

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, MILL ROAD, GREYSTONES, CO. WICKLOW ON TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present: Councillor T. Fortune, Cathaoirleach
Councillors M. Barry, O. Finn, L. Fenelon-Gaskin, L. Scott & S. Stokes

Also Present: Mr. M. Devereux, Incoming 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

Apologies from: Mr. M. Nicholson, Outgoing Greystones Municipal District Manager

At the outset votes of sympathy were passed to the families of Mags Crean from Burnaby Lawns, former Town Councillor, on the death of her husband, Cathal Mac Oireachtaigh and to the family of Laura McGuirk from Farrankelly Close on the death of her son Lee. A minutes silence was observed in remembrance of the deceased.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the new District Manager, Mr. Marc Devereux, to the meeting and he wished the previous Manager, Mr. Michael Nicholson, all the best for the future after almost ten years as District Manager in Greystones Municipal District.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor O. Finn, seconded by Councillor L. Fenelon Gaskin and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 30th July, 2024, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

2. DEPUTATION FROM FARRANKELLY CLOSE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Samantha O'Rourke and Ms. Laura Dicker from Farrankelly Close Residents Association to the meeting. At the outset Ms. O'Rourke and Ms. Dicker apologised for not being as prepared as they would like to be for this meeting due to the untimely death of one of the young residents in Farrankelly estate.

Ms. O'Rourke and Ms. Dicker went on to outline the various issues such as dampness and mould, issues with smoke alarms, jamming windows, door and window handles falling off, leaking roofs, etc. in the Farrankelly Close estate since the estate was built and many of which were ongoing. They also suggested that the access ramp provided into the estate off the R761 did not meet statutory requirements for wheelchairs as per the Irish Wheelchair Association guidelines and they pointed out that it was not safe for rollators.

All the members supported the residents in their calls to have the numerous issues in the Farrankelly Close estate sorted out and they agreed to continue to seek a timeline for the completion of required works. They spoke about the Council's Climate Action Plan which was adopted and yet valuable heat was going out the windows in this estate. They asked for monthly updates on this matter until the end of the year and suggested that quarterly updates on housing matters should be included in the Engineers reports.

The District Manager stated that the original developer of the Farrankelly Close estate walked away before the houses were finished. He undertook to meet with colleagues and the senior engineer in Housing in an effort to

put a plan in place and he pointed out that staff shortages, as well as funding, was an issue. He agreed to meet with residents again when a plan of action was agreed.

The District Administrator thanked the residents for attending the meeting despite the tragedy in their community and she advised them to continue to send in any complaints to the Municipal District Office for passing on to the housing section.

3. ALLOCATION OF 2024 DISCRETIONARY FUNDING FOR GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The District Administrator informed the members of the discretionary funding that had been agreed to date for 2024 and she listed the items that usually received money annually such as the tidy towns groups and the Christmas Lights in Greystones and Kilcoole. She pointed out that the Kilcoole Music Festival had requested a contribution towards the cost of staging this year's event and that the Greystones Town Team had sought an increase in the contribution towards the cost of the Christmas lights event in Greystones. She reminded the members that a delegation from Holyhead would participate in the Greystones event again this year and that the cost of their accommodation was usually covered by the GMD as well as some refreshments. In response to a query from the members suggesting that specific projects by the Tidy Towns should be funded, the District Administrator stated that Council officials regularly met with the Tidy Towns to discuss their proposals and that they were requested to submit details of works, income and expenditure prior to any payment being made.

Following discussion it was agreed to allocate funding as follows: €5,000 to Greystones Tidy Towns; €3,000 each to Kilcoole, Newcastle and Delgany Tidy Towns; €10,000 to Greystones Christmas Lights; €2,300 to Kilcoole Christmas Lights; €2,000 to Kilcoole Music Festival and €4,500 to Twinning Expenses.

In relation to LPT Discretionary funding the District Engineer informed the members that this was usually used for capital projects such as the public lighting at the Pigs Hollow that was funded from last year's allocation. He stated that members could suggest schemes for consideration in conjunction with schemes that the Council proposed based on requests for works over time. He stated that a fund was in place for the Killincarrig Village Renewal Scheme which it was hoped would start soon and which would include high quality finishes and a separate lighting scheme. He listed projects that could be considered such as renewal of footpaths in older housing estates, assessment and pruning of trees, new public lighting schemes, renewal of road markings and implementation of recommendations in the South Beach Access audit. He mentioned the footpaths in Bayview Close, Kilcoole which were particularly bad and the poor public lighting on Lott Lane in Kilcoole.

In response to queries from the members the District Engineer stated that the works to be carried out for the Killincarrig Village renewal scheme were those outlined in the Part 8 process which had already been agreed and that there was no expiry date on the Part 8 process. He stated that the funding for the works was ring-fenced. He informed the members that Wicklow County Council allocated a sum of €100,000 per Municipal District for footpath renewal works in 2024 but that works in Bayview Close, Kilcoole which he considered to be the most in need of renewal, would cost in the region of €350,000.

