

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

**HELD IN DISTRICT CHAMBER, TOWN HALL**

**MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 @ 15.00pm**

**Present:** Leas Cathaoirleach Shay Cullen, Cllr Gail Dunne, Cllr Mary Kavanagh, Cllr John Snell, Cllr Paul O'Brien

**In Attendance:** District Manager, Brian Gleeson  
District Engineer, Pat Clarke  
District Administrator, Georgina Franey  
Róisín Carroll, Assistant Staff Officer  
Wicklow People Myles Buchanan

**Apologies:** Cathaoirleach Irene Winters

Leas Cathaoirleach Shay Cullen opened the meeting at 15.03 p.m.

### **ITEM 1**

#### **Confirmation of the Minutes from the Wicklow Municipal District Meeting held on the 24th July 2023.**

It was proposed by Councillor Paul O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Gail Dunne and unanimously agreed to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wicklow Municipal District Monthly Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

### **ITEM 2**

#### **Presentation on proposed new development at Roundwood Reservoir Recreation Project.**

Leas Cathaoirleach Shay Cullen welcomed Caroline Fox A/Senior Executive Officer and Carol Coad, Strategic Development Officer, Wicklow Partnership, to the meeting to make the presentation.

- The Vartry Trails are extremely popular trails with locals and visitors.
- The project will enhance and build upon the current facilities at Mullinaveige Forest.
- A car park was built in recent years reducing the impact of illegal parking around the alternative entrances to the trail network.
- This new project will include a family cycling area, 1.8 km family play trail, 3km and 5km running routes, play areas, an area for a café, eco toilets and additional car parking spaces.
- Under Measure 3 ORIS 2022 funding was secured for this project - €495k from DRCD matched WCC funding of €55k.
- WCC will lease the land from Coillte for a minimum of 20 years.

## **MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS:**

- The Project was welcomed by all elected members.
- Who will insure the new development? Carol Coad confirmed this will be under WCC's insurance.
- Will it be paid parking? The car park will be free.
- Will there be an option for bike rental for kids/family's? There will be no bike rental, however the Local Sports Partnership run free courses and bikes are provided.
- What is the cost of the Eco toilets? The toilets are approximately €10,000 each.
- Who will maintain the facility as the MD resources are limited? A proposal for a maintenance team for trails is being considered.
- Public consultation is the key for making this a success.
- Concerns regarding the roads infrastructure particularly on the regional road from Roundwood to Bray and Glendalough.
- District Manager Brian Gleeson commented that new development ties in with Glendalough Masterplan. The idea to create hubs around the surrounding towns and villages will encourage the tourism strategy to develop.

## **ITEM 3**

### **Presentation on Section 179A proposal to construct 23 houses at Ballinahinch Park, Ashford.**

Leas Cathaoirleach Shay Cullen welcomed Emma Hickey, Executive Architect; Admire Kamusoko, Executive Engineer and Eddie Murphy, Chief Technician to the meeting.

Emma Hickey gave a presentation to the members outlining the 23 new units for Ballinahinch Park, Ashford. It was noted that a new flood basin has been introduced.

## **ITEM 4**

### **Presentation on Section 179A proposal to construct 7 houses at Merrymeeting View, Rathnew (Phase 3).**

Emma Hickey gave a presentation to the members outlining the 7 new units at Merrymeeting View, Rathnew.

## **MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS**

- Elected members welcomed the projects and particularly the number of 1 bed units.
- Concerns regarding anti-social behaviour and illegal dumping at the open space at Ballinahinch Park were raised. Emma Hickey commented that by giving residents a bigger front garden that this will hopefully deter anti-social behaviour as residents will essentially be the surveillance.
- Cllr. Snell commended Eddie Murphy, Chief Technician for the flood relief works.

## ITEM 5

### District Engineers Report

Updates were provided by District Engineer Pat Clarke as follows:

#### Housing:

##### Relets/Prelets

- 3no. houses completed since last meeting,
- 5no. houses being worked on, through a mixture of WCC staff and Contractors.
- 3no. Fire Damaged Units. IPB have assessed damage and agreed works. Tenders to be issued 26<sup>th</sup> September to be returned and assessed for award two weeks later.

##### Maintenance and operations

- On-going repairs and maintenance being progressed as required on housing stock within the WMD.

#### DTTAS Roads Programme:

##### Drainage

- Generally works on verge drains, gullies and road crossings to outlets are currently ongoing throughout the MD.
- Works completed at Three Mile Water, works to begin on drain maintenance on Wicklow Gap on 25<sup>th</sup> September.
- Programme for cleaning of gullies has started within the Wicklow MD. Drain surveys are being carried out on problem areas as required.

