

# **Greystones Electoral Area Committee Meeting held in Civic Offices, Greystones on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011.**

## **Present:**

Cllrs. G. Jones, T. Fortune, G. McLoughlin & D. Mitchell.  
J. Lane, Director of Services, Area Manager  
M. Porter, Senior Staff Officer, Greystones Area office  
Margaret Malone, Administrative Officer, Housing  
D. O' Brien, Director of Services, Manager Bray Town Council.  
E. Heslin Senior Executive Engineer

## **1. Confirmation of Minutes.**

It was proposed by Cllr. Jones and seconded by Cllr. Fortune that the minutes of meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 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 it. Members were advised of proposals by Tidy Towns to plant the boundary of South Beach car park with birch trees.

Cllr Fortune thanked the engineer for his input in relation to completion of the footpath at Sea Road, Kilcoole, stating he understood that work on same would commence shortly. It was also requested that gulley's in Beechwood near Convent Hill and at the old school be examined and also that the ramp at the Parish Centre in Kilcoole be repaired or replaced as a matter of urgency, as its in very bad condition. Following a meeting with the Garda Traffic Sergeant regarding problems at the southern end of the village Cllr Fortune enquired about the possibility of installing a speed ramp in the vicinity of Ashlawn to slow traffic and improve safety, until such time as funding is available to redesign the junctions in the vicinity.

Cllr Jones stated that despite assurances given by the Engineer at previous meetings, he is advised by Greystones Golf Club that they did not give consent for the scale of works undertaken on their lands and that legal action may now be pending and the Council will also incur unnecessary expense carrying out remedial works. Members also raised concerns in relation to ongoing and recent works on Bellevue Road and South Beach, stating they had received a number of negative comments regarding same. A complete list of all NTA projects was requested.

Members also referred to complaints received from the owners of the new premises on the former Hills Garage site. The traffic wardens have asked them to remove vehicles from the footpath at the front of their premises; the owners claim that they own this land which is the former forecourt of the old garage. E. Heslin advised he would check ownership that the vehicles were causing trip hazards by damaging the path and manhole covers.

Cllr McLoughlin referred to traffic problems at Mooney's shop on Trafalgar Road, causing difficulty for those loading large purchases e.g. coal. The problem is particularly bad at school times, when cars park to drop off children. In addition the school warden is allowing children to cross one at a time, instead of in groups, causing further delays and disruption. M. Porter agreed to contact the warden.

Members requested that the street furniture at the Interchange be painted and that the suction sweeper clean behind the seat outside the train station and that the Engineer examine the signs at the taxi rank on Church Road, as they are causing obstruction to passengers entering taxis.

It was agreed to deal with Notice of Motion 3 (a) at this point in the meeting

(a) Notice of Motion in the names of Cllr D. Mitchell, Cllr G. Jones & Cllr G. McLoughlin;

"When will the footpath through Beachdale, Kilcoole green area be complete and what is holding it up."

E. Heslin agreed to examine gulleys in Kilcoole and explained current situation regarding the path on Sea Road, advising that it was likely the path would be completed and a post and rail fence erected. Members were advised that it was unlikely the ramp at the Parish Centre would be replaced this year due to shortage of funding, it was hoped the work could be done early in New Year. The request for a loading bay on Trafalgar Road will be considered next year. E. Heslin confirmed receipt of letter from Gardai in relation to Kilcoole, containing a number of suggestions which he will consider; however there is no funding available at present to undertake any works. In relation to road works adjoining Greystones Golf Club, E. Heslin advised that he was advised by Council officials the prior agreement had been given. Members requested that a meeting of all parties be arranged to resolve the matter and that in future the Council should not enter on to private lands with prior written consent. E. Heslin advised members that he was unaware of the proposal to provide traffic calming cushions of Bellevue Road and only became aware of them when he inspected the road, following receipt of a complaint. Members stated it was not acceptable that local Councillors, engineer and Area Manager did not receive details of the works

and were not consulted in advance. In particular they were critical of the nature of the works being undertaken, given the current economic circumstances. They referred to the large number of adverse comments which they have received, the works appear purely cosmetic to the public at a time when there are more urgent works required. They felt that the cushions recently installed resulted in making Bellevue Road more dangerous than previously.

E. Heslin responded that while he could understand public reaction to current road works, the funding is provided from the NTA and is in line with their policy to improve pedestrian and cycling routes, the Council does not have any discretion to use the money for other works, and he would not be in favour of turning down the funding.

Members requested that their concerns be conveyed to the Director of Roads with a request for an urgent response. It was also requested that members receive full details of all NTA projects in advance of works.

### **3. Notices of Motion.**

(b) Notice of Motion in name of Cllr D. Mitchell, Cllr G. Jones & Cllr G. McLoughlin:

"The Council should issue hedge cutting notices on the road from Kilquade Church to the N11 as trees are obstructing. Also road surface badly needs improvement."

M. Porter explained that a hedge cutting notice was served on the owner earlier this year and was ignored. This is a planning enforcement issue, due to non compliance with a condition of Planning in relation to roadside boundary. Planning Section has been requested to pursue same.

Cllr Fortune requested that hedges be trimmed on both sides of Sea Road, Kilcoole from Holywell to the train station.

### **6. Housing Report.**

It was agreed to deal with this item next as Margaret Malone had arrived.

