

## **MINUTES OF WICKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING**

**HELD IN DISTRICT CHAMBER, TOWN HALL**

**MONDAY 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023 @15.10 p.m.**

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

**In Attendance:** District Manager Brian Gleeson  
District Engineer Kevin Scanlon  
District Administrator Joan Sinnott  
Assistant Staff Officer Jason Smith  
Wicklow People Myles Buchanan

**Apologies:** Cllr Gail Dunne

Cathaoirleach Paul O'Brien opened the meeting at 3.10 p.m.

Cathaoirleach Paul O'Brien on behalf of the Elected Members welcomed District Manager Brian Gleeson and wished to express the Members appreciation to Breda McCarthy who had filled the role of Acting District Manager.

### **ITEM 1**

**Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023.**

It was proposed by Cllr Shay Cullen and seconded by Cllr John Snell and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

### **ITEM 2**

#### **District Engineers Report**

Updates provided by District Engineer Kevin Scanlon

## Housing

- Relets/Prelets; 2 completed. 3 on site. 1 new relet received.
- 3 CPO house commenced.
- DPG; 2 completed. 4 ready to commence works. 2 tendered.

## Roads

- Drainage Programme agreed and approved. List below. Generally works are verge drains, gullies and road crossings to outlets. Works already commenced on Slaughter and at Threemilewater.

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Slaughter Hill, approx. 1000m	40,000.00
Threemilewater	20,000.00
Ballard, Laragh	5,000.00
Ballymaghroe	10,000.00
Clara Church road	5,000.00
Stone Bridge, Wicklow Town	10,000.00

- Winter Gritting (Regional Roads) since February 24<sup>th</sup>; 12 out of 28 nights, 1 double.

## CCSD

- Tender received for consultant for Coral grant funding for works from Large Scale Sport Infrastructure and WCC CCSD currently clarifying info.

## Public Liability

- 0 personal injuries. 2 material damage.

## Projects

### WCC

- Roundwood footpath; Works commenced on alternative section of Roundwood road at L5061. The junction with R764 at Knockfadda will be improved too.
- Brittas Bay footpath; possible start date in late April currently proposed.

### DOT

- Drainage-Roads Programme works have commenced at bottom of Slaughter Hill prior to resurfacing.
- Overlay-Roads Programme projects submitted and awaiting final approval.
- Surface Dressing- Roads Programme projects submitted and awaiting final approval.

## **NTA**

- Ballinahinch, Ashford footpath; wall facing completed. Works continuing behind wall backfilling.
- Station Rd to Marlton Rd and Rocky Rd footpath and cycling lanes; survey commenced this week.

## **OUTDOOR RECREATION**

- Brittas Bay Blueway funding for accessibility works. Tender docs for toilet building improvements and other works currently being prepared. Awaiting consultant input.

## **DOE**

### **Town & Village Renewal**

- 2 umbrellas installed at Fitzwilliam Sq. Awaiting parts for 3<sup>rd</sup> installation.
- Wicklow Town – South Quay connections to Main St. Tender is currently running on eTenders website. Concludes on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Stakeholder consultations ongoing.

### **Fáilte Ireland**

- 2 umbrellas installed at the Gaol.
- Abbey Grounds; Redesign and procurement of separate items continuing with Architect. Meeting with Fáilte Ireland to confirm progress and dates agreed.

## **MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS**

- Cathaoirleach Paul O'Brien enquired for an update on the Discretionary works/ Projects.
- District Engineer reported on the following works: Merrymeeting Crossing under review and a plan is being devised. It may be necessary to cross the road and drop kerbs for the Rugby Club footpath. Dunbur road crossing will be reviewed again later this week, it may be moved back closer to its original location. ESB have acknowledged applications for Leg of Mutton & Black Castle and meeting with ESB next week, Rocky Road footpath included in the NTA jobs.
- Cllr Mary Kavanagh enquired as to updates on the following; Nuns Cross - path widening and its completion, the lights on the South Pier are not working (Electrical team to review), request for 'Children at Play' signs for housing estates. Refurbishment of the Assembly Hall – is there an alternative facility for the boxing club while works take place. Cllr. Kavanagh also said that the timeframe was very tight for making proposals for the Community Recognition Fund.
- Cathaoirleach Paul O'Brien clarified that the Assembly Hall project was at proposal stage and nothing was confirmed to date. He also stated that he had e-mailed Members to confirm approval of putting the Assembly Hall forward for funding consideration.

