

County Wicklow Public Participation Network

Representative Report

Please complete and return to countywicklowppn@gmail.com within one week after each meeting.

Name of Committee: Transportation Water & Environmental Services SPC

Name of Representative: Tim Morgan

Date of Meeting Attended: 19th June 2017

Most important actions or issues to emerge from a County Wicklow PPN perspective:

The Agenda for the meeting was as follows:

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 27/02/17
2. Environmental Services:
 - a. Burial ground sub-committee update
 - b. Update on Blue Flag beaches
3. Roads & Transportation Services:
 - a. Overview of M11/N11 Corridor Study – Needs Assessment Report
 - b. Update on Speed Limit byelaws
 - c. Update on County-wide Parking byelaws
4. Electric vehicles / E charging
5. Any Other Business

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read, agreed and signed off.

2a. Environmental Services – Burial ground sub-committee update

There are up to 37 burial grounds across County Wicklow and some are running out of space. A report was presented by Helena Dennehy on behalf of the sub-committee listing the following policies:

- 1) Definition of Locals only
- 2) Advanced Purchase – double graves at time of burial / purchase only
- 3) New Extensions – Lawn cemetery style
- 4) Headstones & Surrounds – Memorial applications
- 5) Part Lawn cemetery graveyards – requirements in relation to removal of illegal surrounds, etc.
- 6) Pricing policy going forward
- 7) Signage policy – open graveyards
- 8) Capital Programme over 10 years
- 9) Closed cemeteries – proposals / rights of burial (possibly 7 graveyards)
- 10) Health & Safety programme – Users of graveyards – undertakers, grave diggers, community programmes, etc.
- 11) Municipal District (MD) minimum responsibilities for maintenance.
- 12) Height/depth/location of headstones/memorials.

She clarified that policies numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, & 8 have been agreed to date by the SPC. In relation to policy 5 the sub-committee recommend that the Council continue to operate lawn cemeteries as they have been doing without changing the guidelines.

Under policy 10 a full review of health & safety is being carried out in each graveyard and under policy 11 it has been agreed that additional maintenance funds would be sought in the 2018 budget.

In relation to policy 9 on closed cemeteries there is no further action required by the sub-committee or SPC. Work will be undertaken by the Environment section of the Council.

Policy 12 is still to be agreed by the sub-committee. The maximum permitted height of a headstone or memorial is 6 ft, the width is 3 ft 8". The location would be determined by the layout of the graveyard. Headstones in a lawn cemetery must be erected on the foundations provided.

Under policy 1 'Locals Only' are defined as people living within 8km of the graveyard at the time of death, or born and reared in the area of the graveyard (for Arklow, Wicklow & Baltinglass MDs) OR as people living within 8km of the graveyard and resident within County Wicklow at the time of death, or born and reared in the area of the graveyard (for Bray & Greystones MDs). The Locals Only policy does not apply to previously purchased graves or to graveyards where there is no space restriction.

Under policy 2 the Council will ensure that plots are sold only as the need arises and allocations will be in strict rotation. Single graves will allow for a maximum of 3 burials and double plot graves may only be acquired at the time of purchase.

Under policy 3 the Lawn style layout will be introduced and extended on a progressive basis to existing burial grounds as new sections are developed, to all graveyard extensions and to all new cemeteries. In a lawn cemetery no kerbing, gravel or flag stones are permitted around graves.

The cost of grave spaces has been set at €800 for a single plot and €1600 for a double plot. The cost would be reviewed after 3 years. An urn wall will be constructed in a selected graveyard in each of the Municipal Districts.

2b. Environmental Services - Update on Blue Flag beaches

The press release issued by Wicklow County Council (WCC) was circulated and shows that WCC has been awarded Blue Flags for 4 beaches (Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South, Greystones South and Bray South Promenade). Bray South has regained the Blue Flag it lost in 2000. A Green coast Award has been given to Arklow South beach. Green Coast Awards recognises beaches for their clean environment, excellent water quality and natural beauty.

3a. Roads & Transportation Services - Overview of M11/N11 Corridor Study – Needs Assessment Report

Mr Michael Flynn, a director of Services in the Council, presented a brief summary of the M11/N11 Corridor Study. The Needs Assessment Report was commissioned by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) in support of the M11/N11 Corridor Study. The section of the road covered by the report is between Jct 4 (M50/M11) and Jct 14 (Coynes Cross) but the report concentrates on the stretch between Jct 4 and Jct 8.

