

MINUTES OF MAY MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, MILL ROAD, GREYSTONES, CO. WICKLOW ON TUESDAY 28TH MAY 2024 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present: Councillor S. Stokes, Cathaoirleach
Councillors M. Barry, T. Fortune, D. Mitchell, L. Scott & G. Walsh

Also Present: Mr. M. Nicholson, Greystones Municipal District Manager
Mr. R. O'Hanlon, Greystones Municipal District Engineer
Ms. T. Kearns, Greystones Municipal District Administrator
Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor G. Walsh, seconded by Councillor L. Scott and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 30th April, 2024, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

2. REPRESENTATIVES FROM WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HOUSING SECTION

The members had been circulated with details of a proposed Age Friendly Housing Scheme for 1, Mill Road, Killincarrig prior to the meeting and the Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Sean Keane, Engineer and Mr. Thomas Campbell, Architect to the meeting. They gave a slide show presentation on the proposals for four units on the site and they answered any queries from the members in relation to same.

Mr. Keane pointed out that the extension of the existing house would be demolished and re-configured and three additional units would be provided and that it was intended to use traditional concrete building methods though that could change at the tender stage. They stated that the units would be fully accessible and would have adequate parking and cycle parking and that while the units would be wired for EV charging, there would not be EV points provided for each unit. They pointed out that a wall would separate the new units from existing houses and that this was acceptable to the adjoining householders. They stated that there was a huge demand for this type of housing and that the Council also urged down-sizing by eligible tenants to this type of unit to free up larger houses for families.

It was then proposed by Councillor T. Fortune, seconded by Councillor S. Stokes and agreed that the proposals for Age Friendly Housing units at 1, Mill Road, Killincarrig, as circulated, be adopted and agreed.

In response to a query from the members in relation to the Age Friendly Housing units at Main Street, Kilcoole Mr. Keane stated that he would follow up on the footpath works outside the building.

In relation to various issues in the Farrankelly Close housing estate Mr. Keane informed the members that the Council was having roof repairs carried out in the estate at present which should be completed in the next few weeks and that they would then work through other issues. He pointed out that there was no budget for replacing windows and doors in the estate and he stated that door handles and hinges were the tenants' responsibility to replace.

The District Engineer stated that the ramp provided at the estate complied with all regulations.

The District Manager informed the members that Wicklow County Council had made a special case for funding for Farrankelly Close but had received no funding. He stated that they had been seeking funding for door and window replacements in the county for many years and he pointed out that they were dealing with the worst issue in Farrankelly Close, i.e. the roof repairs, first and would then look at what else could be done from the budget available. He advised the members to send in details of any complaints they received. He stated that Farrankelly Close was not the only estate in the district that had issues and that they were in regular communication with the Department seeking funding.

Following discussion members requested that a monthly report on works in the GMD be provided to the members. It was pointed out that a progress report was provided at the monthly meetings of Wicklow County Council and this this matter could be discussed by the members of the new Council elected in June.

3. 2024 SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS

Members had been circulated with details of the proposed 2024 Schedule of Municipal District works prior to the meeting.

Members were critical of the fact that, once again, Greystones Municipal District compared very badly in comparison with the other MDs when the budgets were broken down on a per capita basis. They stated that the Greystones district was expanding continuously but that there was no comparable increase in the budget. They stated that the cost of carrying out works in the district were higher than in other areas and they suggested that when Municipal Districts were set up they were deliberately under-resourced so that new separate entities could be set up and funded. They stated that the whole system was flawed and the distribution of funding was unfair and that they had the same issues year after year despite having met with the Chief Executive.

The District Manager agreed that the budget process was not ideal but stated that the Schedule of Municipal District Works could not be finalized until the Council received details of all grants from the Department. In relation to staff numbers he pointed out that Greystones Municipal District did get two additional drivers but that the Council had not yet been able to fill the position of Technician despite having advertised it twice. He stated that there was an ongoing problem with staff recruitment for local authorities and he pointed out that when staff were appointed, salary costs rose. He agreed to check on the staff audit and revert back to the members.

Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor M. Barry, seconded by Councillor S. Stokes and agreed to adopt the 2024 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Greystones Municipal District, as circulated, in accordance with Section 103A of the Local Government Act 2001.

4. REPORT FROM DISTRICT ENGINEER

A report from the District Engineer had been circulated to the members in advance of the meeting and he answered any queries from the members in relation to same. In relation to recent flooding issues at Kenmare Heights / Kindlestown Park he informed the members that there were no major issues with drains at this location and that the flood water possibly ran off from the playing pitches at Dr. Ryan Park where other measures might be needed. He stated that changes to driveways and dishing kerbs also often caused run offs into other areas and he pointed out that all the issues were being looked at and an application would be submitted to the Office of Public Works for funding for flood mitigation works. He stated that the flooding at the harbour and in Hillside was a matter for Irish Water as they needed to carry out works to resolve the issues at these locations. He stated that he had forwarded all relevant information to Irish Water but had received no real feedback from them except to say that they were doing a plan. He suggested that anyone affected by flooding in these areas should lodge a complaint individually with Irish Water and with the Environmental Protection Agency. He pointed out that the storm drains at the harbour were working well but that too much water was getting into the foul systems and Irish

Water could carry out separation schemes in the interim. He commended the work carried out by the Fire brigade in cleaning up the harbour area following the flooding.

