**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD REMOTELY BY ZOOM ON TUESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7.30 P.M.**

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. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

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1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor M. Crean, seconded by Councillor G. Walsh and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 25th January 2022, as circulated, be confirmed and signed.

1. **UPDATE ON COUNCIL OWNED LANDS AT MILL ROAD, GREYSTONES**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Christine Flood, Senior Executive Officer and Ms. Sorcha Walsh, Senior Planner from Wicklow County Council together with Ms. Pamela Gill and Mr. James Kelly from Conroy Crowe Kelly Architects to the meeting. They gave a slideshow presentation on various development options for the Council owned land at Mill Road, Greystones and they answered any queries from the members in relation to same.

Ms. C. Flood stated that the disposal of land on part of the site to the HSE for a Primary Care Centre was a matter for the elected members of Wicklow County Council and that it was hoped to have this considered at the March meeting of the Council.

Ms. S. Walsh informed the members that there would be a focus on brown field sites in the new Local Area Plan for Greystones and a need to come up with proposals for infill housing and commercial developments on sites such as this one.

Members stressed the need to keep adequate public parking facilities and they spoke about the need to provide a public art space and a hotel. Some were not in favour of a Primary Care Centre on this site and the effect that commercial development here would have on existing town centre businesses. They spoke about the need for the provision of a similar or bigger playground if the existing one was to be moved. Members also spoke about proposals by Irish Rail to provide double track services from Greystones and the possible need for additional land to accommodate that and they enquired about the inclusion of social housing on the site.

Ms. C. Flood stated that any proposals for the site would have to include enough income to cover the cost of public facilities and would include the required number of social houses. She stated that alternative sites for a Primary Care Centre had been considered but were not suitable and she confirmed that any new playground would be as big, or bigger, than the current one which would probably be coming to the end of its life by the time any development took place.

Ms. Flood stated that Wicklow County Tourism had completed a study recently that identified Greystones as a suitable location for a hotel and she noted the comments of the members in relation to the park and ride car park. She stated that it was necessary to proceed with proposals for this site at present as it was now starting to cost the Council money for maintenance, etc. and it was too valuable a site to ignore.

Ms. S. Walsh informed the members that there was nothing in these proposals that conflicted with the current Local Area Plan for Greystones that had already gone to public consultation. She stated that the site was not suitable for social housing because it would be mostly apartment type housing. She stated that the site could be sold to a developer with caveats, or developed under a Public Private Partnership, with conditions, in order to obtain the required public facilities.

Ms. Walsh stated that there was not any ban on development in the county, although some areas needed to catch up on infrastructure. She stated that the Council would not propose to de-zone any land but would look to have sites that already have services developed. She suggested that commercial development on this site would be optimal if connected to the existing town centre as the alternative would be an out-of-town shopping centre.

It was agreed to circulate a copy of the presentation to the members.

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

The report from the District Engineer had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting together with a copy of the Wicklow County Council 2022 NTA Allocated Projects for Greystones Municipal District and a breakdown of the estimated €80,000 cost for cladding of the access ramp and steps at Farrankelly Close. He informed the members that the proposed works for Killincarrig Village would require a Part 8 planning process which would include public consultation and he advised that Kilmullen Lane had re-opened following remedial works. He suggested that any queries from the members in relation to his report should be emailed to him as time was very tight at the meeting. This was agreed.

1. **UPDATE ON SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AUDIT FOR GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

The District Manager gave a slideshow presentation on the Social Infrastructure Audit for Greystones Municipal District that had been conducted recently. He agreed to circulate a copy of the presentation to the members.

Members spoke about the lack of recreational facilities in the district and the need for the provision of such facilities to keep pace with residential developments. They stated that most of the existing clubs had waiting lists for membership and they spoke about the need for regulated caravan/camper van facilities, playgrounds, community gardens/allotments, proper and full access for all to existing facilities and for large open green spaces and facilities for young people and aging adults. Members also spoke about the need to have proper structures in place for management and maintenance of all public facilities as it was not feasible for this to be done by community groups.

Following discussion the District Manager agreed to initiate discussions between the County Council and Templecarrig School in relation to the public facilities at the Cairn Homes site adjacent to the school. He stated that land costs in Greystones Municipal District were very high and that space for community gardens/allotments was only available where such land could not be otherwise developed.

1. **UPDATE ON CHAPEL ROAD COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER**

The District Administrator informed the members that Wicklow County Council had been advised by An Bord Pleanala that they were not in a position to make a determination on the CPO at present due to work load at Board level and that no timeframe had been provided by An Bord Pleanala as to when they expect to make a decision in this case.

1. **UPDATE ON CAIRN HOMES DEVELOPMENTS COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

The District Administrator gave a slide show presentation on the various Cairn Homes developments in the area. She agreed to circulate a copy of the presentation to the members.

Members welcomed the community facilities to be provided in these developments but again spoke about the need to have proper structures put in place for managing and maintaining them. They requested that the outstanding community works be progressed as soon as possible.

Following further discussion the District Manager stated that the developer had difficulty sourcing a creche operator and this had contributed to the delay in having that facility completed. In response to queries from the members, he stated that planning permission could be sought for a change of use of buildings within the development and he agreed to request a report on the number of Part 5 houses within the developments.

1. **NOTICES OF MOTION:**
2. Motion in the name of Councillor D. Mitchell:

“That Development Levies are spent to provide facilities where development is taking place and for items listed in the Development Levy scheme”

Members stated that development levies were being spent mainly in rural areas and that while the Greystones Municipal District was developing rapidly, no additional facilities or infrastructure was being provided here.

The District Administrator stated that the Wicklow County Council Development Levy Scheme was updated in 2021.

The District Manager stated that all development levies went in to a central fund for the county. He stated that a lot of money had been spent in the Greystones Municipal District.

Following further discussion it was agreed to send this motion to the Planning SPC to request that development levy funding be more proportionally divided across the municipal districts.

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**
2. The District Administrator informed the members of the details of a report received from Wicklow County Council in relation to The Cove, Greystones. This report stated that the Environment Section of Wicklow County Council had included The Cove in its bathing water testing programme over the last two years and the results were excellent. It further stated that Irish Water Safety would be asked to carry out a risk assessment of the beach during the coming bathing season. It stated that following the risk assessment, other aspects to be taken into consideration were what new infrastructure would be required, the relationship with the nearby Blue Flag beach, the provision of water safety services throughout the county, other beaches in the county, and the annual budgets.
3. The District Administrator informed the members that she had received a request from a company to sponsor a roundabout along the dual carriageway and she sought the members’ views on such a proposal. She stated that similar sponsorship schemes operated in Arklow Municipal District and the charge was €1,500 per annum if the company maintained the roundabout and €3,000 per annum if the Council maintained them. The members were all in agreement with such a sponsorship scheme in Greystones MD and it was agreed that the District Administrator would revert to the company in question.
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 informed the members that a County Wicklow based Funfair had sought permission to use either the south beach car park or the park and ride car park for their funfair in March. She stated that the Council had no objection to this subject to the company paying the required fees for suspension of parking fees. She understood that the company would also make a contribution to Greystones Tidy Towns.
6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
7. In response to a query from the members the District Manager informed the members that the staff review in the municipal districts was under way and that it was hoped to proceed with the filling of vacancies that had arisen.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

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

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

DATED THIS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_DAY OF\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2022