

**MINUTES OF APRIL MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, MILL ROAD, GREYSTONES, CO. WICKLOW ON TUESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025 AT 7.30 P.M.**

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

Also Present: Mr. M. Devereux, Greystones Municipal District Manager  
Mr. G. Cullen, Incoming Greystones Municipal District Engineer  
Mr. R. O'Hanlon, Outgoing Greystones Municipal District Engineer  
Ms. T. Kearns, Greystones Municipal District Administrator  
Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

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At the outset, the Cathaoirleach welcomed the new District Engineer who would be taking up the position in Greystones Municipal District on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025. He also paid tribute to Ruairi O'Hanlon who was vacating the job after ten years and he wished him well in his new position.

The Cathaoirleach also congratulated Councillor L. Scott on her appointment as Green Party Spokesperson on Children & Equality.

In relation to a request from Councillor S. Stokes to suspend Standing Orders to discuss recent train fare changes, the Cathaoirleach agreed to discuss the matter at 9.15 p.m.

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that Ms. Sorchá Walsh, Senior Planner would attend at the Civic Offices at 9.30 am on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April to explain the procedures in advance of the Greystones, Delgany and Kilcoole draft Local Planning Framework going on public display in the coming week. He pointed out that any member that was unavailable to attend could make separate arrangements to meet Ms. Walsh

## **1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Councillor L. Scott requested that the draft minutes of the March meeting be amended under item 6 – paragraph 7 on page 3 to add 'Members agreed they would continue to raise the issue regarding outdoor staff with Wicklow County Council as they have consistently done over previous years' at the end of the paragraph.

Councillor L. Scott also requested that the draft minutes of the March meeting be amended under item 6 – paragraph 8 on page 3 to include 'and the allocation of an additional €100,000 to the Killincarrig scheme to bury cables' before - and they suggested postponing making a decision on the spending until a later date.

It was proposed by Councillor L. Scott seconded by Councillor M. Barry and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2025, as amended, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

## **2. DEPUTATION FROM SPORTING GREYSTONES**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Peter Baxter and Mr. Brian Larkin from Sporting Greystones to the meeting. They made a Powerpoint presentation outlining a short background to the club and their need for additional playing pitches large enough to allow them, as well as local schools and groups, to compete in all aspects of their sport. They pointed out that an 11-a-side playing pitch was essential for the club as the current pitch was too short.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the deputation for their presentation. He stated that practically every sporting organization in the district was looking for additional space and he urged Sporting Greystones to participate in the upcoming public consultation process for the Greystones, Delgany & Kilcoole draft Local Planning Framework.

All the members agreed to assist the club in whatever way possible having regard to the huge demands for sporting facilities in the district. They suggested that the pitch at Shoreline Recreational Centre or an infill pitch at the athletics area there might be suitable in the short-term.

Mr. R. O'Hanlon suggested that if fencing at the current pitch was moved back, the pitch would meet the required lengths and he pointed out that the active open space at Archers Wood was a Multi-Use Games Area for all members of the public and used by other groups too.

The District Manager stated that the pitch at Shoreline Recreational Centre was not big enough and he agreed to have the size of the current pitch at Dr. Ryan Park checked and to revert to Sporting Greystones in due course.

### **3. UPDATE ON PUBLIC LIGHTING**

The members had been circulated with a report on public lighting and faults and the Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Larry Roe from Wicklow County Council to the meeting.

Mr. Roe explained the data contained in the report and he answered any questions from the members in relation to same. He stated that communications between Wicklow County Council and the ESB had improved considerably and he urged the members to contact the public lighting section of Wicklow County Council about any issues. In response to queries from the members he stated that generally the Deadsure.app was updated instantly when lights were repaired, except in cases where additional works were required.

Members thanked Mr. Roe for attending the meeting and for the report and they looked forward to a smoother process for reporting and repairing of faults going forward as the old system seemed to take very long in some cases. They welcomed the fact that many outstanding issues had now been resolved.

### **4. REPORT FROM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ENGINEER**

Mr. R. O'Hanlon had circulated a report on works in the district and he went through the updates since the last meeting. In response to queries from the members he stated that the south beach playground was regularly abused and vandalised and that there were very few contractors available to repair the specialised equipment and repairs were very costly. He suggested that a wider discussion on materials used and maintenance of playgrounds county-wide was required.

The District Administrator informed the members that the contractors were mainly based in Northern Ireland and were not prepared to travel down to repair small individual jobs. She stated that the playground was checked weekly for safety issues.