In relation to the Chapel Road scheme, the District Engineer stated that work was progressing on this now and he confirmed that dogs were not allowed on the boardwalk during the Blue Flag season as the boardwalk was part of the Blue Flag area. He stated that additional toilets and bins would be provided at the south beach car park for the summer season and would be in place before the June bank holiday weekend. He pointed out that while the Council received funding from the Department of Transport and the NTA to provide roads, footpaths and cycle lanes, no funding was available for maintenance or resurfacing of same. He stated that verges could be cut back from the existing budget and notices served on landowners requesting them to cut back hedge, but that was all.

The District Engineer informed the members that the issue of upgrading of facilities at the cove had been passed to the Environment Section and that he would follow that up with them. He pointed out that removal of algae from the steps at the cove would require regular intense chemical cleaning which was not environmentally friendly. He informed the members that the new solar bins for the district were being wrapped at present and should be ready soon and he stated that delays with the Killincarrig Village Renewal Scheme were due to staff shortages in the Active Travel Team. He informed the members that the Part 8 for the proposed Artistic Open Space at the La Touche road car park had not commenced as reports on various aspects of the project were still being compiled and he stated that there was no further update on Dr. Ryan Park since last month. He informed the members that signage in relation to the Cliff Walk would be erected as soon as possible.

In relation to the Charlesland / Farrankelly dual carriageway the District Engineer stated that a new crossing would be provided there soon and in response to a query from the members he stated that while it would be feasible to reduce the dual carriageway to single lanes, it would require serious analysis and the current traffic volumes would not warrant same. He assured the members that this was not something being considered by the Council. He pointed out that members should notify him of locations where they considered Driver Feedback signs would help reduce speed on roads and he would look at the best options for calming traffic at such locations. He stated that staff in the Greystones district were not trained to use speed cameras but pointed out that the area at the schools at Blacklion was included in the Safe Routes to Schools programme which was progressing.

Members welcomed the report from the District Engineer and the works carried out in the district. They requested that one or two signs to warn that the steps at the cove were 'slippery when wet' be erected.

5. NOTICES OF MOTION

- (a) Motion in the names of Councillors M. Barry & T. Fortune:
"Greystones Municipal District should install two benches, one at each Tree of Hope planted by Greystones Tidy Towns and Greystones Darkness into Light."

Following discussion on this motion, the District Engineer stated that he would arrange to have a bench installed at the picnic area near Aldi. He stated that permission for a bench at the harbour area would need to be sought from whoever gave permission for the Tree of Hope to be planted there.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

1. The District Administrator informed the members that the shortfall for the 2024 People of the Year Awards was €1,626 and following discussion it was agreed to fund this sum from the members' discretionary budget for 2024.

2. The District Administrator gave an update on twinning with Holyhead that had been submitted by Kathleen Kelleher.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. Kelleher for the update and Councillor Mitchell for attending the recent presentation of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Award to visitors from Holyhead. He looked forward to attending the Holyhead Festival in July and he invited anyone interested to join them.

3. The District Administrator informed the members that a response received from Wicklow County Council in relation to the Breeches, Kilcoole had been circulated recently.
4. The District Administrator informed the members that the Greystones Town Team was seeking additional funding for the Christmas Lights event this year as it was considered that there would be a deficit. She pointed out that no details of projected income and expenditure had yet been submitted with the request.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. The District Administrator informed the members that a date needed to be set for the first annual meeting of the new Greystones Municipal District and she proposed that the meeting be held at 10.00 a.m. on Monday 24th or Tuesday 25th June.

Following discussion it was agreed that the meeting should be held at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday 25th June 2024.

2. The Cathaoirleach thanked the Council officials and staff for their work and support over the last five years and commended his fellow Councillors on their achievements. He paid tribute to Councillors D. Mitchell and G. Walsh who were retiring. He thanked them both for their years of service and wished them well in their retirement.

These sentiments were echoed by all the other Councillors present and the District Manager who spoke on behalf of the staff of the Municipal District.

Councillors Mitchell and Walsh thanked all for their good wishes and for their work and support during their time on the Council.

The Cathaoirleach then presented both Councillors with a picture of Greystones in recognition of their time in public office.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____ **CATHAOIRLEACH**

CERTIFIED: _____ **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**

DATED THIS: _____ **DAY OF** _____ **2024**