

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, GREYSTONES ON TUESDAY 27th JUNE 2017 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present: Councillor G. Walsh, Cathaoirleach
Councillors N. Lawless, G. McLoughlin, D. Mitchell & J. Whitmore

Also Present: Mr. M. Nicholson, Greystones Municipal District Manager
Mr. R. O'Hanlon, Greystones Municipal District Engineer
Ms. M. Porter, Greystones Municipal District Administrator
Mr. E. Forristal, Executive Engineer, Greystones Municipal District
Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

Apologies from: Councillor T. Fortune

At the outset votes of sympathy were passed to the families of Laura Dempsey, Colin Davidson and Martin O'Rourke who died recently. A minutes silence was observed in remembrance of them.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor G. McLoughlin, seconded by Councillor N. Lawless and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 30th May 2017, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

2. UPDATE ON VACANT SITE LEVY

As the Wicklow County Council planners had not yet arrived, it was agreed to proceed with the agenda.

3. PRESENTATION BY HELEN HOWES, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

As Helen Howes had not yet arrived, it was agreed to proceed with the agenda.

4. WCC REPORT ON SPEED LIMIT REVIEW

The members had been provided with a report on the submissions received in relation to the speed limit review prior to the meeting. The District Engineer went through the proposals and answered any queries from the members in relation to same. Following discussion the members suggested that the speed limit on the R761 Mill Road in Greystones should remain at 60 kph where it currently is and the entire old Mill Road should revert back to 50 kph. They also suggested that the limit in Delgany village should be reduced to 30 kph. It was agreed that the original email from Declan O'Brien in relation to the speed limits be circulated to the members.

UPDATE ON VACANT SITE LEVY

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Sorcha Walsh, Senior Planner and Ms. Lisa Rothwell, Planner to the meeting. They circulated reports to the members in relation to the Vacant Site Levy and the sites identified in Greystones town. They outlined the background, legislation, procedures and details involved in the process and they answered any queries from the members in relation to same. They invited comments from the members in relation to the sites listed.

In reply to queries from the members, Ms. Walsh stated that phase one of the process would look at vacant sites in Greystones and the other major towns in the county and that phase two would extend to other towns and villages like Kilcoole. They pointed out that Newcastle was not included in the levy scheme.

In relation to the La Touche Hotel site, Ms. Walsh pointed out that no commencement order for the current planning permission had yet been submitted. She pointed out that the owners of the site were permitted to remove fixtures and fittings from the newer section at the rear of the building only, which they had commenced, but that no demolition or other works could be carried out until all the conditions of the planning permission were complied with. She advised that it was a requirement of the planning permission that the exterior of the original building be retained and that a Conservation Management Plan, be submitted in relation to same. She pointed out that the agent for the developer and the site foreman had been informed of this and asked to adhere to good site management in the interim, especially in relation to dust control and starting/finishing times of works etc.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the planners for their very informative presentation.

PRESENTATION BY HELEN HOWES, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

The Cathaoirleach welcomed MS. Helen Howes from the Public Participation Network to the meeting. Ms. Howes circulated an information pack on the PPN to the members and she explained the background and aspirations of the network as well as the benefits of being a member. She answered any questions from the members in relation to same.

Following discussion during which all the members commended Ms. Howes on the work done, and welcomed the initiatives to allow people to be part of the decision making process, the Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. Howes for her presentation and assured her of the support of the Greystones MD members.

5. UPDATE ON SOUTH BEACH PLAYGROUND

The District Manager informed the members that the Part 8 planning process for the new south beach playground would be advertised this week and that the details would be on public display from the 28th June to the 11th August 2017 with submissions being accepted up to the 25th August 2017. He pointed out that the new playground would be bigger than the present one and, when completed, would be the only fully accessible playground in the county. He invited suggestions from the members for the recycling or re-use of the equipment in the current playground.

6. UPDATE ON GREYSTONES HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT

The District Administrator circulated a report received from Wicklow County Council outlining progress with the Greystones harbour development, together with a map showing the temporary re-routing of the entrance to the Cliff Walk while construction works were ongoing.

