

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, MILL ROAD, GREYSTONES, CO. WICKLOW ON TUESDAY 26TH SEP. 2023 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present: Councillor M. Barry, Cathaoirleach
Councillors T. Fortune, D. Mitchell, L. Scott, S. Stokes & G. Walsh

Also Present: Mr. M. Nicholson, Greystones Municipal District Manager
Mr. R. O’Hanlon, Greystones Municipal District Engineer
Ms. T. Kearns, Greystones Municipal District Administrator
Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor G. Walsh, seconded by Councillor L. Scott and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 25th July, 2023, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

2. PRESENTATION FROM GREYSTONES TOWN TEAM

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Marlena Murphy, Mr. Tom O’Mahony and Mr. Richie Power from Greystones Town Team to the meeting. They gave a slideshow presentation that outlined details about their team members, vision, mission, stakeholders and capacities, volunteer perspectives, priorities and focus points, communications overview and plan, civic engagement and volunteerism, projects and requirements and they answered any queries from the members in relation to same.

Most members expressed their support for the Town Team and commended the number of volunteers that were involved with the various projects. They suggested that a copy of the presentation, together with details of the Town Team meetings, should be made available on the Greystones.ie website as many people did not connect the website with the Town Team. They requested that regular updates from the Town Team be made at MD meetings and they thanked the representatives for their presentation.

When the Town Team members had left the meeting, Councillor T. Fortune stated his objection to the model for Town Teams which he suggested undermined the democratically elected local Councillors. He pointed out that members were initially told that Town Teams were necessary to apply for funding streams that were not available to local authorities, but that more and more the Town Teams were replicating some of the work of the Council. He stated that control over local issues was constantly being removed from local authorities and being centralised and he re-iterated his issue with unelected people undermining elected representatives.

Councillor Fortune said that there was a motion already passed by Wicklow County Council that the chair of the district chair any town team formed and Councillors sit on board.

3. REPRESENTATIVES FROM GO AHEAD IRELAND

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Andrew Edwards, Mr. Adam Harvey, Mr. Derry O'Leary and Ms. Niamh Swords from Go Ahead Ireland to the meeting. They gave a slide show presentation that outlined the background information on their network area, key elements of their contract with the NTA, key numbers, driver recruitment data, local engagement, challenges, future aims and proposals for Bus Connects projects and routes. They answered any queries from the members in relation to same.

Members thanked the representatives for attending the meeting and for their presentation. They spoke about issues with buses skipping stops and ghost buses in the past and they welcomed the company's proposals for dealing with non-running buses. They stressed the importance of transparency and communicating well with the public and they pointed out that when one bus did not run recently, the office staff was not aware of the reason and so could not inform members of the public. Members stated that the 84X service was excellent and they suggested that all Active Travel Schemes should include priority for buses. They had some reservations about the Bus Connects proposals and suggested that a loop bus service would be a good idea.

Members suggested that the Council should zone land for a bus depot in the district and they spoke about the need for connectivity within the public transport system. They stated that people wanted a good reliable service and the more it improved, the more people would use it.

Mr. A Edwards informed the members that they were looking at various options for charging buses. He pointed out that the NTA decided on all bus routes and while the last bus at night was always synchronized with the DART, it was not always possible to do this as it would cause delays and have buses sitting idle for long periods. He stated that overloading on buses was reported back to the NTA daily and he encouraged the members to also report overcrowding issues to the NTA.

In relation to delays in having new drivers qualified Mr. Edwards stated that currently drivers must complete and pass a CPC course but were not allowed to drive until they received their actual CPC card. He pointed out that legislation had been changed in the United Kingdom to allow drivers to be employed while waiting on the cards once the CPC course was completed and passed. He stated that all bus schedules were uploaded onto the NTA system which was not always accurate but that the NTA were in the process of securing a new system. He stated that he would take the communications issues up with the Customer Service Team and he promised to circulate a copy of the presentation to the members.

4. REPORT FROM GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ENGINEER

A report from the District Engineer had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting together with an update on NTA projects and he answered queries from the members in relation to same.

Members expressed concern about continuing anti-social behaviour issues at Churchlands estate and they requested that a large log there be removed and that the fence around the building works be left

in place for now while the anti-social behaviour was escalating. They pointed out that the three public parks in Bray had fencing around them. They also requested an update on the serving of a Derelict Site notice for Kindlestown House.

They were informed by the District Engineer that a meeting with Garda officials had taken place on site and that an ecological assessment was also carried out for which reports were awaited.

The District Manager stated that anti-social behaviour and harassment were matters for An Garda Síochána and members agreed that the culprits should be named and shamed and their parents held responsible. They welcomed a recent undertaking from the Garda Superintendent that there would be an increased Garda presence in the area in the run up to Halloween.

5. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Motion In the names of Councillor M. Barry and L. Scott:

“To engage with SISPAR and the stakeholders of Greystones Harbour to install a swimming raft/Pontoon in Greystones Harbour for summer 2024 and to review and amend the bye laws to ensure that use of the raft for swimming is allowed”.

While some members suggested that a raft or pontoon in the harbor would help to prevent anti-social behaviour there, other members stated that it would be dangerous as it would need to be placed too far out past shallow waters.

The District Engineer informed the members that this matter had been raised previously and a report was carried out by Arup Consulting Engineers which he would locate and circulate to the members.

(b) Motion In the names of Councillor M. Barry and L. Scott:

“A report to be commissioned to design and cost the upgrade of the path, steps and create an area to jump from the rock formation at the cove, the construction of a jump platform to be similar in height to the rock formation. Note: The cove rock peninsula is slowly becoming run down and before becoming not fit for purpose, a forward plan to create a positive space for residents of the town to gather to access and egress the water with ease. Area Drawing attached”.

The District Engineer informed the members that it was very costly to build anything in a marine environment. He stated that the concrete path beyond the steps at the Cove was not done by the Council but the Council did put in the path to the sea and he would request funding to repair this path in the upcoming council budget.

In relation to the provision of a jump area the District Engineer stated that a risk assessment would need to be carried out and he would request the Environment Section to have this undertaken.

Members stated that the cove area was an active focal point in the town and they requested that a feasibility study be done.

As time was running out, it was agreed to defer Notices of Motion (c), (d) and e) to the October meeting.

(c) Motion in the name of Councillor D. Mitchell:

"The footpath from Barry's Bridge to the Willow Grove road should be restored and lit as it is the only pedestrian path from Delgany to Willow Grove".

(d) Motion in the name of Councillor S. Stokes:

"Greystones Municipal District requests the repair of the light that is out in the middle of the Burnaby Park".

(e) Motion in the name of Councillor L. Scott:

"That Greystones Municipal District agree that an e-bike sharing scheme would be of great benefit to the community and to explore avenues to bring a scheme to the District, including writing to the Chief Executive to ask that Greystones MD be considered for the next Bolt e-bike hub."

6. CORRESPONDENCE

1. The District Administrator informed the members of a requests received from the Co-ordinator of the Greystones Family Resource Centre to make a short presentation to the members at a future meeting.

Following discussion it was agreed to invite the Co-ordinator of the Greystones Family Resource Centre to make a presentation at the October meeting of Greystones Municipal District.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____ CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____ DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

DATED THIS: _____ DAY OF _____ 2023