

Minutes of Bray Electoral Area Committee meeting held in Civic Offices, Greystones on Monday 17th January 2011

Present: Cllrs. J.Byrne, J. Ryan, C. Fox, M. Glynn, B. Nevin, P. Vance, Cllr. J. Brady

Apologies: Cllr David Grant

In Attendance:

Des O' Brien, Director of Services

Eoin Heslin, Senior Executive Engineer, Greystones

Myra Porter, Senior Staff officer, Greystones Area Office

Catherine Halligan, Senior Executive Officer, Housing & Corporate Estate

Ann Marie Roberts, Assistant Staff Officer, Greystones Area Office

At the outset, Cllr Nevin welcomed Cllr Sarah Wray, who was present to observe the meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr. Vance and seconded by Cllr. Byrne that the minutes as circulated, be confirmed and signed.

2. Consideration of Housing Report.

C. Halligan circulated the Housing Report to the Members and responded to questions, in relation to boarded up houses in Monastery Grove and ongoing problems in Ballywaltrim Heights. Cllr Byrne referred to ongoing problems which owners of houses in Rockfield Park are experiencing in relation to obtaining the deeds to their houses; this has been raised at previous Committee meetings. Members requested that a letter issue to the Law Agent requesting that this matter be regularised as a matter of urgency and that residents be updated regarding progress on the matter.

Members raised concerns in relation to correspondence, which recently issued requesting that representations in relation to housing applicants be made in writing and that the consent of the applicant must be obtained, if members required information regarding a particular application. C. Halligan explained that this was due to correspondence recently received from the Data Protection Office, advising Housing Authorities that it was a breach of the legislation to circulate personal details regarding applicants for Social Housing. As a result of this, it is no longer possible to circulate members with advance notice of proposed housing allocations. C. Halligan agreed with members that the new protocol would cause problems, as a lot of useful local information is available from members, regarding housing applicants. C. Halligan confirmed that all allocations are in accordance with the Councils adopted Scheme of Letting Priorities, she further advised that there will be a new national scheme introduced shortly, which allows some local flexibility.

3. Report on Recent Planning Applications.

D. O'Brien referred to the previously circulated Planning Report and confirmed to the Members that there were no new developments or issues of note since the last meeting of the EAC.

Members referred to the proposed public meeting in Kilmacanogue on January 25th in relation to the Area Plan and urged local people to get involved. Members also referred to the meeting on the same day in relation to the proposed Special Amenity Area Order for the Sugarloaf and expressed reservations regarding the restrictions, which such an order would put in place regarding development by local people. Members all agreed that the order was not necessary as there are adequate protections already in place and Council officials and members have protected the area well over the years. They felt that an SAAO would have a negative impact on local families, as this is a living and working environment. D. O' Brien explained that there is a request from the Minister of the Environment to put an order in place; it is also an objective of the County Development Plan.

4. Update on Taking in Charge of Housing Estates.

D. O'Brien advised members that there are approximately 140 developments in the County, which are not in charge. The Planning SPC has adopted a protocol for taking in charge, which will speed up the procedure. It is intended to progress 20 developments from the list initially. The procedure is time consuming, as developers are slow to respond to the Council and residents associations also have to be consulted. In addition there is a shortage of staff available to deal with the matter. D. O'Brien

agreed to circulate an update prior to the next meeting; there are not many developments in the Bray area.

5. List of Works Proposed and Carried out in the Area.

E. Heslin circulated his report and members again referred to dangers at the pedestrian crossing in Kilmacanogue, as pedestrians assume that it is a controlled crossing and motorists treat it as a ramp. It was requested that it be improved. E. Heslin advised that is an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing; at the request of the members he agreed to examine the possibility of upgrading it to a controlled crossing, subject to the availability of funding, which would cost in the region of €10,000.

Members also discussed the damage to roads in the area caused by the recent severe weather. They did not agree that the estimate of €450,000 listed at the Roads SPC meeting held earlier in the day was in any way adequate to cover the cost of repairs required in the Bray/Greystones area. The list did not include all of the roads in the area, which require attention. E. Heslin explained that this was a preliminary list, which was prepared during his absence on holidays, on the understanding that further areas would be added. It was agreed that the list circulated at the SPC meeting would be forwarded to the members and they would add the roads, which in their opinion required attention and return same to the Area Engineer. Members were also concerned that the northern end of the county was not receiving a fair share of funding for road repairs. It was agreed that most of last year's allocation could be spent in the south of the county, on the strict understanding that it would not happen in the future.

Members raised concerns regarding gritting on the R755, which is in different engineering areas. As both ends of the road were gritted at different times, it resulted in only part of the road being passable at any one time. E. Heslin agreed to re-examine the gritting route, having regard to this issue.

Members praised the work of staff during the recent cold spell and asked that their appreciation be passed on.

6. Notices of Motion.

There were no notices of motion for this meeting of the EAC.

7 Correspondence and items outstanding.

M. Porter advised members that Notice under the Derelict Sites act was served on the owner of a property at Rocky valley, Kilmacanogue. The Notice requires the demolition of the building, removal of all debris and erection of a hoarding, by 5th March 2011.

8. Any Other Business.

- In response to members concerns regarding the damage to the barriers on the R117, E. Heslin advised that despite seeking quotes for repairs, no responses were received. This is due to the nature of the works, which require that underground piling be undertaken. When the barrier was repaired previously, a fibre optic cable in the vicinity was damaged adding considerable costs to the contract. Contractors are reluctant to take on the works, due to the risk of a similar occurrence. E. Heslin agreed to contact contractors directly regarding same.
- Members mentioned damaged barriers on the Herbert Road near the exit from the N11, which need to be replaced/repared. E. Heslin agreed to examine it.
- Members requested the provision of a barrier on the R755 in Rocky Valley in the vicinity of Roadstone's Quarry where cars have gone off the road stating the adjacent house, which is lower than the road, is in danger of having a vehicle crash onto its roof.
- It was requested that the litter uncovered following the trimming of medians and verges on the N11 be removed. Members stated that it particularly bad at the Glen of the Downs.
- Members requested the provision of a yellow box at the junction of Giltspur Lane and the Southern Cross Road, to allow residents exit.
- It was requested that overgrowth on the footpath from Enniskerry village to Monastery be cut back, as the path is very narrow.
- E. Heslin agreed to examine request from members that the single yellow line on Churchill in Enniskerry be changed to a double yellow line, as residents are experiencing problems parking at night.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday 7th March 2011 at 11.30am in County Buildings, Wicklow.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator

Dated this ____ **day of** _____ **2011**

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