Following discussion it was agreed that a meeting should be called with all interested parties to finally decide on how to proceed with the allocation of moorings and fishermen's huts. It was also agreed to await a response from the harbour clubs in relation to the issue of people jumping into the harbour from the north pier. All present stressed the dangers of this practice. It was also agreed to write to the Minister in relation to the provision of a new Coast Guard Station in Greystones.

In response to a query from the members, the District Engineer pointed out that the proposed improvement works planned for the Cliff Walk would be carried out by the Council's direct labour staff and, while this would probably take a bit longer, the Council would have more control over the works and there would be less impact on the public.

7. REPORT FROM GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ENGINEER

A report on works carried out and planned in the district was circulated to the members and the District Engineer answered any queries from the members in relation to same.

Following discussion it was agreed that the following issues be referred to Wicklow County Council:

- Widening of footpath at Church Lane/ Church Road, Greystones
- Parking on cycle lanes at Killincarrig
- Roundabouts at Killincarrig
- Zebra crossing outside Centra in Kilcoole
- Potholes/sunken drains at Farrankelly Roundabout on R761 and Sea Road, Kilcoole
- Pedestrian crossing / barrier / safety gate at playground in Kilcoole
- Marking of walkway from Greystones to Sugarloaf
- Provision of bench at Remembrance Garden in Burnaby Park

8. LOCAL AUTHORITY ESTATE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

A report outlining details of the ten applications received for local authority estate grants was circulated to the members. The report recommended that each of the groups be allocated a grant of €250 and that the balance of the €8,000 fund be divided among the estates, having regard to the number of social houses in each estate.

Following discussion it was agreed to allocate grants as follows when the required information was submitted by each group:

Ard na Mara, Kilcoole €610
Beechcourt Avenue & Corrig Drive, Kilcoole €425
Beechwood Park, Kilcoole €315
Bramble Corner, Kilcoole €250
Druids Brook, Kilcoole €865
Farrankelly Close, Delgany €1,125
Kenmare Heights, Greystones €1,000
Killadreenan Close, Newtownmountkennedy €900
Kindlestown Park/Rivendell Grove, Greystones €2,260
Newcastle Residents Association for Seamount Drive €250

9. NOTICES OF MOTION:

- (a) Motion in the names of Councillors G. McLoughlin & D. Mitchell:
"That Wicklow County Council provides an update as to what is being done to remove people who have illegally moved caravans into The Rocks as it is over three weeks since they arrived and this site is a protected area. In addition there are serious health and safety issues emanating from this trespass".

As time was running out it was agreed to defer this motion until the July meeting.

(b) Motion in the names of Councillors G. McLoughlin & D. Mitchell:

“That Greystones Municipal District recognises the huge service two principles gave to education in Greystones with over 60 years between them - Sister Kathleen in St. Brigid's and Catherine Coveney from St. Laurence's - upon their retirement this summer, with an official presentation before the meeting in July”.

Following discussion on this motion it was agreed to invite Sister Kathleen and Catherine Coveney to attend at the Civic Offices at 7.15 p.m. prior to the July monthly meeting, and that they would be presented with flowers and a certificate to mark their retirements.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

1.The District Administrator referred to correspondence received in relation to a €10,000 budget for a tourism related project in the district for which the members had been invited to submit proposals. She pointed out that the following projects had been suggested for funding from this grant:

- Signing / paths for the walkway from the Railway Station to the Wicklow Way
- Greystones Outdoors Development for the north beach
- Signage and naming of the roundabouts on Charlesland Dual Carriageway
- Permanent flag poles at Greystones Rail Station
- Historical information board at the entrance to the Burnaby

The District Manager informed the members that the Greystones Outdoors Development, though a very good proposal, was a commercial enterprise and not suitable for the grant funding.

Councillor Lawless stated that she had a further proposal for phosphorus based walkways / cycle paths but was awaiting further information from the supplier.

Following discussion it was agreed to defer making a recommendation on this grant money until the July meeting and that all suggestions would be summarised and circulated to the members prior to that meeting.

1. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

DATED THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2017.