

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

Present:

Cllrs. G. Jones, T. Fortune, S. Harris, Cllr C. Hayden, Cllr D. Mitchell
Joe Lane, Director of Services, Community & Enterprise & Greystones Area Manager
Des O'Brien, Director of Services, Planning
Myra Porter, Senior Staff Officer, Greystones Area office
Allyson Minion, Senior Staff Officer, Housing
Eoin Heslin Senior Executive Engineer

1. Confirmation of Minutes.

It was proposed by Cllr. Jones and seconded by Cllr. Hayden that the minutes of meeting held on 15th November 2010 as circulated, be confirmed and signed.

As Catherine Halligan had arrived early, it was agreed to proceed to item number 6 on the agenda.

6. Housing Progress Report

Members requested that future Housing Progress Reports would include the numbers awaiting housing, in each electoral area. C. Halligan advised that the number changes on a daily basis, it is 2,500 at present. In response to members queries C. Halligan advised that meetings have taken place between the Council and architect regarding outstanding works in Farrenkelly Close, it may be necessary to use retention monies to complete the development.

Members queried the allocation of €175,000 for Disabled Persons Grants and were advised by C. Halligan that this will be used to finance existing applications for grants from tenants in social housing. Members were critical of the fact that large numbers of social houses do not have central heating. C. Halligan advised that current indications are that the 2011 allocation of finance to the Housing section could be €1.25m which is half of last years budget.

Members raised concerns that members are no longer given advance notice of proposed housing allocations. This causes problems for members who support the building of social houses locally, in order to ensure that priority is given to housing local people. 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.

C. Halligan agreed to email Cllr Hayden directly in response to his query regarding anti social behaviour in Burnaby Lawns.

2. Works Proposed and Carried out in the Area.

E. Heslin circulated his report and answered queries in relation to same.

Members made the following requests:

- Can suction sweeper clean footpaths to remove grit, which remains after the snow.
- Request property owners to cut back hedges etc., which are overhanging footpaths, before the nesting season starts – members to advise of particular areas of concern.
- Flooding on Rathdown Road, some works done, but there is still a problem.
- What is happening with footpaths grants for former Town Commissioner areas?
- Drains blocked and debris on Delgany to Blacklion Road, west of St Lawrences School.
- Traffic stopping at Windgates near bus stop to enjoy the view causing a hazard. Can a lay by be provided?
- Repair R761 on approach to Southern Cross Roundabout.
- Repair Church Road, pot holes and also edge of carriageway in a bad condition, particularly dangerous for cyclists.

Members praised the work of staff during and after recent severe weather conditions, particularly in relation to gritting and leak repairs.

Members referred to a meeting of the Roads SPC earlier in the day at which a list of all roads needing major road repairs and for which funding is to be sought, was circulated. They did not feel that the roads listed in the Greystones area, reflected the substantial amount of repairs which are required. E. Heslin advised that this was a preliminary list which was prepared in his absence on holidays. He has since submitted an additional list, which the members advised did not appear to be included on the list circulated at the meeting. E. Heslin stated that he would ensure that funding is requested to repair areas affected by severe potholes.

3. Notices of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

4. Correspondence and items outstanding from previous meetings.

There was no correspondence for this meeting.

5. Any Other business.

- Members referred to the recent destruction of the picnic area on Mill Road. The area was destroyed when the Christmas trees for recycling were set on fire. Members stated that this area is not suitable for tree recycling, as its not supervised and also a large quantity of trees were allowed to build up. Members requested that a more secure location, be found for next year, as the refurbishment of the area will put a serious strain on resources in the area.
- Members again raised concerns regarding the continued lack of staff in the area and the impact of same on provision of services. As this is the largest area office under the control of the Council, it was requested that that the need for replacement technical and administrative staff be addressed, as management previously advised that this issue would be re-visited in the new year.
- Cllr Hayden advised that the speed ramps were removed from the spine road at Delgany Wood when it was connected to the Blacklion Road, but were not re-instated, following completion of the works. D. O' Brien advised that it should not be a problem to re-instate the ramps, if they were included in the originals plans for the development.

7. Update on taking in charge of 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.

8. Status report on planning in Kilcoole and Greystones.

D. O' Brien answered members queries on previously circulated list. Members also discussed the recent refusal of permission on the La Touche site and stated that the appearance of the site detracts from the town centre, they also raised concerns regarding the safety of the structure which may not be secure. Mr O' Brien was also asked to confirm that the works carried out by the IDA at Charlesland was in accordance with the permission granted.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The next meeting will be held at 9.30am on Monday 7th March 2011 in the County Buildings, Wicklow

Signed:

Chairperson

Signed:

Meetings Administrator

Date:
