MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, MILL ROAD, GREYSTONES, CO. WICKLOW ON THURSDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2026 AT 10.00 A.M.

Present:	Councillor M. Barry, Cathaoirleach Councillors L. Fenelon-Gaskin, O. Finn & S. Stokes
Also Present:	Ms. H. Dennehy, Greystones Municipal District Manager Mr. B. Gleeson, Director of Service, Wicklow County Council Ms. T. Kearns, Greystones Municipal District Administrator Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District
Apologies from:	Councillors T. Fortune and L. Scott Mr. J. Daly, Greystones Municipal District Engineer

1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor S. Stokes, seconded by Councillor L. Fenelon Gaskin and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 29th September 2026, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

2. **DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN FOR 2027**

Details of the draft budgetary plan for Greystones Municipal District for 2027, together with report of Chief Executive in relation to same, had been circulated to the members and the Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Brian Gleeson, Director of Service Finance, Water & Information Systems Wicklow County Council to the meeting.

Mr. B. Gleeson stated that this was the 2nd phase of the budget process and that the figures circulated were the minimum amounts for non-discretionary expenses. He pointed out that discretionary funding for festivals and economic development was excluded following the recent decision by members of Wicklow County Council not to raise Local Property Tax rates. In response to queries from the members, he stated that a €3.6 million deficit in the Wicklow County Council budget had to be gapped and he stated that the Council's Corporate Policy Group was looking at options for savings in the overall budget in relation to this. He pointed out that if services had to be cut it would likely be general maintenance schemes, on a pro-rata basis, that would be affected as well as community grants, library book funds, etc. He stated that everything was on the table and that the impact of any cost savings was also being considered.

Members expressed concern about the deficit in the Wicklow County Council budget and how it would impact Greystones Municipal District. They agreed that more funding from the Government was needed and they enquired if there was a formal process for requesting that due to the large increase in population in the district.

Mr. B. Gleeson pointed out that the Government provided specific, but not general funding. He stated that Councils were funded by Local Property Tax, commercial rates and parking income and added that Wicklow County Council made the decision to cut LPT, so the Government's view would be that they must live with the consequences of that decision. In response to a query from the members in relation to a payment of €1.4 million by Wicklow County Council in respect of Residential Zoned Land Tax he stated that this was being treated as a contra income/expenditure item as Government had agreed to pay that sum but the money had not yet been received. He pointed out that all local authorities were following up on that jointly.

Mr. Gleeson informed the members that Bray MD got higher Local Representation funding because of the charges imposed for parking and Arklow MD also got increased funding from their roundabout sponsorship scheme. He reminded the members that Greystones MD could increase their funding if they decided to charge for parking in the park and ride car park. He confirmed that the proceeds from a house sale in Greystones that was to be ring-fenced for housing works in the district would not be lost as that money had been capitalized. In relation to increased LPT

allocation for new houses in the district he stated that no local authority got an increase for 2027 because the Revenue intake for LPT in 2026 was €20 million short of what was estimated.

In relation to budgets for staff, Mr. Gleeson stated that the draft budgetary plan included funding for current vacancies being filled but not for additional new positions. He confirmed that NTA funding already agreed would not be affected by any cuts. In response to queries from the members, he suggested that they could write to the Minister for Local Government to seek funding for the eight or nine Irish Water staff that had to be integrated into Council staff numbers and for funding to cover the shortfall resulting from the recent Fire Service Agreement. He pointed out that even though Wicklow County Council had no part in formulating these agreements, they had to fund them and any shortfalls.

Members thanked Mr. Gleeson for attending the meeting and for his comprehensive answers to their queries and it was then proposed by Councillor S. Stokes, seconded by Councillor O. Finn and agreed by all Members present that the draft budgetary plan for Greystones Municipal District for 2027, as circulated, be adopted.

Councillor S. Stokes informed the members that the Transport SPC had met recently and had been advised that progress was being made on the review of the Parking Regulations. He stated that it was hoped to standardise them across the county and to go to public consultation next year.

3. **REPORT FROM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ENGINEER**

The District Engineer had circulated the members with a report that outlined proposed works and works carried out in the district and this was taken as read. As no engineer attended the meeting, the District Administrator suggested that members should email in any queries that they had.

