



**Wicklow County Council
Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin**

ARKLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE PRESBYTERIAN HALL, DUBLIN
ROAD, ARKLOW ON WEDNESDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2021**

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

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

Press : Mr. R Clune WP

Presentation : Deborah Meghen

Public: None

Cllr Murphy welcomed all to the meeting

Item 1: Votes of Sympathy.

The Members expressed votes of sympathy to all families who have recently lost loved ones. The members offered condolences to the families of the following –

Paddy Dennehy, Billy Prestage, James Rowe, Bernie English, Johnny O'Neill, Teddy Stakem, Joe Mulhall, Noel O'Reilly,

A minutes silence was observed.

Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes from Ordinary Meeting held on the 13th October 2021.

The minutes of the Arklow Municipal District Ordinary Meeting held on the 13th October 2021 were proposed by Cllr Bourke and seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald.

Item 3: Matters Arising.

The housing query raised by Cllr Kennedy was brought to the SPC and the reply from the committee was that the issue should be discussed at the budget meeting and a chance to have an input would occur on the 29th November. Cllr Leonard said that the allocated fund is around 10% and asked if the members should look for more – a higher percentage. The members discussed issues around tenants getting window/door repairs and commented on the fact that any house that is re-let is refurbished and yet existing tenants are waiting years for repairs – tenants are expected to live in sub-standard conditions. Cllr Murphy said it was the same in all districts.

The members agreed to submit something in writing to highlight their concerns in relation to insufficient funding set aside for repairs.

Cllr Leonard commented that there is no funding for repairs to solar panels on social houses and WCC are asking people to be more sustainable.

Cllr Kennedy expressed disappointment at the lack of information being provided when housing updates are requested.

Cllr Bourke asked for the number of houses bought out in the district and if the money received is ring-fenced for repairs.

Cllr Murphy also commented on the length of time older people are waiting for decisions on housing grant applications.

Item 4: To receive a presentation from Deborah Meghan of Coillte on the Avondale House and Forest Park re-development project.

A presentation was given by Deborah Meghan showing the progress to date on the project.

The members congratulated the team on the progress to date – Cllr Leonard said that the project would create a great legacy piece in the district and Arklow could be the gateway to Rathdrum and other elements could be introduced. D Meghan agreed that the project could grow and that the immediate focus would remain on the location and then other strands could be explored later. The right of way along the river was discussed.

Cllr Kennedy expressed thanks to Coillte and the fact that this project has given employment to locals and local businesses. Cllr Bourke asked about the pricing for entry to the site – D Meghan confirmed that the pricing will be reasonable and that there will be parking charges on site.

Cllr Murphy said the members would welcome an update in the New Year.

Item 5: To consider the adoption of the Draft Budgetary Plan 2022 for Arklow MD.

C Lawless DA instructed the members that the draft budget document circulated was to be considered by the members – as set out in the letter issued by the CE.

The members discussed the discretionary budget proposal – also discussed the need to have further information – C Lavery DM re-iterated that the draft should be considered as set out in the letter from the CE. The members discussed 2021 revenue expenditure.

The draft budgetary plan was proposed by Cllr Bourke and seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald – all members were in agreement.

Item 6: District Engineers Report.

Roads Programme

Regional Roads

<i>Road No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
R754	Redcross Main St.	Resurfacing & line marking	Delayed IW Scheme from Redcross to Barndarrig will impact.
R752	Aughrim	Resurfacing & line marking	Completed

Local Roads

<i>Road No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Proposed Works</i>	<i>Status</i>
L-6124 & L-6125	Ballyteige, Rathdrum	Resurfacing, surface dressing & line marking	Completed
L-2180	Beech Road, Avoca	Resurfacing, surface dressing & line marking	Completed
L-2900	Emoclew Road, Arklow	Resurfacing, reconstruction of existing ramps & line marking	Work commenced during mid-term break. Ongoing due to ground conditions
L-6204	Tocher Hill, Killavaney	Resurfacing, surface dressing	Completed.

Our Roads Programme for the next three years has been completed.

Safety Improvement Works

Proposed Scheme	Status
R747 – Woodenbridge to Aughrim – Safety Barriers	Completed
R752 at Avoca – Safety Barriers	Completed
R747 - Arklow and Woodenbridge – LED warning signs	Completed
R752 Rathdrum & Laragh – LED Warning signs	Completed
Ballycoog National School	Completed
Carysfort National School	Completed

Arklow MD has been advised that the LED warning signs are in stock so we will be liaising with the supplier to get these installed in the coming weeks.

Former National Roads

Proposed Scheme	Status
Wexford Road Arklow – Rehabilitation Project	Resurfacing works from roundabout at top of Main St to roundabout at Carysfort NS. Work to commence on 11 th November.

Consultant has been appointed for design of cycleway/footpath on Carysfort roundabout to Kish.

Footpath Schemes

1. Rathdrum 90% complete – Design has been completed. Awaiting start date from contractor. We have requested an update from Eir with regard to the removal of the stay cable.
2. R747 Vale Rd – Finished on Merck side. Waiting on contractor to review kerb on Ballyraine side

Town & Village Renewal Scheme

Redcross: Works are progressing on site. Most of the footpath work is now complete.

