

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES,
GREYSTONES ON TUESDAY 26th JANUARY 2016 AT 7.30 P.M.**

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

Also Present: Mr. M. Nicholson, Greystones Municipal District Manager
Ms. M. Porter, Greystones Municipal District Administrator
Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

Apologies: Mr. R. O'Hanlon, Greystones Municipal District Engineer

1. Confirmation of Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor J. Whitmore, seconded by Councillor D. Mitchell and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 8th December 2015, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

2. Representatives from Irish Rail

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Stephen King, Mr. Chris Rafferty and Ms. Jane Cregan from Irish Rail to the meeting.

Members stated that the proposed new DART timetables provided no extra trains from Greystones and in fact would result in longer journey times into the city centre. They stated that there was a need for an extra train from Greystones in the mornings, and additional carriages on other trains, and they asked if a train could be left in the station overnight for an early start from Greystones in the mornings, as had happened in the past. They also asked that a monitor be provided in the Greystones rail station to show train times,

Members pointed out that there was standing room only from Greystones on the Wicklow trains each morning and they enquired about the 20 miles per hour speed limit on the track at Glathule which they felt delayed the trains. They stated that as Greystones was being asked to take an increase in population, good road and rail networks were essential. They also enquired about coastal erosion issues and fare structures which were so much higher from Greystones than from Bray. They welcomed the work being carried out at Kilcoole station and they asked that a shelter be provided there too and that more trains would stop at Kilcoole. They also asked that a ramp be provided at Newcastle to allow access onto the beach there.

Mr. C. Rafferty informed the members that a curvature on the line at Glathule required the 20 miles per hour speed limit for safety reasons. He stated that the proposed new timetable would utilize the maximum number of carriages on trains and he stated that there were security issues with leaving a train in Greystones station overnight.

Ms. J. Cregan informed the members that fare zones for commuters were set by the National Transport Authority and she pointed out that passengers using Tax Saver and Leap Cards paid the same fare from Greystones and Kilcoole as from Bray although cash fares were higher. She stated that coastal erosion all along

the east coast was a big issue for Irish Rail and that they were working with Wicklow County Council at present to resolve issues at the Murrough in Wicklow.

Mr. S. King stated that, following submissions received, Irish Rail was currently discussing the proposed new timetables with the National Transport Authority to see if the service to Greystones could be improved.

During discussion the members stated that they were not satisfied because while commuters from the Greystones district had to pay higher fares, they were being disadvantaged by the new timetable to benefit commuters in other areas. They suggested that the Minister should remove the requirement for a population increase in the Greystones district. They also suggested that a double rail track could be provided up as far as the tunnel north of Greystones and from the north of the tunnel as far as Bray. They requested details of what exactly was required to provide better train services to the district so that they could lobby for this, and they suggested that a land drainage system on Bray Head would considerably help the erosion problem there. They stated that it was proposed to create a coastal walk all the way to Wicklow town via the Murrough and they stressed the need to encourage tourism in the district.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Irish Rail representatives for attending the meeting and they stated that they would revert to the members before the new timetables were agreed in about four to six weeks time.

3. Draft Local Economic & Community Plan

The District Manager stated that the Draft Local Economic & Community Plan, a copy of which had been circulated to the members, had been produced following submissions and public consultation and that it had to be endorsed by the Municipal Districts before being considered by the full County Council.

Members felt that the plan should include more detail on objectives to help commuters and to provide employment in the district. They felt that the objectives included in the plan were very good and stated that it needed a senior council official to oversee it and ensure that it was implemented. They welcomed the fact that a Wicklow 'brand' was now being developed and stated the need for the wicklow.ie website to be upgraded to an official County Wicklow website rather than a council one. The Cathaoirleach expressed concern about the splitting up of services being offered in the Bray Institute of Further Education. It was then agreed that the Cathaoirleach and District Administrator sign the Statement of Endorsement and forward it to Wicklow County Council.

4. Progress report on Harbour Development

It was agreed to consider notice of motion (c) as follows in conjunction with this item:

(c) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Jennifer Whitmore:

"That the Harbour Liaison Committee be re-convened to facilitate engagement with stakeholders at Greystones Harbour and that consideration should be given as to the best way to engage with other stakeholders that may not be part of this Liaison Committee, such as the fishermen".

The District Administrator circulated a report from Mr. S. Quirke, Wicklow County Council that outlined progress in relation to the harbour development. The members requested that the progress report on the harbour be circulated to them with the agendas for future meetings.