##### Restoration Maintenance

Location	Length of Works	Completed to Date
Ballymachara – Ballycullen, L5095	2.5km	Completed
Tomdarragh Lane	1.0km	Completed
Kilpoole- Maheramore R750	1.8km	Completed
Raheenmore, Blainroe Upper, L1102	2.0km	Completed
Carrigower- Easthill L1039	4.0km	Completed
Garryduff, L6068	8.0km	Completed
Wicklow Gap, Brockagh, R756	2.5km	Completed
Djouce – Sallys bridge, R755	2.5km	Completed
Annamoe- Laragh R755	1.0km	Completed
Magheramore- Three Mile Water	1.25km	Completed
Togher Beg/ Vartry	1.0km	Completed

The Countywide Restoration Maintenance started in the Wicklow MD on the 12<sup>th</sup> June, and it continued around the County, finishing up on the 9<sup>th</sup> August in WMD. Post works sweeping has been on completed works sites.

### Restoration Improvement

Tenders on Restoration Improvement works received in June and July. Works will include a variety of techniques depending on classification and condition of Road.

Working with various contractors on scheduling works into their programmes.

Advance works such as drainage and verge widening works has been completed on most RI Roads with a mixture of MD staff and sub contractors. RI project to date. Main list of RI projects below.

Location	Length of Works	Completed to Date
Raheenmore L1102	2.0Km	Completed
Kilbride L5659	2.3Km	Completed
Cloghoge R115	2.1Km	Completed
Carrigower Quarry L1039-38	0.100Km	Completed
Monalin- Kilmurry R765	1.0Km	Advance road widening progressing, contractor appointed for overlay works, start date 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Rathnew Old Village L5121	0.250Km	Completed
Abbey Street R750	0.150Km	Contractor appointed, works programmed for last week Sept, night works
Carrigower- Easthill L1039	0.400Km	Completed
Claramore L6586		Contractor appointed, works programmed for last week in Sept
Glenwood to Moneystown Hill L6088		Contractor appointed, works programmed for last week in Sept

### Safety Improvement Projects

- Improvement works carried out at Powers Avenue junction on R755, to improve sight-lines. Resurfacing to take place within the next few weeks to improve surface and to improve vertical alignment.
- Vehicle Activated Signage installed in advance of Djouce Crossroads on the R755, for to warn drivers of crossroads (Discretionary project).
- Vehicle Activated Signage to be completed at Railway Bridge area of Glenealy on R752 within coming days. Sign poles have been installed (Discretionary project).

- Pedestrian Crossing to be installed at Mountainview in Newtownmountkennedy in the interest of safety for pedestrians (Discretionary project).
- Drop kerb and tactile complete at school at Newtownmountkennedy school to provide accessibility to all.

### **WCC Projects**

- Roundwood footpaths
  - Works are completed in Roundwood road on L5061, with road widened and surface dressing complete. Works at junction with the R764 completed also.
  - Works on the R756 footpath over the reservoir completed, with road widened and surface dressing complete.
- Brittas Bay footpath; commencement date was pushed back to the end of the summer season due to the increased traffic volumes in this area. Hedge cutting of verge area completed, so survey works can be completed as part of design process.
- Bus stop shelters with real time information erected in Ashford at old Garda station and at GAA pitch. To supplement these stops a bike shelter was to be installed at GAA pitch but due to a gas main this shelter has been put on hold at the moment.
- Bike shelters erected at Glendalough Upper Car Park, Newtown Bus stop opposite the Town house pub, and at Rathnew Inbound Bus stop.
- Erection of Speed limit signs to begin on week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> September around the Wicklow MD.

### **NTA Projects**

- Consultants still working on pedestrian and cycle improvement scheme, initial survey completed on the Marlton Rd and Rocky Rd, linking to Train Station on Station Road.

### **Fáilte Ireland:**

#### **❖ Abbey Grounds;**

- Project continuing with Architect/ Structural Engineer and a Quantity surveyor working on tender package for the Coach House area at present. Detailed designs still progressing for Amphitheatre seating and performance area.
- Details on lighting design have been sent through for review, with meetings scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> September to carry out final walk through on proposals.
- Stripping back and cleaning of old stone bridge linking Abbey Street Car Park has been completed.
- Initial works on tree trimming and scrub removal has taken place to enhance the Abbey and the grounds itself. Material finishes being worked through at present on certain elements of the design.
- Connection agreements with Utility providers are being progressed also.
- A detailed archaeological survey of the existing ruins is being carried out at present.

### **Outdoor Recreation:**

- Brittas Bay Blueway funding for accessibility works; works to proceed at the start of October. This was in order to reduce inconvenience to public during busy summer season. Details progressing on signage for Brittas Bay in conjunction with the Heritage Officer. Signage has been ordered but is awaiting final sign off from Structural Engineer.

