit to Montigny from May 9th to 11th. They have been invited by the Mayor to perform at a special concert marking European Day 2025 and the opening of Montigny's new Cultural Centre. A group of 16 musicians and 7 parents/committee members are due to travel.

This was proposed by Councillor Paul O'Brien and seconded by Councillor Graham Richmond.

A request was made for a contribution of €800 towards costs incurred by a group of 8 young athletes from Wicklow who travelled to Australia at their own expense last September to represent Ireland in the World Surf Rescue competition.

This was proposed by Councillor Paul O'Brien and seconded by Councillor Shane Langrell.

Members referred to the St. Patrick's Day Parade and stated that it was a huge success and was a credit to the new committee. It was proposed that a Cathaoirleach's reception be afforded to them as a small token of appreciation. It was also mentioned that the Municipal District staff and in particular the District Administrator, Georgina Franey had done a huge amount of work. There are

currently four committee members and some volunteers. The District Manager stated that there were more entries this year, 28 compared to 23 or 24 last year.

This was proposed by Councillor Paul O'Brien and seconded by Councillor Graham Richmond.

It was stated that a new St. Patrick's Day Committee has also been formed in Newtownmountkennedy and it was requested that consideration be given to supporting them in the future also.

The District Engineer advised that the new road in Newtownmountkennedy, constructed as part of the DRES development, was due to be opened the following day and scheduled to be formally taken in charge by the full Council at their meeting in April.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 15.22pm.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Date: _____