Local Improvement Scheme

Two Local improvement schemes have been completed so far in 2021.

Knockanree, Avoca – 220m of road

Kilahurler, Arklow – 630m of road

Round 2 for the District –

Clonerkin, Rathdrum

Ballykillageer, Arklow

Currently awaiting a start on those schemes.

Community Involvement Scheme

Kilahurler, Arklow - Drainage works complete, contractor to surface.

Applications made for three schemes for 2022-

Kimacoo Avoca

Nursery Way Aughrim

Three Wells Aughrim

Additional Outdoor Infrastructure Fund

We have received funding for 2 schemes in the district

Arklow - €65,000 – Response has generally been positive. Drop-off/Pick up space (10 mins) has been included. We are working with the parking section to ensure disabled space and loading bays are being used correctly. NTA have been on site to view the scheme.

Rathdrum - €50,000 – Complement the resurfacing and relining works to the main street and the square. Feedback has generally been positive and traffic situation has improved.

NTA Schemes

The 2021 allocations for Arklow have been confirmed as follows. Projects are being led by NTA team in WCC with input from AMD.

Project Code	Project Name	Description
WCC/11/0004	Arklow – Woodenbridge - Shillelagh	Greenway project. Currently compiling the Planning Application.
WCC/20/0003	Arklow Transport Study	Baseline assessment is currently underway, next stage will be stakeholder engagement. AMD met with consultant and NTA to discuss and walk site.
WCC/21/0007	Dublin Road to Wexford Road	Tender documents are being prepared for appointment of consultant.
WCC/21/0009	Arklow Main St to Train Station	
WCC/21/0013	Lower Main Street, Tinahask Road & Dock Road to South Quay	
WCC/21/0024	R747 Vale Road	NNR crew are working on this at present.
	Rathdrum	Completed.

Wheelchair accessible bus stop

Works to the footpath have been completed. Road will be resurfaced as part of the Wexford Rd works.

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, 37 units should be ready for BCAR by the end of the year with the anticipated project completion date in Q1 2022.

Avondale Phase 2

The site consists of 20 houses. Successful contractor Cleary Doyle now appointed for this project. Foundations for the first block were poured on Friday 5th November. Anticipated completion date is September 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, foundations poured and rising blockwork commenced, the completion date is expected to be in July 2022.

The members discussed the progress with the transportation study and the framework of the study – baseline study initially and from that the terms of reference will be decided.

The members complimented both engineers on the works being done with the funding available.

Item 7 : To discuss parking availability in Arklow.

The members claimed that the shortage of parking in the town has been an issue for too many years – appreciate that there is no easy answer.

Cllr Bourke suggested looking for permission for the temporary use of the railway carpark – for construction workers in the town centre. Also mentioned was an issue with people parking at school drop off and pick up times in the entrances to side roads/estates – could the DE investigate this.

Cllr Annesley said that the development of The Alps site could have resolved the parking issues in the town and could not say what the new owners intend for the site.

Cllr Murphy asked for DM’s advice – forward planning should be considered, increasing population and should have been addressed years ago.

C Lavery DM clarified that Active Travel is the where the focus is at the moment – looking to encourage people to walk more rather than use vehicles in the town – walk where they can. It is not just about parking and options may not be within the town centres. Parking outside of towns is not being used as it should be in other towns so this may not be considered. The focus will be on keeping traffic flowing freely through the town.

Cllr Leonard suggested opening up pedestrian links to open up the town for people to walk from place to place – complement decarbonisation objectives/Active Travel.

The members discussed potential sites and Cllr Fitzgerald said that 100 extra parking bays would make a big difference. C Lavery DM suggested that private owners could be an option and that this would be considered.

Cllr Annesley asked the engineers to assess the condition of the surface of the carpark on Mill Rd – Fencing needs to be fixed and potholes filled in.

Item 8: Christmas parking arrangements.

The members discussed complaints received from businesses on the Main St in relation to free parking over the holiday period – some feel that this is being abused and people park all day. Cllr Annesley proposed two hours free parking in the town. All Members were in agreement. C Lawless confirmed the proposal of 2 hours free parking in Council owned car parks from 01/12/21 to 03/01/2022 inclusive.

Request to extend the meeting noted and agreed.

Item 9: To receive an update on the Arklow Christmas Festival.

C Lawless DA presented the plans for the Christmas period. Cllr Murphy thanked all for their efforts – small group working really well.

Item 10: Notices of Motions

(a) Motion in the name of Cllr Pat Fitzgerald. Received on 13/08/21

‘That funding is provided to tile the floor of the bandstand on the Main Street, Arklow’.

All agreed with the motion.

Cllr Murphy asked all to consider a ramped access to the bandstand.

(b) Motion in the name of Cllr Pat Fitzgerald. Received on 13/08/21

‘That funding is provided for the upgrading sections of the footpaths in Mountain View Drive, Arklow and The Rise, Mountain Bay, Arklow’.

