

MINUTES OF MARCH MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, MILL ROAD, GREYSTONES, CO. WICKLOW ON TUESDAY 25TH MARCH 2025 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, 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

At the outset, votes of sympathy were passed to Tom Galvin, Bray People reporter and his family on the death of his father Tom Galvin Senior and to the family of Alan Kilduff, Greystones who died recently. A minutes silence was observed in memory of the deceased.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor L. Fenelon Gaskin, seconded by Councillor O. Finn and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 25th February, 2025, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Members enquired about expenditure to date from the discretionary fund and proposals for additional projects to be funded and they were informed that the expenditure to date figures had been circulated previously and that the proposals for additional projects were listed in the District Engineers report.

2. REPORT FROM GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ENGINEER

As the District Engineer had temporarily left the meeting to get a copy of the expenditure to date from the discretionary fund, this item was deferred.

3. TO DISCUSS PROPOSALS FOR DISCRETIONARY FUNDING (REPORT TO FOLLOW)

As the District Engineer had temporarily left the meeting to get a copy of the expenditure to date from the discretionary fund, this item was deferred.

4. TO CONSIDER 2025 ESTATE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME GRANTS (REPORT TO FOLLOW)

A report listing the estates that had applied for funding and the basis for allocating grants under the 2025 Estate Development Grant Scheme, together with the proposed grant figures in each case, had been circulated to the members in advance of the meeting.

Following discussion it was agreed to approve Estate Development Grants for 2025 as follows: Ard na Mara, Kilcoole - €544; Beechcourt Avenue & Corrig Drive, Kilcoole - €372; Beechwood Park, Kilcoole - €162; Bullford Crescent, Kilcoole - €590; Burnaby Lawns/Court/Avenue & Millbrook, Greystones - €1,075; Cedarwood Crescent, Kilcoole - €497; Druids Brook, Kilcoole - €747; Farrankelly Close, Delgany - €997; Grattan Park/Upper Grattan Park/Lower Grattan Park, Greystones - €372; Hazelwood Crescent, Kilcoole - €512; Kenmare Heights, Greystones - €996; Killincarrig Community Association, Greystones - €116; Kindlestown Park/Rivendell Grove, Greystones - €2,027; Newcastle Residents Association (for Seamount Drive & Seacourt) - €684; Redford Park & St. Crispin's, Greystones - €131 and Wellfield, Kilcoole - €178.

5. UPDATE ON CLIFF WALK

The District Manager informed the members that a successful recruitment process for consultants had been carried out and was now in the 'waiting' period which allowed unsuccessful applicants to consider the position. He stated that it was expected that the consultants appointed would commence work in the next few weeks on analysing the problem and looking at interim and

long term proposals and that the Council would go back to all stakeholders and start working on any interim proposals as soon as they were received from the consultants.

6. HOUSING UPDATE REPORT (TO INCLUDE FARRANKELLY CLOSE)

The District Administrator stated that there was a proposal for cladding the wall at the ramp at Farrankelly Close included in the District Engineer's report which would be considered later. She stated that there was no capital allocation to date for remedial works in the estate and she pointed out that the roofing contractor who had carried out previous works in the estate would no longer take on work there because of the historic issues. She informed the members that the Housing Section of Wicklow County Council had been notified of this, as had the residents.

Members again stressed the need to have the various issues in Farrankelly Close dealt with as the residents were living in disgusting conditions and the problems were going on for years. They expressed concern about roofing issues in the event of future storms if the roofing contractor was refusing to work in the estate.

Following discussion it was agreed that the District Administrator would write to the Director of Services for Housing and Senior Housing Officials on behalf of the six members to request an urgent meeting with them, prior to the next GMD meeting, to discuss options for sourcing funding for remedial works at Farrankelly Close.

In relation to the houses at Cois Droichead the District Manager informed the members that documentation had now been submitted to the Building Control Section and that this process took twenty-one days to validate. He stated that there was a legal process to go through and if the documentation was not validated, then the process would have to start again. He pointed out that the allocation of the houses was ready to go as soon as the building control issues were sorted.