Following discussion, members requested that the following matters be referred to Wicklow County Council for follow-up:

- Issue at entrance to Beechbrook Park following completion of the Chapel Road works;
- Start date for Killincarrig Village Improvement Scheme;
- Planning Enforcement issue at Chancel Way, Newcastle;
- Street signs for Bellevue Park;
- Blocked pipes in river at Riverside, Kilcoole;
- Request to restrict all Road Opening Licences for works in the district until after 9.15 am.

4. **HOUSING UPDATE REPORT (TO INCLUDE FARRANKELLY CLOSE)**

The District Administrator stated that she would circulate an update on the issues with window and door replacements at Farrankelly Close once she received the information from the Housing Section. She pointed out that all relevant housing updates were included in the monthly report from the Chief Executive presented at meetings of Wicklow County Council.

Members stated that the monthly housing reports were very positive and they expressed the hope that they would continue. They reported a drop in satisfaction with the work being carried out in phase two of the window and door replacements as there were many issues with same.

5. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

(a) Motion in the name of Councillor S. Stokes:
"The Greystones Municipal District should seek a pump track."

Councillor S. Stokes referred to the very successful Pump Track provided in Wicklow Town recently and while he was aware of the current budgetary issues in Wicklow County Council, he suggested that the provision of a similar facility in Greystones Municipal District should be included in the Council's policy for future developments. He stated that not everyone was interested in joining a sports club and that there was a need for informal facilities that people could just turn up and use.

The District Manager suggested that the Greystones Town Team might be successful in securing funding to explore this and to look at suitable sites, Council owned and otherwise, to progress the matter further.

Some members suggested that the Municipal District could suggest suitable sites and other members highlighted the need for other sporting facilities in the district too such as the soccer, basketball and cricket clubs that had recent deputations at GMD meetings.

Following further discussion, the motion was proposed by Councillor S. Stokes, seconded by Councillor L. Fenelon Gaskin and agreed.

It was also agreed to write to the Town Team to seek a meeting between them, the members, and the Town Regeneration Officer to discuss this matter further.

(b) Motion in the names of Councillors S. Stokes & M. Barry:
"The Greystones Municipal District request that the Office of Public Works provide urgent funding for the redevelopment of Greystones Garda Station. We note with concern that the building is not disability friendly. The station must be upgraded to serve the growing population of the area."

Councillor S. Stokes stated that the current facilities at Greystones Garda Station were unacceptable with no wheelchair access and no proper changing for female staff members and following discussion it was agreed to write to the Office of Public Works to request them to have the station upgraded, as previously promised, without further delay.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. The District Administrator advised the members of an update on the twinning with Holyhead received from Kathleen Kelleher.

2. The District Administrator advised the members of the likely timeframe for the Greystones Pedestrian & Cycle Scheme which had been circulated. She stated that it was hoped to have the Chief Executive's report on the submissions received for consideration at the November meeting of Greystones Municipal District.

3. The District Administrator advised the members that a request had been received from the Dr. Ryan Community Group to attend a meeting of Greystones Municipal District. She stated that the agendas for the November and December meetings were full, and it was agreed to consider this request in the new year.

4. The District Administrator informed the members of a request from the municipality of Montval-sur-Loir in France to twin with Greystones. It was agreed to decline this request and to keep same on file if anything changed in the future.

5. The District Administrator informed the members of the details of correspondence received from Eirgrid in relation to public consultation sessions due to take place and she agreed to circulate this to the members.

7. The District Administrator reminded the members about the details of correspondence from Kilcoole Music Festival that had been circulated.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Councillor S. Stokes informed the members that representatives from the National Transport Authority would attend the January meeting of Wicklow County Council and that he would be inviting members to submit questions for them in advance of that meeting.

2. The Cathaoirleach, Councillor M. Barry, referred to an incident at the cove during the summer when a local lady, Katie Bowen Evans, rescued a swimmer that got into difficulty in the water. It was agreed to send a letter from the members to commend Ms. Evans for her bravery.

3. Councillor S. Stokes expressed the hope that the People of the Year Awards could continue next year despite the budget reduction, and he suggested that a sponsor might be sought. The District Administrator stated that this matter could be looked at in the new year when the budget had been finalised.

4. The Cathaoirleach wished Councillor L. Fenelon Gaskin in the upcoming Strictly Come Dancing fund-raiser on behalf of Greystones Community College.

5. The District Manager advised the members that, if the Public Service Work to Rule was still in place, the November meeting would be held at 10.00 am on Thursday 26th November, 2026.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED:_____DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

DATED THIS:_____DAY OF _____2026