Margaret updated members on Housing issues and confirmed that consent had been received for the Council to purchase 8 apartments in Rossmore, Newtownmountkennedy. This will be made available as social housing in the New Year. Members were advised that the Council is going out to tender in relation to the outstanding works at Farrankelly Close. It is intended to use the retention money to engage a contractor. Members expressed disappointment on behalf of tenants in Farrankelly Close. The houses are occupied for 2 years and there are a number of outstanding issues. In particular it was requested that the 5 houses which do not have attic insulation would be prioritised for attention.

In response to member's queries regarding the Housing List, Margaret advised that the Council is trying to ensure that those on the list are offered more choices. The options currently available are the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) or Social Leasing.

### **4. Correspondence & items outstanding.**

M. Porter referred to recent decision by members of Wicklow County Council to close the laneway between Beechbrook and Upper Grattan Park. Members were advised that the NTA were willing to provide funding to upgrade the laneway, in the event that the members had decided to keep it open. As decision to close the laneway was made having regard to the experiences of local residents as a result of serious anti social behaviour, members were of the opinion that the quality of life issues associated with keeping the laneway open could not be disregarded and therefore regardless of the availability of funding, their decision was to close the laneway.

Members were advised of contents of response from IT Section regarding provision of free Wi Fi in Greystones Office; they requested that the matter be progressed. It was also requested that the local Chamber of Commerce be requested for an update on the availability of free Wi Fi locally.

J. Lane advised members of recent allocation of funding under the Sports Capital Programme as follows;

€20,000 for outdoor gym equipment in Charlesland

€60,000 to upgrade facilities in Newcastle, by provision of an all weather multi use surface.

Members welcomed this news and J. Lane agreed to email them with details. In response to query regarding the vacant post of the Sports Partnership Co-Coordinator, J. Lane confirmed that there will be an administrator in place.

### **7. (a) Status report on Planning in Kilcoole and Greystones.**

Des O' Brien joined the meeting and answered member's queries on previously circulated list. Members welcomed approval for proposed development by Procap on the IDA lands.

In response to members queries D. O' Brien gave an update on the following Derelict Sites:  
La Touche Hotel – Works previously agreed to improve safety and appearance should commence shortly, liquidator has given approval for expenditure.  
Merville, Church Road – Not considered derelict following clean up previously, has fallen into disrepair, will be inspected for inclusion on Derelict Sites Register.  
Site on Blacklion to Delgany road, rubble remaining following demolition, will be included on Register.  
Thorndale – Works carried out, new fence erected, appearance improved.  
Mill Road – 3 houses – Planning Section have advised liquidator as to what works are required, its understood that the works will be undertaken, as it is the intention to rent the properties.  
Kilcoole – Urrell site – Currently on Register. Planning has requested that site be re-instated. T. Fortune advised that if the wall is removed and site top soiled, Tidy Towns have agreed to take over maintenance.  
Old RAC Barracks, Kilcoole – Not being pursued at present, it does not qualify as derelict, as it does not negatively detract or impact on adjoining properties.

D. O' Brien agreed to examine site of Greystones Theatre, following members concerns in relation to its unfinished appearance, particularly when viewed from Supervalu car park.  
He also agreed to examine planning application on a site opposite the graveyard on Lott Lane, Kilcoole, there are issues regarding outstanding charges. Members advised that there is a problem with anti social behaviour.

**(b) Update on Taking In Charge of Charlesland.**

Des O' Brien advised members that negotiations are ongoing with Ballymore Properties on behalf of developers to ensure that all outstanding works are completed to the Councils satisfaction. D. O Brien confirmed that outstanding works include provision of playground on the green area of the spine road and four crossings including a controlled pedestrian crossing near Superquinn. The intention is to take the spine road and dual carriageway in charge and to ensure completion of all outstanding works in other areas before refunding bonds.

Members expressed concern that the Council does not have the resources to maintain the development to its current standard and that the overall appearance of the area will decline when taken in charge. D. O' Brien advised that the Council will take in charge services, water, sewerage etc., but that residents will have to cover the cost of grass cutting and maintenance of open spaces as is the current situation. Members requested that consultations take place with residents and management companies to resolve the issue of future maintenance of items which the Council will not take over responsibility, before a final decision is taken. Members were concerned that one of the main approaches to the Greystones would become neglected and would detract from the town, having a negative impact on business and in particular would not attract people to the IDA site. D. O' Brien agreed to discuss this with Ballymore Properties representative and the Director of Services for roads.

**(c) Naming of dual carriageway and roundabouts in Charlesland.**

Members agreed with the attached list of names which were proposed by a sub committee of the Town Council. Details will be forwarded to the Town Council for consideration, prior to forwarding to the Planning Section for agreement with developer.

**5. Any other Business**

J. Lane advised members that the Council is seeking to employ two interns under the FAS programme, to examine the feasibility of the Greystones to Wicklow coastal walk.

Cllr Jones commended the staff in Greystones Fire Station for the work they carried out to improve the external appearance of their premises, stating this is a fine example to other premises in the town.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The next meeting will be held in Greystones at 1.00pm on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012, unless there is a County Council meeting that afternoon, in which case the Committee meeting will be held on the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> in Wicklow.

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Meetings Administrator

Date: \_\_\_\_\_