**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD REMOTELY BY ZOOM ON TUESDAY 28th SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present: Councillor L. Scott, Cathaoirleach

Councillors M. Crean, T. Fortune, D. Mitchell, J. Neary & G. Walsh

Also Present: Mr. R. O’Hanlon, Greystones Municipal District Engineer

Ms. M. Porter, Greystones Municipal District Administrator

Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

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

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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 remotely on 27th July 2021, as circulated, be confirmed and signed.

1. **Presentation from Wicklow County Council Housing officials in relation to preliminary plans for part 8 for developments at Lott Lane, Kilcoole and age-friendly housing units at Carrig Eden, Greystones**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Joe Lane, Director of Services, Mr. Declan Marnane, Senior Engineer, Ms. Helena Fallon, Senior Engineer & Ms. Gillian Power, Senior Executive Engineer from Wicklow County Council to the meeting together with Ms. Antoinette O’Neill and Mr. Victor Lowe from O’Connell Mahon Architects & Mr. Harry Browne, Architect.

Mr. J. Lane gave a short background introduction to the site at Lott Lane and Ms. A. O’Neill gave a slide-show presentation on the proposals for the Council owned lands at the site. She went through the slides and answered any queries from the members in relation to same. In response to queries from the members, Mr. J. Lane stated that the Kilcoole site was now being progressed separately from the Greystones site owned by the Council because the specific processes for the two separate schemes would delay the Kilcoole site for a number of years if processed together.

The members welcomed the proposals for this site and requested that the external finish on the terraced social houses be similar to that on the semi-detached affordable housing. Following further discussion they requested that the Housing Officials organise a further meeting to look at more detail of the proposals and this was agreed.

Ms. H. Fallon gave a slide show presentation on the proposals for the age-friendly housing at Carrig Eden, Greystones and she answered any queries from the members in relation to same. In response to queries from the members she stated that the proposed development’s height, scale and colour would be in line with existing buildings close to the site. She pointed out that Wicklow County Council would own and allocate the units at Carrig Eden and that Tiglin would manage them. She stated that there would be limited parking at the units but that this was not considered to be an issue as the site was in the town centre and within walking distance of public transport.

Members welcomed the proposals. They requested that consideration be given to including some parking for visitors and health care workers as well as some EV charging points. They suggested that the side view of the proposed building was ‘block like’ and they requested that some minor changes be made to the design to address that.

1. **Consideration of Chief Executive’s report in accordance with Section 34 (6) (a) (iiia) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in relation to a proposed Material Contravention for Planning Reference No: 21/469 – St Catherine’s Association, permission for construction of a two storey administration centre, single storey adult day centre, gym, respite centre incorporating 4 no. accommodation units and a waste water pumping station on lands associated with the Old Holy Faith convent, Kilcoole.  The application includes for a new access road from R761, Main Kilcoole Road opposite the intersection with Lott lane, Car Parks and associate site works**

The members had been circulated with the Chief Executive’s Report on the proposed contravention of the County Development Plan.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Fergal Keogh from the Wicklow County Council Planning Section to the meeting. Mr. Keogh gave a short background to the planning application for St. Catherine’s School and informed the members that the Chief Executive’s report recommended the contravention of the County Development Plan following which it was proposed by Councillor T. Fortune, seconded by Councillor D. Mitchell and agreed that the Chief Executive’s report in relation to this planning application be adopted and agreed.

1. **List of projects for submission for NTA Active Travel funding in 2022**

The District Engineer had circulated a list of NTA travel schemes currently at design stage and a list of suggested NTA travel schemes for prioritization going forward. He pointed out that there was a lengthy process involved in getting schemes approved so it was necessary to agree a priority for schemes over the next five years. He pointed out that some of the proposed schemes were ready to start while others required land acquisition, etc. and would take longer. He pointed out that signage and public lighting was normally included in new schemes but that it was very expensive to retrofit public lighting. He stated that footpath renewals were not covered under the scheme.

Following discussion the members agreed to consider the lists of projects circulated and to advise the District Engineer, within the next two weeks, of any additional schemes they wished to add to the list and of the priority they wished to have applied to the schemes.

1. **Issues at Greystones Harbour Marina**

Members expressed disappointment that they had not received an update on the various issues which they had raised in relation to the Greystones Harbour Marina. Following discussion they requested that representatives from Sispar attend their October meeting to discuss the following matters:

* Update on discussions/agreements with local fishermen in relation to landing catches
* Speeding vans through Marina Village and on north pier
* Gates at north pier
* Sauna at harbour
* Ice cream van at harbour
* Provision of drinking water fountain at harbour
* Provision of litter bins
* Proposals to prevent swimming in the marina going forward
* Communication difficulties
* Email address for public complaints

1. **Report from Greystones Municipal District Engineer**

The District Engineer had circulated a report on works in the district to the members prior to the meeting. In reply to queries from the members he stated that the proposal to provide a footpath on the eastern side of the R761 from Knockroe to Kilcoole village was currently stalled as a response was awaited from a landowner involved. He pointed out that the funding available for this project could not be carried forward and may be lost. In relation to works at Kilmullen Lane, Mr. O’Hanlon stated that tenders were currently being sought for the works required and that the works would be commenced following the selection of a contractor after the closing date for tenders on 10th October.

