



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE CHAMBER WICKLOW COUNTY
COUNCIL, COUNTY BUILDINGS ON TUESDAY 15th JUNE 2021**

Present: Cllr. Miriam Murphy, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Leas Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Sylvester Bourke
Cllr. Tommy Annesley
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Peir Leonard

Officials Present: Mr. Colm Lavery, District Manager
Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator
Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer
Mr. Rob Mulhall, Executive Engineer
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, ASO

Press : Ms. E Dodd WP -zoom

Public: None

Cllr Murphy welcomed all to the meeting and expressed sincere thanks to all the members and acknowledged that Arklow and its environs have good things coming. All are working very hard with the focus on securing funding. She thanked the staff for their foresight in applying for funding.

Item 1: Votes of Sympathy.

The Members expressed votes of sympathy to all families who have recently lost loved ones, there have been a number of deaths over the last few weeks and a few known to all are –

Jimmy Stafford, Paddy Delaney, Dorrie Canavan, Patrick O’Neill, Miley Fortune, Luke Wadden, John Toomey, TJ Doyle, Noel Lalor.

A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2 : Confirmation of Minutes from Ordinary Meeting held on the 12th May 2021.

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 12th May 2021 were proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Bourke.

Item 3 : Confirmation of the minutes from Special Meeting held on Monday the 14th June 2021.

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Special Meeting held on the 14th June 2021 were proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Annesley.

Item 4 : Matters Arising.

No matters arising.

Item 5 : District Engineers Report.

Roads Programme –

Work has commenced on the 2021 roads programme, surface dressing started on 31st May 2021 on both Regional and Local Roads. All are at varying stages of completion with starts dependent on other works being completed.

Safety Improvement works –

Installation of safety barriers has been completed on the Woodenbridge to Aughrim Road and at Avoca. LED warning sign lights are now in stock and AMD will liaise with the supplier and works can commence once the tender has been awarded. Two of the proposed SI works at the three schools are at design stage and one has the tender awarded.

Former National Roads –

The proposed rehabilitation project for the Wexford Rd Arklow is in preliminary design stage – AMD are engaging with consultants.

Footpath Schemes –

Works at Rathdrum are 90% complete – section to be infilled and awaiting an update from Eir in relation to the removal of a stay cable.

Tender has been awarded for the footpath works on the Vale Rd R747 – to be carried out by WCC.

NTA Schemes –

The 2021 allocations have been confirmed – works to be led by WCC NTA team with input from AMD. All are progressing.

Project Code	Type	Project Name
WCC/11/0004	STMG	Arklow – Woodenbridge - Shillelagh
WCC/20/0003	STMG	Arklow Transport Study
WCC/21/0007	STMG	Dublin Road to Wexford Road
WCC/21/0009	STMG	Arklow Main St to Train Station
WCC/21/0013	STMG	Lower Main Street, Tinahask Road & Dock Road to South Quay
WCC/21/0024	AT	R747 Vale Road
	AT	Rathdrum

Other Road Projects –

Savilles Cross Junction Pedestrian Crossing works are 90% complete – line marking.
Ballinaclash Rathdrum Junction – near completion.

Town and Village Renewal –

Redcross : Tender awarded and works are due to begin in mid-June.

Climate Adaptation Funding -

€200,000 has been received as part of the Climate Adaptation Funding to complete the works on the L-6145, Garrymore to Ballincarrig. Works will involve improving drainage works and full overlay to replace severely damaged road.

Local Improvement Scheme –

There are 2 local improvement schemes being undertaken in the district in 2021.

Kilahurler, Arklow – 630m of road

Knockanree, Avoca – 220m of road

Additional Outdoor Infrastructure –

AMD have received funding for 2 schemes in the district

Arklow - €65,000 – Plans as discussed at the last District meeting.

Rathdrum - €50,000 – Complement the resurfacing and relining works to the Main Street and the square.

Housing Construction –

Delany Park Phase 2

The site consists of 47 houses, structurally all houses are completed with doors & windows in place, all external ongoing, first fix M&E started, IW & ESB not connected to date, revised finishing programme indicates end of November 2021.

Avondale Phase 2

The site consists of 20 houses, currently out to tender as original successful contractor had to withdraw due to resourcing issues, new successful contractor should be on site no later than August 2021 with a completion date anticipated for August 2022.

Sheehan Court (Old Fire Station)

The project consists of a terrace of 7 no., 2bed houses, and is now fully approved by the DHLGH. The project has commenced on site, and the completion date is expected to be in July 2022.

Comments –

Cllr Bourke complimented the engineers on their work and asked if the road lining works could be prompt on the Beech Rd., usually a delay after surfacing is finished. Avril Hill DE confirmed that AMD need to leave time after the dressing and will try to get it arranged promptly.