- District Manager Brian Gleeson confirmed that the Community Recognition Fund 2023 had a very tight deadline for applying and that the funding had to be of a capital nature and was to be focused on a community project and not restricted to a specific club. He also confirmed that no projects submitted under the Scheme had been approved yet so if the Assembly Hall is successful the relocation of the boxing club could be looked at then.
- Cllr John Snell confirmed that we need to have a strategic look at facilities and consider other Clubs and need to match the needs of all groups and felt that we could get more from the Assembly Hall.
- District Manager Brian Gleeson further clarified that the projects must be Capital projects with a minimum 60% spend in 2023. He also stated that a Community and Recreational Audit of the District is currently being undertaken which will identify the needs of the local community.
- Cllr John Snell raised the need to assess the graveyards before the Blessing of the Graves take place. Brittas Bay public conveniences and bins – felt it was a backward step to close the toilets and remove the bins. Cllr Irene Winters added that in the past these were closed and with no bin facilities then visitors should be responsible their own litter and take it home – leave no trace. Cllr John Snell reiterated that during a Public Holiday weekend the Public Toilets should be made available and pre planned to have them open in preparation for visitors.
- District Engineer Kevin Scanlon confirmed that rebranding of the Brittas Bay area and revamping the toilets is currently being looked at under the Blue Way Project and will liaise re updates.
- Cathaoirleach Paul O’Brien enquired if we could ask for the project to be presented during the next Ordinary Meeting as to its progress.
- Cllr Shay Cullen requested an update on the Glendalough Master Plan as keen for WMD to identify a clear plan of when the works will commence. He also raised his concerns regarding Dog Control, a major concern in our open spaces and the need for owners to keep dogs on leads as common conduct of respect.
- District Manager Brian Gleeson informed the meeting that following the completion of the public consultation phase of the strategic environmental assessment, a report was being finalised on the Glendalough Master Plan. Following this an official launch of the masterplan will take place. Regarding dog control and changing bye laws there needs to be a consistent approach taken across the Council and all Districts. Moreover, discussions with the Rangers may also be required.
- Cllr John Snell enquired about resurfacing works for Halpin Court, Old Village Rathnew and if there was funding available.
- District Engineer Kevin Scanlon confirmed that in relation to Line Marking – Tenders are ready to be sent out to tender.
- Cllr Irene Winters enquired as to possibility of getting funding for a school warden for Holy Rosary.
- Cllr Shay Cullen enquired about the Greenhill road footpath.
- District Manager Brian Gleeson confirmed that design still has to be finalised and agreement with land owners is ongoing.

District Engineer Kevin Scanlon and the Staff of WMD wished Aidan Doyle the very best of luck on his retirement. This was also followed by the well wishes of the Cathaoirleach and Councillors.

### **ITEM 3**

#### **Estate Development Grants 2023**

District Administrator Joan Sinnott identified and presented the process for which the funding was considered and awarded to each of the Estates who had applied for the Estate Development Grants 2023.

#### **MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS**

- The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Joan Sinnott for the presentation of the funding.
- Cllr John Snell commented that this is valuable funding for the Estates.
- Cllr Shay Cullen agreed and commented that it is great to see that the Estates are being rewarded.

It was proposed by Cllr John Snell and seconded by Cllr Shay Cullen and agreed by Cathaoirleach Paul O'Brien for the Estate Development Grants 2023.

### **ITEM 4**

#### **Proposed Civic Reception – Protocol**

#### **Proposed Civic Reception Awards - in recognition of individuals on their achievements.**

#### **MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS**

- The nominations should be identified and a confirmed list be made.
- Cathaoirleach Paul O'Brien agreed that over the next weeks the Councillors should forward nominees to Joan Sinnott District Administrator.
- The Councillors agreed that they need to discuss together the nominations and for the purposes of these minutes any possible nominations discussed today or previously will not be named due to nature of the nominations process, until confirmed nominations identified and agreed.
- Cathaoirleach Paul O'Brien confirmed an in camera meeting before the next Ordinary Meeting to discuss the nominations.

### **ITEM 5**

#### **No Correspondence**

**ITEM 6**

**A.O.B**

- Special thanks to District Administrator Joan Sinnott for her support and contribution to the 2023 St Patricks Day and also sincere thanks to all of those involved in the Twinning visit from Eichenzell, both were a great success.

CATHAOIRLEACH PAUL O'BRIEN CONCLUDED THE MEETING AT 16.37 P.M.

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Date: \_\_\_\_\_