

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, MILL ROAD, GREYSTONES, CO. WICKLOW ON TUESDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7.30 P.M.

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

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

At the outset, members passed a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Vincent Kelly from Greystones who died recently. A minutes silence was observed in remembrance of him.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor S. Stokes, seconded by Councillor D. Mitchell and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 31st October, 2023, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

2. PRESENTATION FROM ARTS OFFICER IN RELATION TO OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FUND

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Jenny Sherwin, Arts Officer to the meeting. Ms. Sherwin gave a slide show presentation that outlined details of the proposals for an Outdoor Recreational space at the La Touche Road car park as well as expected progress timelines. She pointed out that grant funding had been approved in the sum of €250,000 and that Wicklow County Council had agreed to match that funding for the project.

Members welcomed the proposal to provide such a facility at this location which had been identified in the Public Realm Plan for Greystones that had been commissioned by Greystones 2020, the fore-runner of Greystones Town Team. They enquired if alternative sites such as Burnaby Park had been considered and about the impacts of the project on parking and local residents. They pointed out that the site was very open and cold because of its closeness to the sea and they stressed the need for cycle parking at the location. They highlighted the fact that Irish Rail needed to maintain access across the site for heavy machinery and they enquired about the vision for use of the facility such as outdoor classes, static arts, theatre, etc. and whether noise from passing trains would be an issue.

Members asked about who would be responsible for managing bookings and maintenance of the project, if there would be conditions around opening hours and if more parking could be utilised at the site when there were no performances, etc. They suggested that some reference to the 'Greystones Pipes' which were uncovered in an archaeological dig in Killincarrig some time ago should be incorporated into the design of the structure if possible and they stated that this site used to have a train engine turntable which was probably still buried beneath the surface.

Ms. J. Sherwin stated that it would not be feasible or safe to have parking at the site other than the four or five spaces outlined in her proposals which would probably be for disabled and/or bicycle parking. She stated that the fact that the site was open to the sea should not be an issue as similar facilities operated in

coastal areas around the country. She stated that the design team was aware of the use of the site by Irish Rail and that a meeting with them had been arranged to discuss all the issues. She pointed out that the funding approved was only for this particular site and she did not envisage lots of events taking place but rather that it would be used more as a public space. She stated that there would likely be a 9.30 pm cut off time for any night-time concerts and she added that the space could also be used for yoga classes, choirs, etc. as the fact that it would have an open canopy would allow the use of natural light. She stated that the facility would be managed by the GMD office, similar to how other public spaces like Burnaby Park and the Greystones beaches were managed.

The District Engineer informed the members that Burnaby Park was already widely used by many groups and that the Council was adding to it over time with facilities such as the sensory garden, chess tables, remembrance garden and story trails. He did not expect that noise levels would be an issue at the more suitable site at La Touche Road and he suggested that it would be more like a public square with occasional events.

The District Manager informed the members that there would be a Part 8 process in due course so everyone could have their say on the proposals and he pointed out that the space would be open to use by all groups.

3. DATE FOR DECEMBER MEETING

Following discussion it was agreed that the December meeting be held on Tuesday 12th December at 7 pm.

4. REPORT FROM GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ENGINEER

A report from the District Engineer had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting together with an update on Active Travel Schemes, and he answered any queries in relation to same.

In reply to queries from the members, the District Engineer stated that no responses had been received from the landowners to allow progress with the Cliff Walk and that he would look at putting a diversion in place in the interim. He pointed out that he had no budgets left in this year's allocation to provide a new solar powered bin at Aldi and stated that these bins cost in the region of €4,500 to €5,000 each. He suggested that the members might consider using some of their LPT discretionary funding to cover the cost of a new bin and he stated that he would look at carrying out remedial works on Church Lane in Greystones while awaiting additional works for the Safe Routes to School Scheme for St. Kevin's NS. He pointed out that the new sign for Kindlestown Park had been ordered and would be erected in the coming weeks and that some trees would be planted in the Charlesland Dog Park in the spring. He stated that the CE report on the Part 8 for Killincarrig Village would be considered at the December meeting.