- Glenturn Cliff Walk Infrastructure Upgrade completed at end of July.
- Proposals for outdoor gym equipment around Riverwalk/Murrough Area is being progressed at present, with a tender documentation to be published mid October.

### **Town & Village Renewal:**

- Wicklow Town – South Quay connections to Main Street (Connectivity Project); stakeholder consultations are ongoing, with artist selection complete. Advance works such as cleaning buildings and plaster works have commenced. One Mural has been completed to date with a further 3 murals commencing during late September & early October.

### **Additional MD projects:**

- Tenders awarded for all outstanding repairs at the Murrough playground and skate park and also for all repairs at the Newtownmountkennedy playground. Works are almost complete at the Murrough, except for painting. This has been delayed due to weather conditions. Works completed at Newtownmoutnkennedy playground.
- Public lighting columns to be completed with the installation of LED heads over by end of July at the Black Castle steps. Lights at Goal are completed (Discretionary project).
- 10no. Benches Port road have been installed (Discretionary project).
- Applications submitted to ESB for power supplies to:
  - Laragh Pedestrian Crossing,
  - Moneystown Pedestrian Crossing,
  - Annamoe Pedestrian Crossing (part of Town and Village Scheme),
  - Annamoe additional Public lighting on bridge and street (part of Town and Village Scheme).

All applications have being processed by ESB who have issued connection quotations, in which WCC have processed from our end. Scheduling of ESB to energise equipment as soon as possible is being progressed.

- Road markings progressing around the MD, with yellow boxes being repainted in Wicklow town centre at certain locations.
  - Edge Line marking from Beehive to Marlton Roundabout completed.
  - Road markings to be completed around Glenealy area, re fresh of ramps and at junctions in completed.
  - Road markings on all surfacing jobs to take place as soon as contractors are available.

### **MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS**

- Cllr. Mary Kavanagh requested works to the toilets at harbour and asked if the MD could provide additional toilets at the harbour and the Murrough playground.
- An alternative site needs to be provided for Ashford playground.
- Lights at the Dominican College are not turned on - the District Engineer advised no work has been complete by the MD and he will look into it.
- Can an update on the Murrough works be provided.
- Cllr. Paul O'Brien welcomed the work at Abbey ground and queried if it will be open for Christmas – the District Engineer advised that it won't.

- The weeds on the footpath and curbs around entrances to the town are particularly bad Wicklow – the District Engineer advised that policy doesn't allow spraying and the resources are limited.
- A tree at Ballynerrin playground is causing issues.
- There are overgrown hedges at the Blackhill, Glenealy.
- Cllr. Shay Cullen complimented the works on Slaughter Hill.
- He mentioned rural roads having overhanging trees and hedges making it very dangerous for road users – the District Engineer commented that it is the Landowners responsibility to cut hedges on privately owned land. WMD hasn't the budget or man power to carry out these works. The District Manager suggested a social media campaign could be carried out.
- Could a bus stop be provided at Rathmore House for the residents – the District Engineer advised that the area isn't safe for a bus stop however, he will raise the matter with the NTA.
- Cllr. Gail Dunne mentioned the footpath repairs needed in older estates.
- Road markings need repainting particularly at junctions.
- Cllr. John Snell mentioned the lack of work to the 50m section of footpath at Merrymeeting which was agreed in 2018 under the discretionary projects. He requested an updated list of expenditure under the discretionary funding.

## **ITEM 6**

### **Correspondence:**

No Correspondence.

## **ITEM 7**

### **Any Other Business:**

- Cllr. Paul O'Brien paid tribute to the District Administrator, Georgina Franey and all involved in the Twinning visit from Montigny-le-Bretonneux, it was a great success.
- Cllr. Mary Kavanagh commented with the Harbour being closed off would it be possible to raise a red flag to inform members of the public that they cannot swim.
- Cllr. Kavanagh requested that the Casual Trading Byelaws be updated. It was noted that there was a mobile coffee unit trading on the Murrough and it was not very unfair to local traders who pay rates and some of the local traders may wish to trade. It was noted that a by amending the byelaws there could be a farmers market held. The District Administrator advised that the Abbey Street carpark is the only casual trading area in Wicklow Town. Any amendment to the byelaws would have to be done by the Environment Section. The District Administrator added that the mobile coffee dock trader has been informed that he cannot trade on public land.
- Cllr. Kavanagh offered a vote of sympathy for Lauren Quinn and gave condolences to her family and commended Lauren on her charitable works and community spirit. Cllr. Paul O'Brien also wished to be associated with the vote of sympathy.

LEAS CATHAOIRLEACH SHAY CULLEN CONCLUDED THE MEETING AT 17.00 p.m.

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

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

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