



**Wicklow County Council  
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

**ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE McELHERON CHAMBER ON THE**

**09<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022**

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

**Officials Present:** Ms. Leonora Earls, District Manager  
Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator  
Ms. Avril Hill, District Engineer  
Ms. Sinéad Boddy, ASO

**Apologies:** None

**Press:** Eoin Mac Raghnaill

**Public:** Leonard O'Brien

**Presentations:** Declan O'Brien EE WCC - Greenway

**Item 1: Votes of Sympathy.**

The members expressed votes of sympathy to all families who have recently lost loved ones, those mentioned were –

Patrick Kelly, Alice McElheron, John McGovern, Gerry Byrne, Sam Rowan, Bernadette Merrigan, James Doyle, Ann Kelly, Caroline Browne, Jason Byrne, Peter Kennedy, Nicholas Kirwan, Kieran Nicols, Nigel Shaw.

A Minutes silence was observed.

**Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022 were proposed by Cllr Murphy and seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald.

### **Item 3: Matters Arising.**

Cllr Annesley acknowledged that some of the pedestrian crossings have been repainted and stated that the Curran's Corner crossing was still a danger. Cllr Kennedy stated that this would be discussed with Item 4 on the agenda. Cllr Kennedy requested that the members allow the presentation on the Greenway to ahead under matters arising.

#### Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway

Cllr Kennedy introduced Declan O'Brien EE to the meeting. D O'Brien EE said he has taken over the project recently and gave a brief overview of the project to date and advised that the project has gone back a few stages to include a report to incorporate the Code of Best Practice. He acknowledged that there was some confusion over the routes chosen and state that the defined route would issue early next year and that the environmental surveys have been done and are under review. It was also confirmed that there would be engagement on a one to one basis with all landowners on the route. It was also noted that from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 the approving body will be the TII and that there will be a public consultation process on the preferred route. Any update as they happen will be conveyed and an Agronomist will be engaged to give farm related impartial advice if required. D O'Brien EE agreed to give a presentation at a future meeting.

Cllr Kennedy expressed disappointment at the delays in the project and stated that there was confusion on the ground about what's happening. He also stated that he was not against the project but the members need to know what is happening and what options are on the table.

Cllr Leonard thanked D O'Brien for the briefing and also stated that she was not against the project but expressed concern about the potential waste of time and funding that could have been avoided if everyone had been consulted at the beginning. The project team need to be softer with their approach and bring the people with them.

Cllr Annesley expressed great confidence in both the scheme and the staff involved but is concerned that WCC are not moving faster on this scheme – Any other county would be jumping at this opportunity.

Cllr Murphy commented that the executive should have learned from the Blessington scheme and taking backward steps should not happen.

Cllr Bourke mentioned the new IFA protocol – if there is difficulty with landowners they are available. Landowners need to be incentivised to come on board rather than resorting to CPO process.

Cllr Fitzgerald agreed that greenways are important in Ireland and WCC need to get ahead with this scheme and hopes that D O'Brien will be back with good news.

D O'Brien EE accepted the comments and re-iterated that the team would do their best to accelerate the process within project management guidelines and acknowledged that communication was most important.

## Community Memorial Policy Application Forms

Three applications were put forward at the meeting.

L Earls DM confirmed that there are a number of benches on hand to be installed in addition to the current requests. There is some concern in relation to the locations of benches around the harbour area, which is a working harbour. The placement of benches needs to be considered further before final locations are decided. It was requested that the Members afford time to the staff to draft a plan for the installation of benches at new and existing locations which will be forwarded to the members in due course.

The members discussed this further and agreed to keep this on the agenda for further development. L Earls DM re-iterated the need to be respectful to all about this and to approach this in a holistic way. Cllr Kennedy asked that the members to forward details of any areas that could be considered suitable, to the DE.

### **Item 4: Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.**

#### **Roads Programme**

##### ***District Engineers Report***

##### **Regional Roads**

<i>Road No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
R-754-0	Redcross	Resurfacing & line marking	Roadworks complete. Line marking outstanding
R-754	Barndarrig	Resurfacing & Line Marking	Some line marking outstanding

##### **Local Roads**

<i>Road No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
L-2140-0	Greenan Beg - Aughrim	Resurfacing	Waiting on start date from Contractor

##### **Former National Roads**

<i>Road No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
R772	Emoclew Roundabout to Knockmore	Resurfacing & line marking	Tendered. Moved the location of this job due to upcoming NTA works on Knockmore to Kish. Application will be made to funding for Knockmore to Kish in 2023. Night works proposed to minimise traffic disruption. <b>Waiting on start date from Contractor</b>

**Line Marking: Line marking is continuing throughout the District. Has been delayed due to wet weather.**

##### **Discretionary Funds**

<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
Bus Shelter at Aughrim	Tendered & Ordered.
Bus Shelter at Annacurragh	Tendered & Ordered.
Footpath – Lower St. Rathdrum	Design to be considered after traffic survey
Footpath - Canary	Scheduled with GSS

Footpath - Thomastown	Commenced
Footpath – Harbour Ct. Blackberry Glade	Scheduled with GSS
Footpath – Brewery Bends	Scheduled with GSS
Footpath – Mountain Bay	Complete
Footpath – Greenane	Commenced
Benches – Arklow Harbour	Delivered. To be installed in agreed locations
Woodview Park – Road resurfacing	Tender awarded

Application to Sustainable Transport / Active Travel - Rural Specific Fund - 2022/2023 for footpath in Glenealy was successful. **Received NTA funding.**

### **Community Involvement Schemes**

- Nursery Way, Aughrim – Complete
- Three Wells, Aughrim – Complete
- Kilmacoo, Avoca – Contractor commencing this week.