In relation to the proposed introduction of a one way system in Delgany village on a temporary basis for twelve months, the District Engineer stated that he had put this proposal to the Delgany Community Council last year when funding became available as a trial solution to the ongoing issues with pedestrian access and illegal parking on the Convent Road in Delgany. He pointed out that Delgany Community Council was in favour of the proposal.

Mr. O’Hanlon stated that Wicklow County Council regularly received complaints that people in wheelchairs or with buggies could not use the footpaths in Delgany because of cars parked illegally. He stated that it was not feasible to provide a footpath on both sides of the road and to have two way traffic and he suggested that the trial one way system southbound from the convent to the R762, was a viable proposal to make the area more accessible. He stated that the proposal included the provision of a loading bay in front of the convent and could be reviewed after six months. He stated that the focus would be on making Delgany village centre more attractive, bring life back to it without being car focused, and would encourage more walking and cycling. He pointed out that there were adequate parking spaces available in private car parks in the village centre.

While the members were frustrated at not being consulted about these proposals in advance and they expressed concern about the effect that the proposal would have on the existing roads in the area, they were very aware of the difficulties with access and illegal parking in the village. Following further discussion the members requested that the District Engineer consult fully with the business stakeholders in Delgany village before any works were commenced.

As time was running late, it was agreed to extend the meeting until 9.45 p.m.

It was further agreed at this point to suspend Standing Orders at the request of Councillor T. Fortune to discuss the Memorandum and Articles of Association for Greystones Town Team.

Councillor Fortune stated that the legal documents being put in place by the Town Team needed to be discussed by Greystones Municipal District and legal advice sought regarding the implications of the proposals for the democratically elected members of the MD. He expressed the view that the proposals were quite legalistic and while all Town Team members were well meaning, he stated that the same level of detail and structure was not provided when the Municipal Districts were being set up.

Members requested that they be provided with legal advice regarding the implications of proposals within the constitution and that they be circulated with a copy of same. Following discussion it was agreed to convene a special meeting on Tuesday 19th of October to discuss the matter.

1. **Payments from 2021 budget to Tidy Towns Groups, Christmas Lights, etc.**

The District Administrator informed the members that the discretionary budget for 2021 had not yet been allocated except for the payment of €1,000 towards the summer music event in Burnaby Park during the summer. She pointed out that in addition to the usual contributions to the local Tidy Towns groups, website maintenance and Christmas Lights, there would be additional expenses this year in relation to the visit by the Holyhead delegation and Santa for the Christmas festivities.

Members spoke about the additional workloads taken on by the smaller Tidy Towns groups in recent times and it was proposed by Councillor J. Neary, seconded by Councillor G. Walsh and agreed that the allocations to the Kilcoole, Delgany and Newcastle groups should be increased from €2,500 to €3,000.

Following discussion it was agreed to allocate the following funding:

* Greystones Tidy Towns €5,000
* Kilcoole Tidy Towns €3,000
* Newcastle Tidy Towns €3,000
* Delgany Tidy Towns €3,000
* Christmas Lights €5,000
* Twinning Expenses for Christmas Lights c. €2,500
* Maintenance of Greystones.ie website €3,000.

1. **Arrangements for Christmas Street Lighting.**

The District Administrator informed the members that the Christmas Lights switch on event would be organised this year by the Greystones Town Team on Saturday 20th November and that the event would be similar to last year’s one with streaming from the Whale Theatre. She pointed out that Santa would visit the housing estates around the town and that there would be online events and Santa’s postbox. She welcomed the earlier allocation of €5,000 to the Town Team towards the lights and the allocation of funding towards hosting the delegation from Holyhead that will travel over for the event.

1. **Notices of Motion**
2. Motion in the name of Councillor D. Mitchell:

“The NRA should ensure that the N11 Junction 10, Delgany, should remain open and that a parallel service road should be built from Newtown to Willow Grove for local traffic, buses & cyclists”.

The members had been circulated with documentation from the Roads Section of Wicklow County Council in relation to this matter prior to the meeting.

Members expressed concern about the enormous strain on existing roads in the area if the N11 junction 10 was closed and they stated that this would be a very complicated process that would have a huge impact. They spoke about the need to have adequate and improved public transport options in place before any such closure and they agreed to amend the motion to include this.

Following further discussion it was proposed by Councillor D. Mitchell, seconded by Councillor J. Neary and agreed that the following amended motion be adopted and forwarded to Arup Consulting: ‘The NRA should ensure that the N11 Junction 10, Delgany, should remain open and that a parallel service road should be built from Newtown to Willow Grove for local traffic, buses and cyclists and that the NTA must prioritise buses and park and ride facilities in advance of any works’.

1. **Correspondence**
2. The District Administrator informed the members that members of the Greystones Town Team had requested to attend a meeting of the Municipal District to outline their plans for an improved Greystones.ie website and to seek additional funding for same. It was agreed to invite a deputation to the October meeting.
3. The District Administrator informed the members that the Church of the Nazarene had requested to attend a meeting of the Municipal District to outline their proposals for redevelopment of their premises. It was agreed to invite a deputation to the special meeting on 19th October from 7.00 – 7.30 pm.
4. **Any Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

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

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

DATED THIS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_DAY OF\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2021