Following discussion the members requested that a date be set for a meeting of the original Harbour Liaison Committee and that they be advised of same together with details of its membership/representation. The members also requested that Mr. S. Quirke be invited to their February meeting and that a report be provided prior to that meeting on the following issues:

- Issue of a newsletter – members were advised at their November meeting that a newsletter would issue before Christmas
- Website – members were critical of the lack of information regarding current developments and requested that a website with up to date information and drawings be provided
- Fishermens representative – members acknowledged that there appeared to be difficulties communicating with the current rep and that other fishermen were not being kept informed
- Fishermen’s moorings – members asked for a copy of the final plan for the three fishermen’s moorings to be provided and confirmation of the procedure for allocating same
- Beach nourishment – members understood that this was to be done annually and requested confirmation and details of same in light of the erosion problems on the east coast
- Paving / railings / external finishes – members requested confirmation that all finishes in the development were as specified in the planning permission.

5. Report from Greystones Municipal District Engineer

As the District Engineer was not present at the meeting, the District Administrator informed the members that an update on works would be provided in February and that if they had any queries in the meantime, they should email them into the office. She also informed the members that following a recent meeting to discuss flooding in Holywell, Kilcoole it was agreed that temporary works would be carried out and a plan of action for a long term solution would be drawn up by the developer and submitted to the Council by the end of March.

The Cathaoirleach stated that further information was required in relation to the proposals for landfill and creating an eco-park at Priestnewtown.

The District Administrator referred to the list of proposed projects circulated by the District Engineer to be funded from the €110,000 discretionary fund to be provided. She pointed out that the schedule of municipal district works would not be available until next month but that the Engineer was seeking proposals for this discretionary funding in advance of that so that they could be properly costed. She asked members to email in their proposals within the next two weeks.

In reply to a query about funding allocated for the Cliff Walk, the District Manager stated that he would convene a meeting of the Cliff Walk Management Committee in the coming weeks and he pointed out that that Committee included representatives from both the Bray and the Greystones Municipal Districts.

6. To consider scheme for allocation of funding to voluntary groups and organisations by GMD

The District Administrator advised the members about corporate governance and procedures and the need to have a fair and transparent system of allocating funding to organisations. She stated that this year and going forward it was proposed to advertise and invite groups to make a formal application for funding and she referred to the draft application form and details that had been emailed to the members in this regard.

Following discussion it was agreed that groups and organisations would be invited to apply for any community funding available in 2016 and that the members would need to decide and agree on criteria for allocating any such funding.

7. Notices of Motion

- (a) Notice of Motion in the names of Councillors Derek Mitchell & Grainne McLoughlin:
“That the Engineer and Garda should liaise about how to improve driver behaviour at Zebra Pedestrian Crossings, specifically outside St. Patrick’s School and by the Tennis Club on Mill Road”

The subject of this notice of motion had been discussed at an earlier meeting with the Garda Superintendent who gave a commitment to have the Community Gardai in the district monitor the situation.

- (b) Notice of Motion in the names of Councillors Derek Mitchell & Grainne McLoughlin:
“That the Council should provide assistance by an employee or by a scheme worker to help maintain Priestnewtown graveyard”.

Following discussion on this motion it was agreed to ask Wicklow County Council to consider the possibility of having someone employed to help maintain the graveyard at Priestnewtown and to follow up on the replacement of the cemetery gate after refurbishment.

- (c) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Jennifer Whitmore:
“That the Harbour Liaison Committee be re-convened to facilitate engagement with stakeholders at Greystones Harbour and that consideration should be given as to the best way to engage with other stakeholders that may not be part of this Liaison Committee, such as the fishermen”.

This motion had already been dealt with in conjunction with item 4 on the agenda.

8. Correspondence

1. The District Administrator informed the members of the contents of a letter received from the 1916 Commemoration Committee in relation to funding they received from the MD last year. It was agreed to circulate this letter to the members.

The District Administrator also advised the members that the Council’s Memorial, comprising of two granite stones inscribed with the proclamation to be provided in Burnaby Park together with flagpoles and landscaping, should be completed by the end of March. She stated that this scheme was being administered by Mr. Brendan Martin in conjunction with the Greystones Tidy Towns. Members requested clarification on

whether or not a Part 8 process was required for this proposal because Burnaby Park is in an Architectural Conservation Area.

2. The District Administrator informed the members of the contents of a letter received from the Dag-T group seeking to use the Council Offices as the address for returning application forms. Following discussion it was agreed that this would not be practical and that Dag-T should be advised accordingly.

9. Any Other Business

No other business was discussed.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

DATED THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2016.