### **Local Improvement Schemes**

- Carrycoyle, Arklow - Complete
- Ballyarthur, Avoca - Complete
- Ballycooleen, Avoca - Complete

### **Community Monuments Funding**

Arklow received funding for two projects in the 2022 Community Monuments Funding.

- Work is due to start on Arklow Castle on 18<sup>th</sup> July.
- **€7,072** for Abbey Lane (Research & Interpretation of Archaeology). Archaeology and Osteology report.

### **Other Projects**

Co-ordinating with Environment section on columbarium wall for St. Gabriel’s cemetery.

Pride crossing on Main Street is complete

Basketball hoops installed on coloured court.

Meeting with bricklayer & QS (08/11/22) to put together cost proposal for The Pines entrance.

### **Housing Projects**

#### **Avondale Phase 2**

Construction work is continuing on the development of 20 new homes. The houses are nearing completion with second fix plumbing and electrical work continuing. Site works are ongoing with the installation of surface water attenuation and the construction of gardens, footpaths and kerbing.

#### ***Comments –***

The members noted issues with pedestrian crossings and line marking within the district – A Hill DE noted that lining the centre of the road will not necessarily reduce speed or increase safety – issue with speed will be raised with AGS. It was also noted that it has been difficult to source contractors to carry out lining works.

It was agreed to contact the residents of The Pines for further discussion on the proposed plan for the entrance to the estate.

Cllr Leonard and Cllr Kennedy raised concerns about the condition of the road in the Tigroney/Conary area and A Hill DE confirmed that this stretch of road is included in the roads programme – Cllr Kennedy asked that it is made a priority on the works schedule.

Cllr Leonard commented on the recurring potholes along the Harbour area – need to look at taking these HGV access routes out of the town. A Hill DE confirmed that this has been raised with the Transport Study – the potholes are being filled as requested but this is not a practical solution. Cllr Fitzgerald agreed that the HGVs need to be re-routed and we need to meet with the companies involved. A Hill DE stated that the agreed haulage routes need to be followed and any mechanism for their contribution should be considered.

Cllr Bourke received a report that the Tigroney Rd had collapsed – A Hill DE countered that on inspection the road had not collapsed. Cllr Bourke stated that plans for any link roads need to be expedited.

Cllr Leonard asked the DE to consider putting ramps in Woodlands to reduce speeding in the area. A Hill DE stated that a speed survey has been carried out over the period of one week and the findings do not indicate that ramps are necessary. Cllr Fitzgerald requested a copy of the survey results.

Cllr Leonard raised the issue of flooding in St Gabriel's Graveyard and insisted that a solution needs to be found – the problem is not going away. Cllr Fitzgerald added that contractors are driving over graves causing damage and is very disappointed that care is not taken to ensure the surfaces are protected. A Hill DE stated that AMD is aware of the issues and there is no easy solution and acknowledged that this is a sensitive issue.

L Earls DM acknowledged the DE and the outdoor crew for the amount of work being done in the district.

Cllr Kennedy asked for a progress report on Carrig Junction and stated again that the weeds and briars along footpaths need to be addressed. Also thanked the DE for the traffic study in Rathdrum and requested a report on the findings.

The members discussed the need for traffic calming measures along the tourism routes in the district and the support for this from business owners along these roads.

**Item 5: Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members.**

*To consider report on the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal Districts in respect of the year ending 2023.*

The members considered the report and it was proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Annesley. All members were in agreement.

**Item 6: Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting.**

To receive an update on the Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway – discussed with Item 3.

To consider Community Memorial Policy Application Forms – discussed with Item 3.

**Item 7: Correspondence**

C Lawless DA received a breakdown of costs from the twinning association as was requested by the members at the last meeting – This was discussed and a case made for ensuring that funding was available for educational exchanges. L Earls suggested that the twinning association is awarded the 2022 funding less the expenses incurred on the December 11<sup>th</sup> event for the Parade Ground launch. This was proposed by Cllr Annesley and seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald.

The twinning association asked the meeting to nominate a representative to travel with them to Châteaudun in June 2023 for an event – the members nominated Cllr Kennedy.

Further information on quotes received for the information panels project in Rathdrum were put before the meeting – a contribution of €2,500 from discretionary spending toward the project was proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Bourke – all members agreed.

A request for funding was received from award winning filmmaker, Dave Thomas – L Earls DM reminded members that discretionary spending is for public realm projects – The members agreed with the suggestion to reply to Dave Thomas with a list of alternative funding streams that may be open for this project. Cllr Kennedy said that a new tranche of LEADER funding would be coming available which is great news for communities and projects.

**Item 8: Any Other Business**

Cllr Kennedy proposed that a Civic Reception is held in the district early next year to honour a number of citizens from the district – All members agreed.

Cllr Bourke asked if there was any budget available to assist the KWETB Co-ordinator working with Ukrainians in Arklow. Cllr Leonard suggested contacting the Community Response Team – CCSD.

Cllr Annesley asked that more bins were placed along Main St – this would help the tidy towns campaign.

**Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 14th December 2022.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District**