Cllr Fitzgerald and Cllr Leonard stated that a resident from Redcross has stated that he will not tolerate the installation of a footpath up to his house. Avril Hill DE replied that no correspondence/email had been received relaying his concerns. The scheme has been very carefully considered over the last two years and will improve the village with –

Continuous footpaths
Formalising parking on the street
Traffic calming

All these issues were highlighted and improvements will greatly benefit the village. Rob Mulhall confirmed that the scheme had gone through the full Part 8 planning process and any issues highlighted were addressed. Colm Lavery DM re-iterated that the Part 8 process was followed and that the area concerned is a public road. AMD will try to accommodate where possible and will

discuss it with the members again. Cllr Leonard asked that AMD communicate with the resident. Avrill Hill DE confirmed AMD would and re-iterated that parking will not be taken away but formalised. AMD will let the community know about the proposed works. The road will be planed down before overlay works so as not to raise the level of the road centre and the footpaths and refurbishment of the cobbles will be done first.

Cllr Annesley said it is great to see funding coming into the area and well done to all involved - Advised that we should be wary about being penny wise and pound foolish.

Cllr Kennedy asked if the pedestrian crossing in Redcross was still in the plan – Rob Mulhall EE confirmed that it is and will be a give-way system with build outs and raised ramp – will not have button signals for crossing.

Cllr Annesley commented that serious shortages and price increase on building supplies could affect the proposed timeframe given for the housing construction projects. Building supply firms are only supplying small local operations at the moment. Cllr Murphy agreed and stated that costs are spiralling - it will be a worrying phase.

Item 6 : To discuss the Cathaoirleach's Special Recognition Award

It was agreed to discuss the 2020 and 2021 awards in committee.

Item 7 : To discuss littering and public toilet facilities for our Arklow beaches.

Cllr Leonard stated that a lot of correspondence has been received in relation to lack of facilities and littering at local beaches – Arklow could lead the way here and promote encouraging children to make people aware. Residents in Clogga complained that the carpark was full and people resorted to urinating all over the place. Portaloo's could be a solution. Cllr Murphy said it is an issue around the county. Cllr Leonard said that a proposal for putting temporary facilities at the Harbour for elderly and less mobile people was considered by WCC.

Colm Lavery DM said that funding will become available and asked the members to come back to the District Administrator if they have any concerns about any particular areas – not just beaches, all public areas. Funding will also be available for bins and the onus is on the MD to apply. Firstly, provide the list of areas and WCC can apply as a whole – will check the date for applications and stated that this was a priority – information to come from the members within the next few days.

Cllr Kennedy asked if funding was available for bins – Avril Hill replied that an application was with Jim Callery and no reply had been received yet. Colm Lavery DM said there is a more recent scheme and he would check and get back to the members.

Cllr Bourke raised the issue of traffic management along the coast road – Magheramore was particularly bad over the weekend. Can something be done with the landowners along the busy routes – pressure needs to be relieved to avert incidents. Colm Lavery DM replied that AGS are acting – no holes barred approach – will consider all options to relieve congestion. Cllr Murphy suggested that Cllr Bourke follow up on this with the DM. Cllr Bourke suggested restricting the flow of traffic from Jack White's Cross and the Beehive junction. Colm Lavery DM confirmed that WCC was liaising with AGS and the OPW at busy times and options are discussed continually. It is a national issue and if the members have any proposals to please pass them on. Cllr Fitzgerald asked AMD to consider approaching a landowner in Clogga who may have fields available for use. Colm Lavery DM stated that the safety of pedestrians is foremost in any proposals.

Cllr Annesley paid tribute to the Tidy Towns group and Coastcare for collecting rubbish – part of the problem is there are no bins or not enough bins for members of the public to use. Could some of the 1.4bn funding for outdoor facilities be used for purchasing bins? The option of mobile toilets should also be considered – festivals in the past have been well equipped and there should not be an issue with using existing supply. What are the opening hours for the public toilets currently? Colm Lavery DM confirmed that toilets were closed from 4pm every evening – staff finishing time. Cllr Annesley stated it was embarrassing that visitors cannot access toilets after 4pm – could they be opened from 7am to 7pm and opened on a Sunday. Colm Lavery DM confirmed that GMD are trialling mobile units at the moment and that there is a national demand on units at the moment.

Cllr Leonard suggested establishing a local link bus route from Magheramore to Brittas Bay. Colm Lavery DM stated that it is the responsibility of car owners to park responsibly – take on board the suggestion of a shuttle bus but people will still do what is easiest for them with some taking the fine and staying there. AGS will start towing vehicles.

Cllr Fitzgerald noted the disgraceful behaviour of some filling privately secured skip with household rubbish at the old railway station.