Members were critical of the delays in having these houses allocated in the current housing crisis and they asked for a written report on the situation and to be kept informed of progress. They also requested a meeting with relevant housing officials if the outstanding issues were not resolved before the next GMD meeting.

REPORT FROM GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ENGINEER AND DISCUSSION ON PROPOSALS FOR DISCRETIONARY FUNDING

The District Engineer circulated details of previous expenditure from discretionary funding and the members had already been circulated with a copy of the District Engineer's report which included proposals for projects to be funded from remaining discretionary funds. The proposals for funding from discretionary funding included €500,000 for the Killincarrig Village Renewal Scheme in Greystones; €70,000 for cladding the ramp at Farrankelly Close, Delgany; €150,000 towards footpath renewal works in Bayview Close, Kilcoole and €40,000 towards public lighting from Main Street down to Wellfield on the Sea Road in Kilcoole.

The District Engineer stated that if there was adequate funding available, he would also like to include upgrading of public lighting on Lott Lane, Kilcoole which would cost in the region of €250,000 and footpath improvement works at Kenmare Heights in Greystones at the area where flooding had occurred in the past at an estimated cost of €150,000. He pointed out that a better contract price might be available if the footpath works at Bayview Close and Kenmare Heights were tendered together. He informed the members that a contractor had been appointed and would be commencing works on the Chapel Road Scheme in the coming weeks which would require a road closure for the duration while works progressed. He informed the members that the provision of a pedestrian crossing near the crèche on the Sea Road in Kilcoole would require traffic counts, etc. so could not be provided in the current year.

In response to queries from the members, the District Engineer stated that the Climate Action and Biodiversity team were looking at an improvement plan for Dr. Ryan Park, Mill Lane and the Sand-pit at Killincarrig and that he would follow up on that. He stated that the Council's staff would remove the winter heliotrope from the sandpit now that the weather had improved as that was separate from the improvement plan being carried out. He informed the members that the proposed cladding at Farrankelly Close would be similar to that being provided at a house further south on the R761. He stated that the residents in Farrankelly could pick the finish of the cladding from some samples that would be provided.

The District Engineer stated that there were a few minor design details to be ironed out before the Killincarrig Village Renewal works could commence and he pointed out that the additional funding sought from discretionary funding was to put all ESB

cables and services underground, to remove all poles and to provide new decorative public lighting, footpaths and paving. He stated that the newly provided Petanque court in Burnaby Park was now open and that boules could be collected from the library.

The District Administrator informed the members that a notice board at the Petanque court site displayed all the details and she stated that it was hoped to liaise with the Bowling Club to have boules available when the library was closed. She stated that consideration would be given to providing a lock box in the park at a later date and she pointed out that there would be an official opening of the Petanque court in due course.

The District Engineer stated that new public lighting contractors had been appointed by Wicklow County Council and that they were working through the backlog of issues as quickly as possible and were in touch with the ESB in relation to outstanding works which included the lights at the Pigs Hollow and the removal of defunct poles from the area for a new footpath on the R761. He pointed out that the CCTV camera at the train station had not worked for some time and that there was no budget for funding or maintaining CCTV cameras and he stated that the tarmac works being carried out in Kilcoole were just at the entrance to Centra. He informed the members that works were being carried out on the last roundabout on the Charlesland dual carriageway and should be completed in about four weeks and that completion of works on the other roundabouts were continuing.

The District Engineer informed the members that resurfacing works would be carried out on the walkway between Darcy's Field and the Grove and would take time as the only access was through the harbour marina. He stated that he had not seen the feedback from the public consultation on the proposed Safe Routes to School works at Blacklion and could not confirm when those works would commence. He pointed out that proposed restoration improvement works in Redford Park would be confined to the main road from the entrance and he suggested that the issue of vandalism, repairs and maintenance of playgrounds needed wider discussion. He agreed to inspect the wall at Priestnewtown Cemetery to see if it needed repairs and he stated that signs would be ordered for Church Lane and Bellevue Park in Greystones. He also agreed to follow up on the provision of a solar bin at the bus stop in Newcastle.