In relation to the provision of public lighting at the Pigs Hollow the District Engineer stated that he was meeting with contractors later in the week and would follow up with them. He informed the members that the frost gritting season commenced in October and that roads were gritted as and when required and he stated that he was consulting with the CCSD section of Wicklow County Council with regard to progressing proposals for Dr. Ryan Park. He pointed out that he would discuss drainage issues on Bow Lane with Irish Water and he stated that the An Taisce SRTS team was having difficulty in contacting the relevant personnel in some of the schools at Blacklion in order to progress that scheme. He agreed to follow up on this matter with An Taisce and the NTA. He further agreed to look at improving the pathway between St. Crispins and Darcy's Field and he pointed out that the Transport Study and the Pathfinder proposals would most likely recommend a pedestrian crossing at Killincarrig and possibly a one way system there to allow more space for a footpath.

The District Engineer informed the members that playgrounds and other facilities provided within new housing estates were the responsibility of developers until such time as the estates were taken in charge by Wicklow County Council if that was requested by the developers, as many developers now set up their own management companies. He stated that works were being completed on the Kilcoole Road from Killincarrig to the Knockroe roundabout to improve pedestrian safety and crossings and he pointed out that the Kilcoole section of the Pathfinder project had not been dropped from the scheme but rather that the Greystones harbour to Charlesland part had been prioritised. He agreed to meet with representatives from Greystones Community College to discuss issues with pupils crossing there.

The District Administrator advised the members that the bait boxes at the seafront that had been installed during the summer months to deal with a rat problem were checked last week and no issues were reported.

In response to a query in relation to the SRTS scheme for Blacklion the District Engineer stated that the three schools there needed to work together as one school campus rather than three individual schools. He pointed out that the planning permission for the schools required that a management plan be put in place but that this had not happened and he stated that most of the issues raised related to the access road to the schools rather than on the main road. He stated that An Taisce had good connections with all schools through the Green Schools programme so were well suited to deal with the SRTS.

Members welcomed the report and the clarification on issues raised. They expressed disappointment at the lack of progress with having the Cliff Walk re-opened and suggested that it was now time to consider acquiring the lands needed by Compulsory Purchase Order. They welcomed the progress on the Chapel Road scheme and spoke about the need to have that project completed as soon as possible and they thanked the Council for arranging the restoration works at the north beach.

5. NOTICES OF MOTION

No notices of motion were considered.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

1. The District Administrator informed the members that two hours free on-street parking was usually agreed for Greystones on the four Saturdays prior to Christmas which would fall on 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd December this year and this was agreed by the members. The District Administrator pointed out that the Traffic Wardens would be on duty on these dates to enforce any illegal parking.
2. The District Administrator informed the members that representatives from the Environment Section would attend the January meeting of GMD to discuss issues at the south beach and the cove.
3. The District Administrator informed the members that a response from the Housing Section in relation to Burnaby site clearance works carried out recently had been circulated by email.
4. The District Administrator commended the Greystones Town Team, Municipal District, Gardai and Fire Service on the success of the recent Christmas Festival and she thanked the Holyhead Santa, elves and snowman for participating. She advised the members that planned exchange trips between Holyhead and the Rowing Club, Baton Twirlers and St. David's School were progressing.

Members commended all involved with the Christmas Festival and stated that the large crowds that turned out for the Santa parade illustrated the level of population growth in the district. They commended the Holyhead visitors which included Virginia Crosbie, MP for Anglesey, for their participation.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Members requested that a letter be sent to Coláiste Chraobh Abhann to commend them on their recent Youth Climate Change Conference and this was agreed.
2. Councillor S. Stokes stated that all supplies of the Greystones Town Maps were now depleted. Following discussion it was agreed that the District Administrator would research the options available for reprinting or alternatives and get some quotations before reverting to the members.
3. In response to queries from the members in relation to the provision of solar powered bins in the area, the District Engineer stated that he did not currently have any budget for providing bins in the district. He pointed out that solar powered bins cost in the region of €4,500 - €5,000 each.

Following discussion the members agreed to provide a sum of €30,000 from their LPT Discretionary funding to cover the cost of providing solar powered bins in the district. It was agreed that the members would inform the District Engineer within the coming week of the types of bins required and desired locations.

4. Following further discussion on the allocation of the LPT discretionary funding it was agreed that the District Engineer would prioritise the top three projects from the previous list circulated and give an estimated cost for those, for consideration by the members.
5. In relation to the €100,000 allocation in the 2024 budget for footpath repairs in the district, the District Engineer stated that while this was welcomed, it would only cover a very small amount of work. He pointed out that the worst footpaths in the district at present were in Bayview Close in Kilcoole and that resurfacing there would cost in the region of €250,000 so it may be prudent to use a portion of the LPT discretionary funding to complete the job as the NTA did not fund works in housing estates.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____ **CATHAOIRLEACH**

CERTIFIED: _____ **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**

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