

Minutes of Greystones Electoral Area Committee Meeting, held in Civic Offices, Main Street, Bray on Monday 12th of March 2012.

Present:

Cllrs. G. Jones, T. Fortune, G. McLoughlin & Cllr D. Mitchell, Deputy Stephen Donnelly.
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
M. Malone, A/Senior Executive Officer, Housing

1. Confirmation of Minutes.

It was proposed by Cllr. Jones and seconded by Cllr. Mitchell that the minutes of meeting held on 16th January 2012, as circulated, be confirmed and signed.

2. Works Proposed and Carried out in the Area.

E. Heslin circulated attached report and answered member's questions regarding same.

3. Notices of Motion.

(a) Motion in the names of Cllrs G. Jones, D. Mitchell & G. McLoughlin:

"That the Council would provide an estimate on changing all the current Pedestrian Crossings in the electoral area to controlled crossings and further more to seek funds from the NTA for such works. The level of ignoring these crossings by motorists is huge and the present position would appear to be a health and safety issue."

Cllr Jones stated that motorists are completely ignoring the uncontrolled crossings, particularly the crossings in Greystones, at the Doctors surgery on Church Road and the crossing on Mill Road at the entrance to the town; he is concerned that it is only a matter of time before an accident occurs. Concerns were also raised in relation to the pedestrian crossing at Centra in Kilcoole, as the lighting is bad at night, making it difficult to see pedestrians. Members also stated that motorists are approaching crossings at speed, despite the advance road markings. E. Heslin advised that pedestrians are required to indicate their intention to cross by waiting at the side of the road until cars stop, but most people are stepping straight out into traffic. Members disagreed and requested that the motion be further considered, particularly with regard to the crossing at the Doctors Surgery on Mill Road, as a lot of elderly people attending the Doctor use it.

(b) Motion in the names of Cllrs G. Jones, D. Mitchell & G. McLoughlin:

"That a report be provided on Kendalstown Rise Estate Delgany in view of the concerns expressed over lack of public lighting, sewerage problems, potholes, and a general lack of services by Wicklow County Council."

E. Heslin advised that he is unaware of any complaints or issues raised by residents of Kindlestown Rise, he has checked with existing staff and the previous Area Engineer, he is of the opinion that the recent emails to Councillors may have been in response to the introduction of the Household Charge. Cllr Mitchell advised that he forwarded an email of the Engineers response to the resident who raised the issues. M. Porter advised that the residents should contact the office if they have any issues of concern.

(c) Motion in the names of Cllrs D. Mitchell. Jones & G. McLoughlin:

"What is the situation of obtaining the site for the Kilcoole playground on Sea Road which is dependent on a planning permission of an Action Plan."

Members were advised of the current position, that Council is awaiting a final submission from the land owner in order to finalise the Action Area Plan. Cllr Fortune stated that this will be submitted within the coming weeks.

4. Correspondence & Items outstanding.

There were no items outstanding or in correspondence.

5. Any Other Business

In answer to member's queries as to when the lights on the crossing on Bellevue Road will be activated, E. Heslin advised that the Council have requested the ESB to undertake the works on two occasions, he will pursue the matter.

Deputy Donnelly raised the following items:

- Enquired as to whether the damaged ground lights from the Park & Ride to the train station would be replaced, as there were complaints that some lights had been covered over instead of replaced. E. Heslin advised that the lights were originally funded by the NTA and would be too expensive to replace. All of the lights were deliberately damaged by a single act of vandalism.
- Complaints received in relation to the works on the South Beach walkway, particularly in relation to the finished surface. E. Heslin explained that preparatory works have been undertaken in advance of NTA works to be completed later in the year. Depending on the amount of funding available, it is hoped to provide a finished surface on the promenade, similar to the surface at the train station.
- Enquired about the works on Bellevue Road, which had given rise to complaints, particularly in relation to the speed bumps. E. Heslin advised that the purpose of the cushions was to slow down traffic and the other works carried out were to improve the cycle network and pedestrian safety, all of which have been effective. Members also raised concerns and requested that in future they be notified of road works in advance. Following discussion E. Heslin advised that he will request that the cushions be re-examined to see whether some can be removed and also the table at Bellevue Heights would be reviewed. Members were advised that it is the intention that major road works will go through Part 8 Planning process in future to facilitate consultation.
- Whether the playground at Mill Road could be extended into the adjacent grass area, either by the addition of equipment, or as a grassed area.

Cllr Jones advised that the footpath from the South Beach to the Harbour is uneven; E. Heslin advised that it will be improved as part of the NTA works.

Cllr McLoughlin advised that public consultation will take place shortly regarding the proposed plans for Burnaby Park and enquired whether new lighting would require planning permission.

Members referred to the recent screen erected on Golf Club lands adjacent to the R761, stating that it might require planning permission.

Members raised concerns regarding a house at Three Trout's Bridge which is in a dangerous condition due to vandalism and fire and enquired whether the Council have issued a demolition order for it.

In response to queries from members regarding the request from Applewood Heights residents to close the through road, M. Porter gave an update on the current position and advised that the Council is awaiting the response of the Gardai, as per email to members of March 1st. E. Heslin advised members that the Council is currently undertaking a design for road improvements in the area, which will be carried out in 2013 and may improve the situation for residents, the consultants will be asked to consider the impact of closing the road.

6. Housing Report

Margaret Malone joined the meeting and answered member's queries as follows:

Members were advised that remedial works have commenced on houses in Farrankelly Close and are likely to continue into the summer.

Rossmore, Newtownmountkennedy – Council is investigating alternative ways of progressing the 8 apartments in this development, following instructions from the Department to stand down from contractual arrangements in relation to affordable housing.

Delgany Hills – M. Malone agreed to clarify for members, whether there were any requirements under part V of Planning to provide social housing.

Social housing – M. Malone advised that as there will be no new houses available, the options for those on the housing list are the Rental Accommodation Scheme or rent supplement. The response to advertisements seeking properties Social Leasing Scheme has not been successful in Wicklow.

Allotments – M. Malone advised that the interest in demand appears to have waned, she agreed to investigate.

7. Status Report on Planning in Kilcoole & Greystones.

D. O' Brien answered member's queries on previously circulated list.

8. Update on Taking In Charge of Charlesland.

D. O' Brien advised that Ballymore Properties have assured the Council that funding will be available to undertake outstanding works and that the public lighting will be repaired first. If the funding is not forthcoming, it is the intention to make a claim against the bond. All members raised concerns regarding the ability of the Council to maintain the development, if it is taken in charge. D. O' Brien confirmed that public lighting, roads and services will be maintained, but the Council will not be responsible for landscaping. Members referred to the current arrangement where all residents are paying fees to management companies who maintain the area, including landscaping and enquired what will happen in the case of these contracts. D. O' Brien agreed to talk to Ballymore Properties to clarify what contracts are in place and whether householders are obliged to pay for maintenance as it may be possible to grant a licence to continue this arrangement.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The next meeting is at 1.30pm in Greystones, on 21st of May 2012 at 1.30pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator

Date: _____