

Minutes of Greystones Electoral Area Committee Meeting, held in Civic Offices, Mill Road, Greystones on Monday 16th January 2012.

Present:

Cllrs. G. Jones, T. Fortune, G. Mcloughlin & 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
E. Heslin Senior Executive Engineer
C. Halligan, Senior Executive Officer, Housing

Apologies: Deputy Anne Ferris

1. Confirmation of Minutes.

It was proposed by Cllr. Jones and seconded by Cllr. Fortune that the minutes of meeting held on 21st November 2011, as circulated, be confirmed and signed.

Councillor Mitchell welcomed Colum O' Broin, Chairperson of Greystones Tidy Towns to the meeting, to give an update on proposals for Burnaby Park. Colum circulated a draft plan of current proposals, which were based on feedback received following public consultation. A working group was set up, following a public meeting, the intention is to open the park up to the town centre, the emphasis will be on good quality lighting, paving and seating. It is intended to create a central public space which can facilitate local events. Members welcomed the plans and commended the Tidy Towns on progress to date. It was suggested that consideration be given to inclusion of an adult out door gym, a bandstand and a commemorative area. Members also suggested that the proposed paved area at Burnaby Road side be reduced. Eoin Heslin advised of the Councils long term proposal to provide a two way cycle lane on Church Road which should be borne in mind and requested the provision of litter bins and that consideration be given to provision of coach parking for tour buses.

Colum O' Broin advised that further details and costs need to be examined as funding will determine exactly what works will be undertaken, some local groups have pledged financial support. It is intended to also consult with the Chamber of Commerce before putting the proposals on public display. The application for LEADER funding will be submitted by the end of February.

2. Housing Report

Catherine Halligan invited questions on previously circulated Housing Report. Members requested an update on the completion of snagging and outstanding works at Farrankelly Close and were advised that remedial works have commenced. Thermal imaging is being undertaken to ascertain whether additional insulation is required; this will be carried out, if necessary. In response to members queries regarding future proposals for provision of houses for those on the Housing list, C. Halligan advised that the the Department have indicated that they will consider proposals for small infill projects advising that the funding allocations will be reduced in coming years, otherwise Social Leasing and RAS schemes are the options. Members were also advised that the number of vacant houses in the area has been reduced to 9, work on recently vacated houses must be funded from the housing maintenance budget, and some funding is available for long term vacant properties and those requiring energy upgrades.

3. Notices of Motion.

There were no notices of motion.

4. Works Proposed and Carried out in the Area.

E. Heslin circulated attached report. In response to a previous request from members for details of future NTA funded road projects, E. Heslin advised that this information will be circulated by the Ministers office when projects are approved and will not be available in advance. Members were advised that it is proposed to go through the planning Part 8 process for proposed works from Lidl to the harbour and from Tesco to Blacklion. Proposals for Marine Road and the South Beach dog walk will be progressed through planning when plans are available.

Members requested the following works:

- Cut back hedges at Windgates north from Fishers farm, including Lord Meath's land.
- Request from 5 residents at northern end of Church Road, to improve sight lines at their entrances, which are blocked by parked cars. Members suggested that as there are two and a half parking spaces between most properties, yellow lines could be extended to prevent parking immediately adjoining entrances without reducing the number of spaces.
- Hedge cutting half way down Sea Road, Kilcoole, as far as Train Station.
- Hedge cutting at southern end of Kilcoole on right hand side, from the Newtown turn off to bramble corner.
- Traffic calming ramps on southern approach to Kilcoole, including speed ramps at bottom of Main Street.
- Provision of foot path between industrial estate and GAA Club in Kilcoole, reduction of speed limit at this location from 80kmph to 50kmph, speed limit sign overgrown at this location.
- Reduce speed limit through Kilcoole, especially near schools to 30kmph.
- Parking opposite entrance to soccer club on Lott Lane, Kilcoole causing problems for residents.
- Improve surface of junction of Hillside Road and Church Road, currently very difficult for wheelchair users.

E.Heslin advised members that an application to the NTA for funding to provide a footpath to GAA club in Kilcoole was rejected, as it is not in accordance with the policy to improve routes to public transport. The NTA appear favourable to a request for funding to improve the junction of Sea Road and Main Street Kilcoole.

