

MINUTES OF JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, MILL ROAD, GREYSTONES, CO. WICKLOW ON TUESDAY 31ST JANUARY 2023 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present: Councillor G. Walsh, Cathaoirleach
Councillors M. Barry, D. Mitchell, L. Scott & S. Stokes

Also Present: Mr. M. Nicholson, 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

Apologies: Councillor T. Fortune

At the outset, the members passed votes of sympathy to the Fortune Family, Kilcoole on the death of Anne Fortune; to the Cranley Family, Greystones on the death of Matt Cranley; to the Murray Family, Greystones on the death of John Murray; and to the Williams Family in Holyhead on the death of Gill Williams. A minutes silence was observed in memory of the deceased.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor S. Stokes, seconded by Councillor M. Barry and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 13th December, 2022, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

2. PRESENTATION ON REALT NA MARA OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Conor Dolan, Mr. Stephen Nolan, Ms. Arron Fox and Ms. Ashley O'Toole from the Realt na Mara project to the meeting. They gave a Powerpoint presentation that outlined their proposals for an off-shore wind project and they answered any queries from the members in relation to same.

While the members supported off shore wind farms and the part that they could play in reducing Ireland's carbon emissions, they expressed concern about the visual impact of the many projects proposed as well as about the environmental and biodiversity effects and the height of the turbines. They suggested that members of the public were fed up with all the various public consultations about wind farms at this stage as there had been a number of them in recent times. They also requested that consideration be given to providing an interpretive centre in Greystones.

In response to queries from the members, Mr. C. Dolan stated that they were obliged to carry out public consultation on their proposals and that they were engaging with all stakeholders. They stated that geological tests and the location of sea banks would determine the best location for the turbines and that an Environmental and Biodiversity Impact Study would be required as part of the planning stage. They pointed out that it was premature to discuss the Community Benefit aspects of the project at this stage as it would only be considered in the second round of approvals.

The District Manager stated that while Wicklow County Council supported the provision of wind farms there was some push back due to concerns about the height of turbines above sea level.

Following further discussion it was agreed that a copy of the presentation be circulated to the members.

3. ELECTION OF LEAS-CATHAOIRLEACH

Councillor M. Barry nominated Councillor S. Stokes to the position of Leas Cathaoirleach following the recent resignation of Councillor J. Neary. This was seconded by the Cathaoirleach, Councillor G. Walsh. There were no further nominations for the position so Councillor S. Stokes was elected as Leas-Cathaoirleach for the period up to the next annual meeting.

Councillor Stokes thanked his fellow Councillors for electing him and looked forward to working with everyone over the coming months.

4. CONSIDERATION OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT ON PART 8 FOR BOARDWALK AT GREYSTONES SOUTH BEACH

A copy of the Chief Executive's report on the Part 8 for the provision of a boardwalk at Greystones South Beach had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting, together with a copy of the submissions made.

The District Engineer stated that the blue mat had been in operation on the beach as a temporary measure but it was now recommended to proceed with its replacement with the provision of this permanent boardwalk. He pointed out that drawings for the proposed boardwalk were included in the Part 8 and he stated that the submissions received regarding materials to be used were dealt with in the Chief Executive's report.

The members welcomed this proposal and requested that the Disability Officer be consulted on the design for the project. They also requested that the Council contact Irish Rail with a view to having the flooding issue at the second arch resolved. Some members expressed disappointment that the boardwalk would not facilitate cyclists travelling to and from St. David's school and that the boardwalk would not get people nearer to the water.

In response to a query from the members, the District Manager stated that the boardwalk would be funded from a Blueway funding scheme for coastal works to improve accessibility.

5. REPORT FROM GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ENGINEER

The District Engineer informed the members that there was no report this month as funding for projects had not yet been advised. He gave an update on projects since the December meeting and he answered any queries from the members in relation to works.

Following discussion it was agreed to refer the following for attention:

- Dog Park – spring loaded catch needed for gate and grassing and planting of trees on the muddy bits
- Replacement of estate name sign for entrance to Kenmare Heights

Members also requested an update for the February meeting on the designation of the Cove as an official bathing place.

6. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Motion in the name of Councillor S. Stokes:

"Greystones Municipal District calls for an additional bin on the Bellevue Road. An ideal location could be Bus Stop 4292 (southern side)."

The District Engineer informed the members that an addition litter bin would be provided at this location.

(b) Motion in the name of Councillor D. Mitchell:

"The Council should write to Housing Minister to change rules to ensure Crèches are opened at the beginning of developments not the end as at present".

Councillor D. Mitchell spoke about the number of housing estates that were built where creches were not opened for years leaving parents unable to find creche places for their children. He stated that the regulations needed to be changed to ensure that creches had to open when houses were occupied.

During discussion on the motion, the District Manager stated that the County Council usually included such conditions in grants of planning permission but that An Bord Pleanala tended not to. He pointed out that the difficulty with the local case at Glenheron was that the site had been sold and was awaiting a creche builder to build the creche. He pointed out that many creche operators had ceased to operate. He suggested that the motion be sent to the Director of Planning in Wicklow County Council and following further discussion, this was agreed.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

1. The District Administrator reminded all members to return their Ethics Declaration forms to the Council.
2. The District Administrator informed the members of the details of an update from Kathleen Kelleher in relation to twinning with Holyhead.
3. The District Administrator informed the members that, as agreed previously, Story Trail boards would be installed in Burnaby Park in conjunction with the Arts Office.
4. The District Administrator informed the members of a request for a twinning partnership with the village of Premilculore in Italy. Members agreed that this would not be a suitable twinning match.
5. The District Administrator informed the members of the details of an email received from Rory Murphy in relation to a set of musical pipes, from around 2000 BC, that was discovered in Greystones at the Charlesland Shopping Centre. She agreed to circulate a copy of the email to the members and following discussion it was agreed that the matter be raised with the Heritage Officer to consider a suitable way to commemorate the find.

6. The District Administrator informed the members that a previous request from Cormac Breathnach to donate two sculptures to the Greystones MD had been considered by the Arts Officer in conjunction with GMD staff and it was considered that the two pieces, depicting St. Brigid and an otter, were not suitable for the district due to a number of reasons including purpose, maintenance, association with the area and insurance. Following discussion it was agreed to thank Mr. Breathnach for his offer but to decline.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Members requested that a plan be put in place to upgrade Dr. Ryan Park when funding was being allocated and they requested that a 'welcome' sign be placed at the entrance to the park in the interim. The District Engineer stated that it would be necessary to consult with the Heritage Officer and the Biodiversity Officer and the District Manager stated that the Council would look at getting an assessment done.
2. The Cathaoirleach informed the members that a meeting would take place on Wednesday 1st February at 8 p.m. in Greystones Tennis Club to discuss arrangements for a St. Patrick's Day Parade in Greystones and he urged all the members to attend and get involved.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____ **CATHAOIRLEACH**

CERTIFIED: _____ **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**

DATED THIS: _____ **DAY OF** _____ **2023**