The Needs Assessment showed the following:

There is a shortfall in the existing capacity of the M11/N11 mainline corridor, and capacity will need to be increased as far south as Jct 8 (Kilmacanogue) in order to cater for current and future demand.

There is no immediate need for capacity improvement between Jct 8 and Jct 14.

The capacity/operation of existing Junctions 6, 6a and 7 (Bray South) needs to be improved.

Upgrades need to be made to the regional/local road network to provide improved access between existing mainline M11/N11 junctions and the regional/local road network.

The improvement works have been divided into 4 phases:

- Phase 1 is the construction of one-way service roads north of Jct 8 (Kilmacanogue);
- Phase 2 is the upgrading of the M11 to 3 lanes to Jct 6 (Bray Central) within the existing road reservation and the upgrading of Jct 6;
- Phase 3 is the upgrading of the N11 to 3 lanes to Jct 8, service roads between junctions 6 and 7 including the closure of direct access at Jct 6a and a major upgrade of Jct 7;

- Phase 4 is direct access/junction improvements between Jct 8 and Jct 14 (Coyne's Cross).

Within TII the project moves from Strategic & Transport Planning Department to Capital Works Dept. TII have asked for the M11/N11 project to be considered for funding in the mid-term review of the National Capital Infrastructure Investment Plan. The funding and works will be contingent on the outcome of this review. WCC will engage with TII to seek progressing elements of the proposed works under alternative funding streams.

Sean Quirke, Director of Services with the Council said that the report does not address public transport.

The report of April 2017 can be downloaded from: http://www.tii.ie/tii-library/strategic-planning/strategic-reports/M11_N11_Needs_Assessment_Report.pdf

3b. Roads & Transportation Services – Update on Speed Limit Byelaws

The speed limit review which commenced in 2016 involved a public consultation in late 2016. Over 200 submissions were received with about 439 issues. The submissions are being assessed and it is hoped the Bye-laws will be brought to the Council for adoption in Q3 of 2017.

3c. Roads & Transportation Services - Update on County-wide Parking byelaws

The review of County-wide Parking byelaws recommenced in 2016. They were before the SPC and full Council in 2016 and back to the MDs in early 2017. The Draft byelaws were amended according to the requirements of the MDs but the main body of the draft byelaws didn't change. There was a 6-week public consultation up to 18th April 2017 and all submissions have been reviewed by the Council. Most of the submissions were made by email and most from Greystones MD.

Each MD is requested to review submissions as they affect their area and make recommendations for the Final byelaws, which are to be presented to the full Council at their June meeting.

Clr Fitzgerald queried the 15 minute 'grace' period from when a vehicle is parked until the time a ticket must be purchased. If the parking charge starts from 10am then a vehicle doesn't need to have a ticket until 10.15am. Helena Dennehy confirmed the new parking byelaws will be effective from the 28th of August 2017.

4. Electric vehicles / E charging

Clr Steven Matthews has asked for a report on how the Council might further support electric vehicles such as the provision of charging facilities both on-street and in other locations, and other available regulatory options.

The ESB is responsible for the installation of charging points. The following link shows the location of charging points in the county and other useful information: <https://www.esb.ie/our-businesses/ecars/charge-point-map> . There are a total of 14 charging points in County Wicklow: 6 in Bray, 4 in Wicklow and 3 in Arklow.

The ESB have no plans to install further chargers in County Wicklow at this time and they are awaiting a decision from the CER on the future of public charging infrastructure. The CER confirmed that the report and recommendations of the consultation process and the future of charging points will issue in Q3 of 2017.

5. AOB

The rep referred back to an issue in the last meeting where Clr Fitzgerald had received complaints regarding the transport of soil to a deposition site near the Wicklow/Wexford border. Clr Fitzgerald confirmed that the movement of the soil was permitted and there were no further complaints after the Gardaí had dealt with the allegation of dangerous driving.

The rep stated that he was glad to report the faulty public light in Woodlands estate had been repaired and the light in the wastewater pumping station compound at Woodlands has been switched off in daytime!

Date of Next Meeting: 23rd of October 2017 at 2.30pm

Helena Dennehy suggested to members of the SPC that they should think of new policy areas to focus on.