Mr. R. O'Hanlon stated that the Parking Regulations would need to be amended to control parking by camper vans and he stated that the traffic management on Chapel Road was a matter for the contractor but it was considered that the current option was the safest. He pointed out that he was waiting to hear back from the Climate Action and Biodiversity Team in relation to the removal of heliotrope from the sandpit at Killincarrig and proposals for Mill Lane and Dr. Ryan Park. He stated that works to the New Road/Rathdown Road junction were proposed under the Pathfinder scheme to improve pedestrian crossings and to restrict traffic movements. In relation to the replacement of dog litter bins he informed the members that he was in discussion with the supplier as many of the bin lids were failing within two years due to rust and he pointed out that a number of surveys over the years on Bellevue Hill

showed that while volumes of traffic had increased, speed had not. He stated that the road was much safer now for pedestrians as a footpath had been provided along most of it and he added that there had been no accidents or incidents reported and no concerns raised by the Gardai. In relation to the provision of a footpath on Church Lane, Greystones Mr. O'Hanlon stated that there was not enough room for a footpath along the narrow section without making the road one-way and he suggested that the road needed looking at in total to make it more accessible for pedestrians and cyclists. He pointed out that the proposed bike-share scheme would include the area at Shoreline and he stated that both Eden Gate and Archers Wood estates were designed and built to allow for through traffic and that some remedial works would be carried out in Eden Gate before the through road was opened.

In response to queries from the members in relation to the provision of double yellow lines at Applewood Drive Mr. O'Hanlon stated that the Council would need to talk to the local Gardai in relation to this matter before taking any action and he pointed out that completion works at Church Road, Greystones would be tendered in the coming weeks. He stated that the provision of a footpath on Sea Road, Kilcoole would necessitate land acquisition for which there was currently no funding and he pointed out that it was not intended to resurface the Main Street in Kilcoole at present as a number of active planning permissions required that adjustments be made to the road.

Members welcomed the report and thanked Mr. O'Hanlon for his responses. They welcomed the fact that remedial works would be carried out before the through road was opened but they expressed concern about the possible opening of the barrier between Archers Wood and Eden Gate. They stressed the need to have really good maintenance carried out on the Main Street in Kilcoole while waiting for the road to be re-surfaced. They agreed to raise the issue of playground equipment and maintenance at the Wicklow County Council SPC and pointed out that the review of the Parking Regulations was being raised at the SPC too.

As time was running out, it was agreed to extend the meeting by ten minutes.

## **5. UPDATE ON CLIFF WALK**

The District Manager informed the members that one of the unsuccessful contractors had raised queries during the formal 'standstill' period so that process had to start again. He pointed out that a meeting of the Cliff Walk Management Committee would be arranged as soon as a contractor was appointed.

## **6. HOUSING UPDATE REPORT (TO INCLUDE FARRANKELLY CLOSE)**

The District Administrator stated that a report on the various housing matters had been circulated in advance of the meeting. She pointed out that, as requested at the last meeting, she had asked Housing Officials to meet with the members but got no reply.

The Cathaoirleach stated that it was not acceptable that Housing Officials did not agree to meet the members and dis-ingenuous to the residents in Farrankelly Close and he expressed the need for officials to attend the next meeting.

Members were very critical of the fact that the various issues in Farrankelly Close estate had been raised in 2021 and had still not been sorted and they suggested that all the houses there needed to be checked individually and that the Director of Housing should be asked again to meet with the members, before the next meeting. They also expressed concern about the ongoing delays that were preventing the allocation of the houses at Cois Droichead and requested a full report on the snagging issues.

## **7. NOTICES OF MOTION**

No notices of motion were considered.

## 8. CORRESPONDENCE

1. The District Administrator advised the members of the contents of an email received from Kathleen Kelleher with an update on twinning matters with Holyhead.
2. The District Administrator informed the members that a request had been received from Newcastle Development Group for funding towards their Christmas Lights campaign. She suggested that the allocation of funding from the member's discretionary funding be considered at the next meeting.
3. The District Administrator informed the members that a request had been received from Greystones Library for a contribution of €1,000 towards their 'Design a Poster' calendar which is one of the Sustainable Development Goals. This was agreed.

## 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. The District Administrator reminded the members that the 2025 People of the Year Awards Dinner would be held in Greystones Golf Club on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May and that the event would be co-sponsored again by the Wicklow Times.
2. In relation to a previous request from Wicklow Pride seeking funding of €4,000 towards the 2025 Wicklow Pride Parade in July some members proposed that a contribution of €250 should be made to the group as a once off gesture. Following discussion it was agreed that no decision on funding for the group would be made until members had contacted them to get information on what was planned for the district.

## SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Councillor S. Stokes stated that changes to the TFI fare structures that came into effect recently had resulted in increased charges for commuters from the district for paper tickets, shorter journeys and annual tickets although Leap Card fares remained the same. He proposed that the Municipal District should write to the National Transport Authority and Irish Rail to request them to review the system as it was very unfair and had been introduced without any prior discussion. This was agreed.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

DATED THIS: \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_ 2025