**MINUTES OF MARCH MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD REMOTELY BY ZOOM ON TUESDAY 5TH APRIL 2022 AT 7.30 P.M. (DEFERRED FROM 29TH MARCH, 2022)**

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

 Mr. R. O’Hanlon, Greystones Municipal District Engineer

 Ms. R. Wood, Greystones Municipal District Administrator

Ms. C. Murphy, Greystones Municipal District

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At the outset, the members proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Eilo Vickers from Upper Grattan Park who died recently.

1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor L. Scott, seconded by Councillor M. Crean and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 22nd February 2022, as circulated, be confirmed and signed.

1. **PRESENTATION ON PRE-PART 8 FOR REDFORD PARK JUNCTION**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Margaret Hartnett, Senior Resident Engineer and Mr. Declan O’Brien, Executive Engineer from Wicklow County Council and Ms. Jane Halligan from DBFL Consultants to the meeting. Ms. Halligan gave a pre-Part 8 presentation on the Redford park junction and answered queries from the members in relation to same.

When discussing the matter, the members expressed concern about busses getting through the junction and the possible effect on commuter traffic if buses were impeded. They suggested that lay-by bus stops, or a roundabout, might be better. They also raised the need to take account of traffic from the Wexford direction and the Lidl and Cairn Homes development proposals and they enquired about how far north the road and footpath works would be continued. They also requested that traffic speed issues at the junction be addressed and enquired about when the Part 8 process would commence.

Members were advised that the width of the road did not allow for lay-by bus stops and that it was difficult for buses to get back into the flow of traffic from them anyway. They were advised that development proposals and existing traffic had been taken into account as well as measures to reduce speeding at the junction. They were informed that, while a new section of footpath would be provided, it would not be upgraded all the way to the north and that the Part 8 would be published either in April or May 2022.

The District Engineerstated that Cairn Homes were kept appraised with the Council’s priorities and that their plan was to potentially put a signalized junction at their site. He stated that this was a planning application so will go to An Bord Pleanala to be approved.

1. **ALLOCATION OF 2022 WCC ESTATE DEVELOPMENT FUNDING FOR GMD**

The members had been circulated with a report on the applications received and the recommended grants for each estate.

Following discussion it was agreed that grants be allocated as follows: Ard na Mara, Kilcoole – €405; - Beechcourt Avenue & Corrig Drive, Kilcoole - €303; Beechwood Park, Kilcoole - €237; Bramble Corner, Kilcoole - €209; Bullford Crescent, Kilcoole - €443; Burnaby Court/Avenue/Lawn & Millbrook, Greystones - €761; Cedarwood Crescent, Kilcoole - €377; Druids Brook, Kilcoole - €545; Farrankelly Close, Delgany - €671; Grattan Park/Upper Grattan Park/Lower Grattan Park, Greystones - €303; Hazelwood Crescent, Kilcoole - €275; Kenmare Heights, Greystones - €612; Killadreenan Close, Newtownmountkennedy - €565; Kindlestown Park/Rivendell Grove, Greystones - €1,358; Newcastle Residents Association for Seamount Drive, Newcastle - €480; The Willows, Kilcoole - €209; Wellfield, Kilcoole - €247.

1. **REPORT FROM GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ENGINEER**

The report from the District Engineer had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting and he answered any queries from the members in relation to same.

Following discussion it was agreed that the following matters be referred for further consideration:

* The barrier of the La Touche road car park – can be opened easily
* Discretionary funding schemes – 6% LPT was to be spent on improving footpath in estates
* Ramp from hillside road connecting to Heather view: wheelchairs users looking to get them removed.
* Improvements to ramps at Farrankelly Close
1. **UKRAINE CRISIS - GMD RESPONSE**

The Cathaoirleach thanked members of the community for the great response in welcoming people fleeing the war. She stated that there was a need for a central group to coordinate this and suggested that the Cathaoirleach of each Municipal District be part of that and that the district councillors be included going forward.

The District Manager gave a brief presentation which outlined the numbers involved and their accommodation needs. He stated that authorities were currently relying on hotels and guesthouses but that things would get worse at the height of the tourist season around April. He stated that the council had been asked to find immediate accommodation such as community halls, hotels, guesthouses and schools and he stated that the Leisure centre in Arklow had now been set up for fifty refugees. He stated that two hubs had been set up in Wicklow and Arklow which were manned by Ukrainians to provide information and collect donations.

The members were advised that there were seventy five refugees in Greystones at the moment but that it was unknown how many were in the county, as some have been taken in by people. He stated that Wicklow could get about 5,000 to 10,000 refugees. He informed the members that the Council had set up a response forum in each Municipal District and that Councillor Mags Crean was heading the Greystones forum. He stated that refugees had been lined up with community employment programmes, translators, hotline emails and dedicated resources and that the response from Greystones had been excellent. He stated that there were no issues with schools taking in students at the moment but that this may become a problem later on. He pointed out that the level of vaccination among refugees was only thirty per cent and that a vaccination programme was being set up with the HSE, as well as funding for psychological services. He reminded the members that some refugees might not go back to Ukraine.

Following discussion, Councillor Crean stated that the response forum was now operating locally and she welcomed Councillor Scott to sit on the committee with her to keep the lines of communication open. It was agreed to put this matter on the agenda again for the next meeting.

1. **NOTICES OF MOTION:**
2. Motion in the name of Councillor M. Crean:

“That Greystones Municipal District consider erecting a small stone or plaque near the flagpole in Burnaby Park to acknowledge the important contribution to our community of current and former emergency and security service workers”

Following discussion all members supported this motion and the District Manager agreed to report back to the members in relation to council policy and procedures.

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**
2. The District Administrator informed the members of the details of the Wicklow County Council Community Grants Scheme, the closing date for which is Friday 29th April 2022 and requested that the members advertise same to community groups.
3. The District Administrator informed the members that Wicklow County Council had received notification that the Compulsory Purchase Order for Chapel Road has been confirmed by An Bord Pleanala. She agreed to circulate a copy of the correspondence to the members.
4. The District Administrator informed the members of the contents of an email received from Ms. Kathleen Kelleher in relation to planned events by the Holyhead Twinning Committee and she agreed to circulate this email to the members.
5. The District Administrator referred to an email received from Councillor Mitchell in relation to a St. Patrick’s Day Parade in 2023.

Councillor Mitchell stated that a parade could not be organised this year as the time frame was too tight. He stated that people volunteering for next year would be directed to Greystones Town Team and that a meeting would be held in November. It was agreed that the holding of a parade next year could be looked at if there were enough volunteers to carry out the required duties on the day.

1. The District Administrator informed the members of the contents of an email received from Rory Gillen seeking land for a Squash Initiative.

Members agreed to invite Mr. Gillen to present his proposals at a meeting of the MD. In doing so, they spoke about the need to determine if there was a demand for the facility proposed and they spoke about the difficulties in managing existing sporting facilities.

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
2. The District Administrator raised the matter of continuing to hold future meetings on Zoom or in person. She stated that Zoom meetings were working well for all the staff and for members of the public.

Following discussion it was agreed to continue to hold meetings by Zoom until the end of May 2022 when the matter could be reconsidered.

1. Members enquired if development levies from the Cairn Homes development could be used for the provision of the community building there as there was a huge need for such a facility.
2. In response to a query in relation to the Dog Park the members were informed that the Municipal District would provide bark there when the area dried up during summer time.
3. Members welcomed the pending completion of the Enterprise Centre and enquired about what arrangement the Council had with Cairn Homes to manage and operate same.
4. Members were critical of the fact that Development Levies were being spent in other areas and not in Greystones and they expressed the view that this money should be spent for community development projects. They cited the need for a skate park in this area.
5. The District Administrator advised the members that Greystones Municipal District had entered into a one year trial with Go Cars to provide a sharing car in the South Beach car park, the La Touche Road car park and the Trafalgar Road car park at an annual fee for each space.
6. Members requested that an update on the Chapel road scheme be Included on the agenda for the April meeting.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

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

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

**DATED THIS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2022**