Following discussion the members requested that they be provided with a list of suggested projects and estimated costs so that they could prioritise them. They suggested that an 'access to the water' audit on the south beach was required as this was not included in the audit already carried out. They also suggested that funding be set aside for improvement works at Dr. Ryan Park and for works at the sand pit in Killincarrig.

The District Engineer stated that he would refer the issue of access to the water at the south beach to the Disability Federation of Ireland who had carried out the previous audit. He stated that he had sought funding for a landscape study/plan for Dr. Ryan Park, Killincarrig and Mill Lane and he pointed out that a biodiversity report

would also be required. He stated that the Council staff could clear the area at Killincarrig of overgrowth if required.

The District Manager informed the members that the LPT Discretionary funding would not cover all the works that were required in the district and he suggested that the members bear this in mind when the LPT budget meeting takes place in Wicklow County Council.

The Cathaoirleach objected to this 'veiled threat' and stated that he considered LPT to be wrong and unfair and he would not support it. Other members respectfully disagreed with this view and stated that it was a democratic decision.

4. REPORT FROM GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ENGINEER

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

In response to queries the District Engineer stated that the Killincarrig Village Renewal works would not be going out to tender as they would be carried out by Council staff. He stated that works on the Farrankelly Road were to seal joints on the road and to clear gulleys and have line markings re-instated and that similar works for the Charlesland dual carriageway were currently out to tender. He stated that the tender date for the Chapel Road scheme had been extended by two weeks and that options were being discussed for the Part 8 process for the Outdoor Arts Space at La Touche Road. He pointed out that there was no further update on the Cliff Walk and that grass had been cut on the outdoor classroom area at St. Laurence's school. He suggested that the Council's Biodiversity Officer should be invited to a Municipal District meeting to explain the objectives of the Council's Biodiversity Plan and how green open spaces and verges should be maintained and managed in line with the plan.

In relation to delays in having paving slabs at the AIB repaired, the District Engineer stated that the delay was due to the lack of technical staff and shortage of outdoor staff in the district. He added that maintenance of the Park and Ride was not high priority and was also delayed due to staff shortages as was the delay in having the swings in the Charlesland playground repaired. He stated that the Public Lighting Section was aware of the issue at Grattan Park and would have the matter resolved as soon as possible and that he would refer the issues with the dog park at Charlesland to the Charlesland Recreational Centre as it was under their control. He pointed out that the delay in having public lighting at the Pigs Hollow connected were caused by the ESB and he agreed to check the parking regulations to make sure that it was possible to move the loading bay on Church Road to the other side of the road before progressing this matter.

The District Engineer informed the members that flooding issues at the harbor were caused by poor infrastructure and were a matter for Irish Water to resolve. He stated that Wicklow County Council had reported the matter to Irish Water on a number of occasions and he urged people to take up any issues with them or with the EPA. He also suggested that the Municipal District should write to Wicklow County Council's Water Services Section and Irish Water. He agreed to seek an update on the footpath on the R761 north of Kilcoole from the Active Travel Team and he advised that the recent roadworks north of Kilcoole were carried out by the ESB and that the road would be re-surfaced in the coming weeks as would Church Road in Greystones.

Members thanked the District Engineer for his report and for works carried out in the district. They were critical of the lack of information provided to the members in advance of works being carried out and they asked that they be notified in advance of any large scale works planned and what was being done.

Following further discussion the District Engineer stated that there was no intent by MD staff to with-hold information from the members but that staffing resources had to be taken into account and that staff were mostly

working to get things done with monies available before it was lost.

5. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Motion in the names of Councillors L. Scott, O. Finn, T. Fortune & S Stokes:

"That this Council agrees to write to the Minister of Heritage and Electoral Reform asking the State to examine purchasing 197 acres of land in Kindlestown connecting Kindlestown Woods to Glen of the Downs, in line with our obligations under the Nature Restoration Law"

Councillor L. Scott apologised for failing to include Councillors M. Barry and L. Fenelon Gaskin in this notice of motion and pointed out that the resolution was supported by all six members. Following discussion it was agreed to write to the Minister to request that the state purchase this land.

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

"That the GMD write to Apcoa with a view to exploring the installation of Bike Lockers at Greystones DART station".

Councillor Scott stated that she had been advised that there was no suitable place within Greystones rail station for bike lockers and she requested that Apcoa be asked to provide safe storage at the station as they had done so in other locations.

Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor L. Scott, seconded by Councillor M. Barry and agreed to amend the motion to request Irish Rail to provide bike lockers at Greystones rail station and that the District Administrator would write to Irish Rail in this regard.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Members referred to correspondence received from Go-Ahead Ireland in relation to their bus services in the district and following discussion it was agreed to invite representatives from Go-Ahead to attend the October meeting on 29th October to discuss the issues.

(2) The District Administrator reminded the members that County Wicklow PPN, in collaboration with Wicklow Volunteer Centre and Wicklow Older Peoples Council, would be holding a Connecting Communities Roadshow in Killian's House & Family Centre in Greystones on Tuesday 22nd October 2024 from 4.30 to 8.30 pm.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) The Cathaoirleach apologised for his earlier disparaging remarks.

(2) The District Manager requested the members to stay back for a short meeting in committee and this was agreed.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____ CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____ DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

DATED THIS: _____ DAY OF _____ 2024