In response to request for clarification regarding the works undertaken on lands owned by Greystones Golf Club, E. Heslin stated that he spoke to the Councils Project Manager who advised that he had a verbal agreement following a meeting with the Manager and head grounds man regarding the exact works to be undertaken. When works were completed the Golf Club had further requirements, the members and officers got involved and the matter is now the subject of legal proceedings. The Project Manager was of the opinion that an agreement was in place for the works carried out.

E.Heslin advised members that he would be meeting with the Principle of St Kevin's School regarding proposals for Rathdown Road. Cllr Mitchell stated that there was previously a rear pedestrian entrance from Church Lane, which could reduce traffic problems if re-opened. Cllr Jones cautioned that the entrance was closed due to safety concerns, the Gardai were involved and that Church Lane did not have continuous foot paths. Members also raised concerns regarding the safety of uncontrolled pedestrian crossings, elderly people are relying on them but the majority of cars don't stop for pedestrians.

5. Correspondence

M. Porter advised members about the proposed amendments to the Beach Bye Laws which are currently on public display. Members requested that a link to same be put on the Councils Face book site.

6. Status Report on Planning in Kilcoole & Greystones.

Members requested that the property of late Fr Ellis on Church Road, should be considered for Derelict Sites Notice. Members requested an update on taking in charge of Charlesland and advised of letter received from residents regarding the 33 public lights which are out of order. Des O' Brien advised that Planning are in correspondence with Ballymore Properties who have confirmed that they are awaiting tenders for completion of outstanding works, subject to the approval of the bank, a contractor will be on site in February. When outstanding works are completed the Council will consult with the residents and the members before progressing to take the development in charge. D' O' Brien discussed members concerns regarding future maintenance with the Director of Services for Roads who advised that the Council does not know what budgets will be available in future, but that it will not be possible to maintain the development to current standards. Members asked that Ballymore Properties be requested to repair the public lighting as a matter of urgency. D. O' Brien agreed to talk to the company. Members expressed concerned that the issue of taking in charge is dragging on. D. O' Brien explained that Ballymore Properties are managing the site at present and appear willing to complete outstanding works, however technically the original developers, Zapi Properties (Sean Mulryan and Sean Dunne) are responsible for the completion of the development. Ballymore Properties need the approval of the bank to proceed. There is a bank bond in place to ensure completion of the development. This was accepted by An Bord Pleanala at the time, the Council only accept cash bonds, as bank guarantees are difficult to enforce. D. O' Brien confirmed that Ballymore Properties are happy with the proposed names for the roundabouts which were agreed by the Council locally and have no objection to the erection of place names. Members requested an update for the next meeting.

Members expressed disappointment in relation to recent works at the La Touche Hotel, stating that the works have exposed more of the site and building which looks worse than it did previously. D. O' Brien advised that works are still ongoing and hopefully will not result in the property detracting further from the surrounding area when completed. Members were also advised that the site of Greystones Theatre was examined, particularly the view from the Supervalu car park. The Planning authority is of the opinion that the appearance of the building does not detract from the surrounding area to a material degree, there is a bond in place, but this cannot be used to improve the external appearance of the property.

7. Any Other Business.

Members referred to the recent fire at the picnic area on Mill Road and requested that next year a very large, clear sign be put in place to ensure that there are no Christmas trees left at this location for recycling.

Members referred to enforcement of legislation in relation to dog fouling. It was requested that consideration be given to the erection of signs similar to those provided by Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Co Co advising that the person in charge of the dog at the time of the offence is liable for an on the spot fine.

Members enquired about who to contact regarding the new directional signs recently erected on the N11, stating that the number appeared excessive and extravagant, particularly having regard to current economic conditions. E. Heslin advised that some signs are replacement signs and he understood the new signs were of a safer design in the event that a vehicle collided with a sign. Members were advised to contact Dermot Graham in Roads for clarification.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The next meeting is in Bray at 1pm on the 12th of March.

Signed:

Chairperson

Signed:

Meetings Administrator

Date:
