**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD REMOTELY BY ZOOM ON TUESDAY 27th JULY 2021 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present: Councillor L. Scott, Cathaoirleach

Councillors M. Crean, T. Fortune, D. Mitchell, J. Neary & G. Walsh

Also Present: Mr. M. Nicholson, Greystones Municipal District Manager

Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

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

Ms. M. Porter, Greystones Municipal District Administrator

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1. **Confirmation of Minutes**
2. It was proposed by Councillor D. Mitchell, seconded by Councillor M. Crean and agreed that the minutes of the annual meeting held remotely on 29th June 2021, as circulated, be confirmed and signed.
3. It was proposed by Councillor T. Fortune, seconded by Councillor G. Walsh and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held remotely on 29th June 2021, as circulated, be confirmed and signed.
4. **Presentation by Ms. Christine Flood, Wicklow County Council on South Beach Action Area Plan and Presentation by Mr. Brian O’Regan, Artistic Director, Whale Theatre in relation to provision of Arts and Culture Centre for Greystones**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. C. Flood, Wicklow County Council and Mr. B. O’Regan, Artistic Director, Whale Theatre to the meeting.

Ms. C. Flood gave a slide-show presentation on the proposals for the Council owned 11.3 acres of land at the south beach/old depot area. She went through the slides and answered any queries from the members in relation to same.

Mr. B. O’Regan gave a slide-show presentation on possibilities for the provision of an Arts and Cultural Centre for Greystones as well as for provision of an outdoor amphitheatre. He answered any queries from the members in relation to his presentation.

It was agreed that a copy of both these presentations would be circulated to the members.

Members thanked Ms. Flood and Mr. O’Regan for their presentations. They were keen to see an arts facility in the district and they suggested that an amphitheatre might be the ideal option. They spoke about the need for additional indoor space as well and about the issues around initial costs and ongoing funding. They suggested that any facility provided could link to the proposed media campus and with youth clubs, schools and other artistic projects in the area.

Members spoke about the need to retain a park and ride facility in the area as it was hoped to get additional trains to serve the town.

Ms. C. Flood stated that there was no time frame on the proposals for the land at the south beach. She pointed out that the members and council officials could agree what they wanted included on the site and then go to tender for development proposals. She stated that no public consultation would be held at this stage as it had already taken place when the south beach action area plan was agreed, but that any agreed proposals would be subject to the full planning process and members of the public could then make a submission on the planning application.

Ms. Flood agreed that it was necessary to retain the park and ride car ark and suggested that it was probably necessary to double the spaces available. She stated that the cost of multi-storey car parks was about €30,000 per space which made it prohibitive. She further stated that developers did not like to provide underground car parking for commercial premises since a recent fire in Cork that destroyed a whole shopping centre. She stated that an alternative site for the park and ride would need to be identified and that the NTA might be in a position to provide funding towards that.

Ms. Flood stated that an outdoor theatre, together with a hotel, office space, a primary care centre, commercial premises and some residential units could be included on the Council owned land. She suggested that the proposals for the land could be progressed a bit further and that the consultants could be asked to attend a future meeting of the MD to show sketches, etc.

Mr. O’Regan stated that the proposals he showed should qualify for Leader and other funding streams but he stated that it would be difficult to estimate the initial set up costs for an outdoor amphitheatre as that would depend on the size and the style of stage area required. He stated that the bulk of the works for an outdoor venue would be groundworks and concrete. He stated that an outdoor theatre would not address all the artistic needs in Greystones as there was also a need for rehearsal and display space.

Members suggested that a Feasibility Study on the proposals for an Arts and Cultural Centre should be carried out to assess the needs locally and to look at all aspects of Mr. O ’Regan’s proposals.

1. **Presentation from Wicklow County Council Housing Officials in relation to:**

* **Part 8 Report for 2 age friendly houses, 12 Mill Bank, Greystones**
* **Part 8 Report for 2 age friendly houses, 10 Castle Villas, Greystones**
* **Proposed Part 8 for 14 age friendly apartments, Carrig Eden, Greystones**
* **Proposed part 8 for 4 age friendly apartments in Kilcoole**

The members had been circulated with the Chief Executive’s Report on the Part 8 for 2 age-friendly houses at 10, Castle Villas, Killincarrig and at 12, Mill Bank, Killincarrig together with plans for age friendly housing at Main Street, Kilcoole and at Carrig Eden, Greystones, prior to the meeting.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Helena Fallon, Wicklow County Council to the meeting. Ms. Fallon went through the CE reports and stated that all issues raised at the public consultation process for the proposals at 12, Mill Bank and 10, Castle Villas had been dealt with. She also went through the proposals for age-friendly housing at Main Street, Kilcoole and at Carrig Eden and she answered any queries from the members in relation to same. She advised the members that it was hoped to entice older tenants who currently resided in larger homes in the district to transfer to these new units and release the larger homes for bigger families. She stated that open days and viewings would be held to entice tenants to move and she pointed out that the new homes would have much cheaper energy and heating bills.

Members welcomed these proposed developments and stated that good communication was required by the Council to highlight the positives of down-sizing to tenants. Members stated that the Carrig Eden site was a very sensitive site in the town centre and they requested a high standard of architecture, and perhaps an independent architectural review of the proposals.

Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor J. Neary, seconded by Councillor D. Mitchell and agreed that the Chief Executive’s report on the provision of 2 age friendly houses at 12, Mill Bank, Greystones be adopted.

It was further proposed by Councillor T. Fortune, seconded by Councillor M. Crean and agreed that the Chief Executive’s report on the provision of 2 age friendly houses at 10, Castle Villas, Greystones be adopted.

It was agreed at this stage to extend the meeting by fifteen minutes.

1. **Update on Cairn Homes Developments**

The District Manager gave a slide show presentation on the various developments by Cairn Homes in the district and outlined all the community facilities to be provided in those developments. He agreed to circulate a copy of the presentation to the members for their personal information, but not for circulation to the public. He informed the members that the creche/community building site in Glenheron had been sold and that the purchaser would commence building imminently. He pointed out that the Greystones Family Resource Centre would be accommodated in the new community building at an agreeable rent.

Members spoke about the need to manage all community facilities properly and the need for Wicklow County Council to keep control. They expressed concern about the ongoing maintenance of facilities provided and about the effect of ongoing construction works on existing residents.

1. **Report from Greystones Municipal District Engineer**

The District Engineer had circulated a report on works in the district to the members prior to the meeting but was not present to answer any questions in relation to same.

1. **Notices of Motion**

No notices of Motion were considered.

1. **Correspondence**
2. Ms. K. Coughlan advised the members that the Arts Office were seeking a contribution of €1,000 towards the marketing costs involved in the ‘Summer Songs in Greystones’ event to take place on 7th and 8th August. This was agreed.
3. Ms. K. Coughlan advised the members of the contents of an email received from Kathleen Kelleher in relation to the details of a forthcoming visit to Greystones by Councillors and Twinning Committee members from Holyhead and requesting that members meet with the delegation during their stay in Greystones. It was agreed to circulate the details and that members should advise Ms. Kelleher directly if they were available to meet the visitors.

It was also agreed to send a letter of congratulations to Mr. Andy Williams and Mr. Steve Miles, two kayakers from Holyhead who travelled from Holyhead to Greystones recently to raise £10,000 for charity.

1. Ms. K. Coughlan advised the members of the response received from Wicklow County Council in relation to items raised about the harbour development at the June meeting. It was agreed to circulate this to the members.
2. **Any Other Business**
3. Some members complained that the ice-cream van was still operating at the harbour and it was pointed out that this was allowed under the harbour bye laws.
4. Members also spoke about the recent closure of the north pier at the harbour because of health and safety issues. Following discussion they requested that the Council / Sispar consider employing a security guard to patrol the pier in the short term. Members also requested that discussions take place with all relevant stakeholders to formulate a long term plan to deal with this issue into the future.
5. The District Manager informed the members that the Transport Study for Greystones should be completed in the coming weeks.
6. The District Manager advised members that the Council was preparing tender documents for the construction of 2 water tankers for the fire service under its Capital Programme and that one of these was for Greystones.
7. The District Manager reminded the members that there were several offshore windfarms being developed from Dublin down to Wexford and that there may be opportunities for Wicklow, and in particular for Greystones, from these developments.
8. The District Manager also informed the members that the CPO for the Chapel Road improvement works had been published.
9. Finally, the District Manager notified the members that a new General Operative would be employed in the Greystones Municipal District in the coming week.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

DATED THIS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_DAY OF\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2021