Cllr Fitzgerald said it could be discussed at the meeting for discretionary spending. Cllr Bourke seconded the motion.

(c) Motion in the name of Cllr Peir Leonard. Received 30/08/21

‘That Arklow Municipal District in conjunction with WCC progress the upgrade of Arklow Marsh from a proposed NHA to an NHA and that a feasibility study is funded to explore the eco-educational & eco-tourism potential for Arklow Marsh’.

Questions were raised in relation to the €50k that was earmarked for this area – 100 or more acres of land with huge biodiversity and ecological potential – Climate SPC could be supportive here. Possibly an application for funding from the Town Team would work here. Cllr Bourke seconded the motion.

(d) Motion in the name of Cllr Peir Leonard –Received 30/08/21

‘That Arklow Municipal District allocate 40k from discretionary funding to Arklow Town Team to provide them with match funding so as to apply for leader funded projects for the town’

The members were reluctant to support this motion – Cllr Leonard re-iterated that with the match funding, €200k could be sought and this is an opportunity Arklow MD should look at. Cllr Bourke stated that the timing was off- would like to support this but not at this time. Cllr Kennedy stated that this would dilute the discretionary funding too much – a lot already asked for. Cllr Murphy suggested that a discussion on the issue of match funding/discretionary funding is required.

(e) Motion in the name of Cllr Tommy Annesley –Received 01/09/21

'That this Council proposes that a medical suite in the new Arklow Primary Care Centre be named after Dr Declan Connolly who died in 2007. Dr Connolly had an enormous impact on the people of Arklow through his sterling work as a G.P. as well as his passionate involvement in Arklow Rugby Club and as a highly respected Dáil Candidate for Fianna Fáil. It is highly appropriate that Dr Connolly's name be associated with one of the medical suites in the new Arklow Primary Care Centre given his unique commitment and dedication to the welfare of all the people of Arklow'.

The motion was seconded by Cllr Bourke and all members agreed. Draft letter to the HSE with the request.

(f) Motion in the name of Cllr. Pat Kennedy –Received on 23/08/21

'That Wicklow County Council look at providing funding for two bus shelters, one for the village of Aughrim and one for the village of Annacurra as both of these villages have a bus service 4 times a day. These bus shelters would also provide shelter for the children waiting for school buses'.

Cllr Fitzgerald seconded the motion – Cllr Kennedy asked that it be considered for discretionary spending.

(g) Motion in the name of Cllr. Pat Kennedy –Received on 23/08/21

'That this Council provide funding to reconstruct the footpath in Brewery Lane, Rathdrum. This footpath facilitates a large volume of houses and is bad need of repair as it is non-existent in some places'.

Cllr Bourke seconded the motion.

(h) Motion In the name of Cllr Pat Kennedy & Cllr Pat Fitzgerald – Received on 18/09/21

'That Arklow Municipal Council look at continuing the footpath works in the village of Greenane. Greenane is a rural village which has had little investment over the years. It did receive funding for some street lights a few years ago. These works are essential for the safety of all pedestrians walking to the village shop and to the church'.

Cllr Bourke seconded the motion. A Hill DE agreed to look at this.

(i) Motion In the name of Cllr Pat Kennedy & Cllr Pat Fitzgerald – Received on 18/09/21

'That Arklow Municipal Council assesses the condition of the remaining footpaths and the road surface in Woodview Park, Avoca. Some of the footpaths were re-laid a number of years ago however the remaining footpaths now need to be assessed. The road surface also needs to be assessed as it is in a very poor condition. This is a very busy estate as it is the only through road to the football pitch'.

All agreed with this motion.

Item 11: Correspondence

Correspondence received was circulated to the Members prior to the meeting.

Item 11 : A.O.B

Cllr Leonard requested that the members make a submission to the OPW about the Flood Relief Scheme.

Cllr Bourke has received several complaints about the old Hills Garage site - dilapidated – Can AMD write to the owners.

Cllr Annesley expressed disappointment at the light show organised by WCC on the North Quay – setting was very dangerous – the show was not promoted beforehand and not enough was known about it. Can this be passed on to the relevant section?

Cllr Kennedy asked all to spread the word and to ask people to be vigilant with their pet dogs – worrying sheep is a big issue for farmers at this time of the year. Income can be hugely affected by one attack. Urge owners to keep their dog on a lead.

Cllr Leonard highlighted the difficulty homeless people are facing this time of year – unable to contact anyone in the Housing Section – Cllr Kennedy asked that the members look to meet with the SEO out of session to discuss this issue.

C Lawless DA asked for the members agreement to the latest design for the rainbow crossing on the Main Street – It was agreed to proceed with the new design.

The members discussed the lack of ambulance service cover in the district on Tuesdays – C Lavery DM suggested that the members follow this up with the HSE directly.

Minutes confirmed at the Arklow Municipal District Council Meeting held on Wednesday the 8th December 2021.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District.

Signed: _____

Ms. Claire Lawless, District Administrator, Arklow Municipal District