In response to a query about outdoor staff in the district the District Administrator informed the members that the Area Supervisor who retired last year had not yet been replaced and that one staff member was on long term sick leave and unlikely to return to work.

The District Engineer stated that while GMD was the smallest district on road length it had huge demands with more groups here requesting works to be carried out. He stated that it was up to the six local councillors to fight the case for more staff at Wicklow County Council level.

Members welcomed the report from the District Engineer and thanked him for works carried out in the district. They agreed to raise the matter of CCTV at the April meeting of the GMD Policing Plan Committee and they spoke about the need to have bike lockers at the train station. Members agreed they would continue to raise the issue regarding outdoor staff with Wicklow County Council as they have consistently done over previous years.

In relation to the proposals for works to be financed from discretionary funds some members queried spending €70,000 on wall cladding at Farrankelly Close when there were so many repairs required to the houses there, and the allocation of an additional €100,000 to the Killincarrig scheme to bury cables, and they suggested postponing making a decision on the spending until a later date.

The District Engineer stated that he hoped to start works on the proposed projects as soon as possible. He suggested that the upgrading of public lighting on Lott Lane, Kilcoole be withdrawn for now and that the members agree funding for the other five projects. In relation to the proposed cladding of the wall at Farrankelly Close, he stated that discretionary funding was provided for capital projects rather than general maintenance works and that the residents in Farrankelly had been requesting that cladding be provided on the wall for some time.

Following further discussion it was proposed by Councillor T. Fortune and seconded by Councillor S. Stokes that the funding for the following projects be approved: Killincarrig Village Enhancement Scheme - €500,000; Cladding for Farrankelly Close ramp - €70,000; Footpath renewal works in Bayview Close, Kilcoole - €150,000; Public Lighting at Sea Road, Kilcoole - €40,000 and Footpath renewal works at Kenmare Heights, Greystones - €150,000. This was then put to a vote and Councillors M. Barry, O.

Finn, T. Fortune and S. Stokes voted in favour while Councillors L. Fenelon-Gaskin and L. Scott voted against. The vote was carried.

7. NOTICES OF MOTION

No notices of motion were considered.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

1. The District Administrator informed the members of the contents of a letter received from Wicklow Pride seeking funding of €4,000 towards the 2025 Wicklow Pride Parade in July. There was a suggestion that this should be funded from central funds rather than Greystones Municipal District and it was agreed to circulate a copy of the letter to members for consideration.
2. The District Administrator informed the members that Sporting Greystones had submitted a request to make a presentation at the April meeting of Greystones Municipal District and this was agreed.
3. The District Administrator advised the members of the contents of an email received from Kathleen Kelleher with an update on twinning matters with Holyhead. She stated that some people would be travelling to Holyhead for their Summer Festival in July, at their own expense, and she agreed to circulate the details.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. The District Administrator informed the members that nominations were now being accepted for the 2025 People of the Year Awards up until Friday 25th April 2025. She stated that the Awards Dinner would be held in Greystones Golf Club on Thursday 15th May and that the event would be co-sponsored again by the Wicklow Times.
2. The District Administrator informed the members that the awards for winners of the Greystones St. Patrick's Day Parade would be presented in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 2nd April 2025 at 6.00 p.m. and that all the members were welcome to attend.

The Cathaoirleach stated that this year's parade was excellent and he commended the organising committee on their commitment and dedication. He requested that a letter be sent to the committee to thank them for their efforts and this was agreed.

3. The Cathaoirleach stated that this was the last official meeting with District Engineer Ruairi O'Hanlon and he thanked him for his work over the past ten years. He stated that the members would mark the occasion in a suitable manner in the coming weeks.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____ **CATHAOIRLEACH**

CERTIFIED: _____ **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**

DATED THIS: _____ **DAY OF** _____ **2025**