Item 8 : To receive an update on the Town Re-opening Committee

The Arklow Town Re-Opening Committee met on the 27th May 2021. Plans are gathering pace to implement the following actions in Arklow:-

Public spaces will be enhanced with the provision of new planters and benches that have been purchased for the Main Street. Additional bins have also been purchased.

A new shop local poster has been designed for the approach roads into the town to encourage people to shop local and support their town. It also promotes Free Weekend Parking that is available in Arklow every Saturday and Sunday.

Stickers with the Arklow Shop Local Logo have been distributed to the businesses to place in their shop windows.

The Flower Basket Scheme continues for 2021. Arklow MD staff are assisting the Arklow Town Team in erecting Flower Baskets that will bring colour and vibrancy to our town centre. Sponsorship letters for the Flower Basket Scheme were sent out to all local businesses that were able to continue operating during the COVID Level 5 restrictions. Their generous donations will fund the scheme this year.

A new Visit Arklow website is to be launched to promote Arklow Town and its environs. The website promotes places to eat, stay, visit, and do. Arklow Municipal District has engaged the services of a marketing consultant to put a social media and content management plan in place and is aimed at maximising the potential reach of the new Visitarklow.ie website. Bunting with the new Visit Arklow brand has also been purchased to erect around the town.

Keep an eye out for a new Treasure Trail coming to Arklow soon. The Trail will be an enjoyable way to explore your local area.

Arklow Town Team, Arklow Chamber of Commerce and Wicklow County Council are fully committed to supporting the local business community in getting back up and running.

Cllr Murphy commented that the flowers were a bonus and expressed thanks to A. Ryder for her work on the website development.

Cllr Leonard congratulated the team working on the website project. She asked that AMD be proactive rather than reactive and put a plan in place to minimise the impact on businesses once the upcoming construction projects start along Main St. The Parade ground project should be prioritised and needs to start. Avril Hill DE replied that she had spoken to the Engineer heading the project and the current date from the contractors for a start is September 2021. Colm Lavery DM added that

Covid 19 restrictions are delaying the start and WCC need to keep the chosen contractor. He also confirmed that St. Mary's Park has been included in the URDF scheme and the team are working on securing extra funding. Cllr Leonard suggested staggering school start and finish times – liaise with schools on this. Shop opening times could also be included with the possibility of shops staying open later. Cllr Murphy asked for this issue to be raised at the next meeting – volume of traffic on Ferrybank should also be examined – bumper to bumper in the afternoons.

Item 9 : Correspondence

AMD received a twinning request from a town in Italy – Cllr Bourke said it should be researched. Cllr Kennedy asked that the request be circulated. Need to establish common links with the town – heritage and environmental links. Cllr Murphy asked that more information be provided for the July meeting.

Item 10 : A.O.B.

Cllr Fitzgerald asked that double yellow lines are laid around the entrance to The Pines estate – this has been effective in a nearby estate – people parking to use the coastal walk. Avril Hill DE said this would be assessed if the budget is available.

The reconstruction of the archway into The Pines estate was discussed – the bricks have been purchased and a price obtained for the construction works. Cllr Bourke proposed that AMD assist with the cost to the residents if discretionary funding is available. Rob Mulhall EE replied that it is too early to say if funding would be available and the works are more complicated and that a steel core is needed. This can be reviewed towards the end of the year. Members requested a review in September and asked for a report.

Cllr Bourke requested that the overgrowth in graveyards be trimmed back – as much as possible. Avril Hill DE replied that this would be looked at within the maintenance plan.

The members discussed a proposed inert landfill development on the Ballinclare Quarry site and Cllr Bourke requested a meeting with members and WMD members to agree on a position in relation to the development. Cllr Murphy agreed and suggested a meeting before the plenary session. The members were irate that the application is only coming to light now, 18 months later. Colm Lavery DM confirmed that the application was made to ABP and that WCC submissions may not even be considered – anything agreed at the plenary session can be put forward as a submission and will be given the exact same consideration. This could be considered a strategic development. It will not be a waste of time making a submission and best use should be made of the time available on Monday.

The members further discussed the impact of the development to the area and agreed that a balanced opinion needs to be achieved.

Cllr Fitzgerald asked if any progress has been made on installing a columbarium wall in St Gabriel's graveyard – Arklow were second on the list initially and issues with the wall in Bray have been sorted. People are currently burying ashes in family plots. When will there be funding available for this. Cllr Murphy asked that this be raised again at the July meeting. Colm Lavery DM said he would check this with the SEO and get back to the members.

Cllr Leonard noted that the CPO for the flood relief scheme has been published and asked of the professional fees relating to the CPO would be covered. Colm Lavery DM replied that they normally would be and would confirm same.

Cllr Murphy closed the meeting and congratulated WCC on the improvements to the Chamber.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 14th July 2021.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: _____

Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District