

**Minutes of Greystones Electoral Area Committee Meeting, held in County Buildings Wicklow on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2011.**

**Present:**

Cllrs. G. Jones, T. Fortune, D. Mitchell  
Phil O' Rourke, Administrative Officer  
Des O'Brien, Director of Services, Planning  
Myra Porter, Senior Staff Officer, Greystones Area office  
Catherine Halligan, Senior Executive Officer, Housing  
Eoin Heslin Senior Executive Engineer  
Apologies: Cllr Ciaran Hayden

**1. Confirmation of Minutes.**

It was proposed by Cllr. Jones and seconded by Cllr. Fortune that the minutes of meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011 as circulated, be confirmed and signed.

**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:

- Confirmation that a contractor will be employed again this summer to maintain the seafront, in order to ensure compliance with Blue Flag criteria. It was also requested that the railings on the seafront be repainted, where they have rusted.
- Update on flooding problem in the harbour.
- Update on La Touche Hotel site.

In response E. Heslin advised that a decision has not been made in relation to maintenance of the seafront, it may not be possible to engage a contractor, due to budgetary restraints. Mr Heslin advised members that discussions have taken place with the National Transport Authority, regarding the possibility of funding to provide a cycle path in the harbour and on the dog walk. If this funding is forthcoming, it will assist in maintaining and upgrading the general area.

Members were informed that the Council issued consent issued on Friday last to open the sewer at the harbour to facilitate the carrying out the necessary works to alleviate the flooding. It is anticipated that works will commence within the coming week and will take 6-8 weeks to complete, provided no problems are encountered.

A letter has issued to the owners of the La Touche Hotel, requesting details of their future intentions for the property and requesting that the property be made secure.

Cllr Fortune raised concerns regarding the property at 19 Beechbrook, adjacent to the public laneway which has been the subject of anti social behaviour resulting in a fire. Cllr Fortune was not satisfied with the response, which issued from the Director of Housing following a request for a meeting on site and requested an explanation as to why a meeting cannot take place. Cllr Fortune requested immediate action in relation to the closure of the laneway.

**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.**

- Cllr Jones 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.
- Members requested that the Economic Development section of the Council be more proactive and engage in dialogue with land and property owners in order to promote economic development and prevent dereliction. In particular they mentioned the village of Delgany where the pub has closed and there are empty premises.  
Members requested that an official responsible for enforcing Derelict Sites legislation would attend the next meeting of the Town Council, as was requested at the recent Town Council meeting to provide an update on prominent sites in, Greystones, Kilcoole and Delgany with a view to including them on the Derelict Sites Register and imposing financial penalties. In particular they mentioned the Urell site in Kilcoole, La Touche Hotel and the Delgany Inn.

- Members again mentioned the traffic problems caused by the lights in Blacklion. E. Heslin advised that a complete study has been undertaken and modifications carried out, a report on same will be available at the next Town Council meeting.

## 6. Housing Progress Report

Catherine Halligan advised members that a meeting took place on Friday last with officials from the DOEHLG in relation to the housing capital allocation for the current year, confirming that the amount of €4.8m has been allocated. Ms Halligan advised that this amount is significantly less than in previous years and also includes the provision for all of the towns in the county, previously each Town Council got an individual allocation. There is also a possibility that the amount may be further reduced, when the DOEHLG receive clarification on outstanding queries from Bray TC. This allocation will only cover the provision of 8 houses in Avoca, 6 houses in Roundwood and outstanding works on the scheme in Ashford. The remainder of the allocation will go to final accounts and existing contractual commitments.

An allocation of €2.9m was provided for the Rental Accommodation Scheme and Social Leasing with an indication that more money may be available if additional houses can be identified for both schemes.

A further €905,000 has been provided for energy efficiency improvements to existing housing stock.

It was agreed to circulate a copy of the figures to the members.

In response to members queries Ms Halligan advised on how the Social Leasing Scheme operates and also advised on the snag list for Farrenkelly Close. A number of meetings have taken place recently between the developer, architect and the Council; outstanding works should be completed in the near future.

## 7. Status report on planning in Kilcoole and Greystones.

D. O' Brien answered members queries on previously circulated list and undertook to revert to Cllr Fortune in regarding his concerns that houses under construction by Kingscroft Developments overlook houses in Beachdale, Kilcoole. M. Porter circulated the list of developments recently advertised for taking in charge.

In relation to the taking in charge of development at Charlesland, D. O' Brien advised that the Taking in charge of the dual carriageway was being dealt with by the Roads Section. The indications are that this is proceeding, there are issues in relation to sightlines, vegetation and surface water and the title has to be finalised to facilitate any future installation of services. The final snags are being completed by the Council for the spine road and will be forwarded to the developer shortly; this includes issues regarding the playground, tabled crossings and signalised crossings. There are no plans or requests at present to take the individual estates in charge, but the snag list for these is also being finalised at present to ensure compliance with standards, before refunding bonds. Members raised concerns regarding the large number of public lights out of order on the dual carriageway and also the pedestrian lights at Shoreline, which have never worked. It was agreed to follow this up with the Roads Section, in order to have it resolved, prior to taking in charge.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The next meeting will be held at 1.00pm on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2011 in Greystones.

Signed:

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**Chairperson**

Signed:

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**Meetings Administrator**

Date:

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