

MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY BUILDINGS

MONDAY 25th APRIL @ 3.10 p.m.

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

In Attendance: Acting District Manager Breda McCarthy
District Engineer Kevin Scanlon
District Administrator Joan Sinnott
Assistant Staff Officer Josephine Hayes
Senior Executive Planner Edel Birmingham
Administrative Officer Siobhan O'Brien

Cathaoirleach Gail Dunne opened the meeting at 3.10 p.m.

ITEM 1

Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Meeting held on the 21st March, 2022.

It was proposed by Cllr John Snell and seconded by Cllr Shay Cullen and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on 21st March, 2022.

ITEM 2

Strategic Housing Development Application of 179 houses on lands at Season Park, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow.

Senior Executive Planner Ms. Edel Birmingham outlined details of the proposed SHD for Newtownmountkennedy which consists of 179 dwellings and proposed crèche with community use facility overhead.

Various elements of the proposed development were outlined and explained in detail to the members and any views expressed by them at this meeting will be noted and a summary of such views forwarded to An Bord Pleanála with the Chief Executive Report.

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS:

The members unanimously agreed that they strongly objected to the proposed Strategic Housing Development for Newtownmountkennedy for numerous reasons.

The comments of elected Members of the Wicklow Municipal District Council as expressed at the meeting are summarised as follows:

Compliance with Draft County Development Plan

- Draft County Development Plan which is currently at Material Amendment Stage has excluded this land from zoning.
- Councillors have been told as part of the County Development Plan process that Newtownmountkennedy is over-zoned having regard to population targets in Core Strategy, and this land needs to be omitted.
- Contrary to the vision for Newtownmountkennedy in the Draft County Development Plan 2022-2027, which is due for adoption in September.

Design

- Design inappropriate too many apartments
- Appears over-congested
- insufficient Public Open space
- Social/ Community Facilities
- Community facilities are wholly inadequate to service this housing development
- This is piecemeal development no additional facilities/services
- Further housing should not be granted in the absence of community/ educational facilities
- Schools at capacity as it is
- Newtownmountkennedy can't sustain further development without relevant infrastructure
- No guarantee Kineada will complete their elements
- Need for schools, playing pitches, library etc
- The identified community facility how will it operate, is it feasible as part of commercial crèche
- Consider a playground would be more beneficial than an empty community centre
- Ensure disabled access to community facility

Impact on traffic

- Give rise to traffic congestion and impact on centre.
- When will roads come on-stream to service the development, as currently not built
- Question given the scale of the development whether it can feasible support the provision of the distributor road to service the development.

- Road access is reliant on the build out of the Northern Roads permitted under the Kineada development.

Biodiversity

- 2 acres of mature woodland within the development which will be lost – An Bord Pleanála should ensure that at least 50% of the woodland is maintained.
- Bats / Pine martins within site area.
- Impact on Murrrough Wetlands SAC due to discharges.

Services

- The Newtownmountkennedy pumping station is at capacity.

SHD Process

- Consider the Strategic Housing Process is inappropriate, view of Councillors / Local Authority not being taken on board by An Bord Pleanála.
- Opposed to SHD process developer is bypassing the standard planning system, and limiting participation.
- Accept there is a housing crisis but this proposed development is inappropriate,
- Members consider new quality housing, smaller estates is more appropriate

The members also queried the submission process and agreed to forward their own submission on the SHD directly to An Bord Pleanála.

ITEM 3

Presentation SSE Renewables had been deferred to the next May meeting of WMD.

ITEM 4

District Engineers Report

District Engineer Mr. Kevin Scanlon outlined details of the District Engineers Report.

Housing:

- No info on specific numbers but DPGs, re-let and general maintenance continues.

Roads:

- Roads Programme for 2022 commenced on Friday April 15th.
 - Ashford to Ballyhenry complete.
 - Convent Rd, Wicklow Town complete.
 - Wicklow Gap, Laragh and Annamoe jobs to start in mid-May.
- Road Opening Licences continue to be processed and agreed.
- Winter Maintenance- 7 single and 0 double call outs up to Thursday 21st April.

Environment:

- Brittas Bay Project-Cattle still on site and signage installed with info at gate.

Planning

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

Playgrounds

- Adult gym equipment along Murrough – Meeting had with Contractor to agree works due to commence soon.

Public Liability

- No info.

Projects**NTA**

- Ballyguilemor and Ashford footpaths planning underway with WCC.
- Bicycle rack tenders closed last week. Results due from WCC next week.

DOE

- Drainage grant works approved at 8 locations. 2 completed last week. 2 underway this week.
- Safety Improvement Works. 2 projects approved. Laragh/Glendalough and Barnbawn. Details being agreed to start in coming weeks.
- LIS projects currently being assessed and costed for submission to WCC.

Fáilte Ireland

- New windbreaker flower boxes with Market Square etched on them have been installed
- Abbey Grounds. Site meetings held with Ecologist, Archaeologist and Engineer to assess pre-contract works. Works to commence in coming weeks subject to various licences.

WCC

- Dog Park gate works completed and signage installed.

Town & Village

- Wicklow Town – Backlighting Project. All remaining ESB applications made and awaiting schedule to provide power.
- Annamoe Footpath works substantially complete and final surfacing to be carried out this week.

Discretionary Fund (10 priority projects)

- Ashtown Lane footpath and footpath repairs at Seaview Heights complete.
- Sycamore Drive awaiting completion of housing works 1st.

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS:

- Temporary toilets at the Murrough & Black Castle– possibility if funding come again this year to relocate to the Sailing club area from the Murrough
- Road works and ramp at Ashford and Convent road welcomed
- Playpark in Ocean View requires wall to be removed to eliminate anti-social behaviour
- Ballinalea, Ashford need for speed ramps
- Removal of the excess planters on the new One Way System
- Adult Gym equipment due within the next few weeks welcomed
- Traffic lights at the new housing estate in Rathnew and the Grand Hotel should be checked for timing

ITEM 5

Community Memorial Application for consideration

District Administrator Joan Sinnott outlined the details of the proposed Community Memorial Application for Patricia Carton and the criteria for eligibility.

Cllr. Paul O'Brien agreed to consult with the committee organising the proposed Memorial and it was unanimously agreed to allow the proposed Memorial on an existing bench at the Harbour with the addition of a plaque in honour of Patricia Cartons. The Memorial was proposed by Cllr Paul O'Brien and seconded by Cllr John Snell.

ITEM 6

Brittas Bay

Members agreed to defer discussions on Brittas Bay to the May Monthly Meeting.

ITEM 7

Correspondence

District Administrator Joan Sinnott advised members that she had received a letter from the St. Patricks Day Parade Committee thanking them for their support and contribution to a successful St. Patricks Day Parade.

ITEM 8

A.O.B.

District Administrator Joan Sinnott advised members that the Estate Development Grant had been processed and following a brief discussion the grant amounts per estate was proposed by Cllr. Paul O'Brien and seconded by Cathaoirleach Gail Dunne.

Estate Name		
Woodside Residents Association	Rathnew	400
Hillview Residents Committee	Wicklow	1500
Darragh Park & Lakeview Grove	Wicklow	600
Broomhall Estate Residents Ass.	Rathnew	600
Carrig Court Association	Rathnew	700
Glenn Chill	Glenealy	700
Mountain View Residents Ass	Wicklow	1700
Carrick View Residents Association	Glenealy	1000
Sycamore Drive Residents Assoc.	Newtown	1000
		8,200

CATHAOIRLEACH GAIL DUNNE CONCLUDED THE MEETING AT 5.15 P.M.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Date: _____