

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, MILL ROAD, GREYSTONES, CO. WICKLOW ON TUESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 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

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Councillor S. Stokes requested that the minutes of the January meeting be amended to include the planting of trees at the dog park in paragraph three of item five, and this was agreed. It was then proposed by Councillor S. Stokes, seconded by Councillor M. Barry and agreed that the amended minutes of the monthly meeting held on 31st January, 2023, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

2. PRESENTATION ON GREYSTONES, DELGANY AND KILCOOLE TRANSPORT STUDY

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Conor Page and Mr. Tony Quirke from Wicklow County Council and Ms. Krissel Alcaraz and Ms. Laura Coughlan from Arup to the meeting. They gave some background information and a Powerpoint presentation outlining details of the Transport Study and they answered any queries from the members in relation to same.

Members welcomed the completion of the draft Transport Study and spoke about the need for improved public transport to encourage people to cut car use. They spoke about difficulties with the 184 bus service and the lengthy journey times for the Aircoach as well as the need for the promised additional DART services to Greystones. They suggested that a proposed new link road at Ballyronan would remove HGV's from the Main Street in Kilcoole and they stated that there was a need for additional public transport in the evening time and at weekends to cater for sports clubs and activities. They suggested that the local bus link proposed in the Bus Connects Scheme would be very beneficial in this regard and would also cater for older people who cannot walk too far.

Following further discussion, Mr. C. Page requested that the members submit any comments they had on the draft Transport Study before Friday 3rd March and he pointed out that the final Transport Study would feed in to the Greystones / Delgany / Kilcoole Local Area Plan that was due for review shortly.

3. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO DR. RYAN PARK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor S. Stokes proposed that Councillor M. Barry be appointed to the Dr. Ryan Park Management Committee following the recent resignation of Councillor J. Neary. This was seconded by the

Cathaoirleach, Councillor G. Walsh. There were no further nominations so Councillor M. Barry was appointed and he agreed to take up the position.

4. REPORT FROM GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ENGINEER

The District Engineer informed the members that he had not yet received details of funding allocations for 2023. He stated that this was year three of a three year programme previously agreed. He pointed out that, due to a lack of agreement with the landowner, the funding that had been allocated for a footpath between Knockroe and Lott Lane Kilcoole had now been pulled.

In response to queries from the members the District Engineer stated that discussions were ongoing with landowners in an effort to get the Cliff Walk re-opened as soon as possible and that potholes at Burnaby Avenue/Millbrook would be filled and a new sign would be provided at the entrance to Kenmare Heights. He stated that the gate at the dog park at Charlesland would be repaired and that trees would be planted there in October. He stated that a Slow Zone sign would be erected at Knockroe cottages if one was not already in place and he pointed out that repairs to the paving slabs in the area in front of the railway station would be replaced at night time to minimise disruption. He agreed to have the areas at the entrances to St. Bridget's Park and Applewood Heights assessed to see if yellow box markings were required there.

The District Engineer stated that the GMD office had not been notified in advance of a wall being built at the Tree Trout stream in Killincarrig and he confirmed that no wall was included in the plans for the Part 8 process. He stated that concerns in relation to this had been passed to the Housing Section. He stated that public lighting on the northern end of church Road, Greystones was poor because the lights were on ESB poles and he agreed to look at changing these to Wicklow County Council poles that would be spaced better. He informed the members that it was hoped to have a plan put in place for Dr. Ryan Park but that ecological and archaeological studies needed to be carried out first.

In relation to the recent road works at the junction of the R762 and Bellevue Hill in Delgany, the District Engineer stated that the works were carried out as per the design and that a stage three audit would be carried out there. He did not agree that there was any real issue and pointed out that the aim of the scheme was to reduce speed limits. He advised the members that there was no specific funding for Pathfinder projects but that such projects were prioritised when NTA funding became available and he pointed out that the Killincarrig Village Renewal scheme that was already approved did not include works at the junction of Castle Villas. He stated that the residents in Applewood Heights had been consulted in relation to proposals for the permanent structure at the top of the estate and that funding streams were being sought for those works.

The District Administrator informed the members of the contents of an email received from the Housing Section in relation to the wall at Three Trout stream which stated that the issue was being looked at with the Contractor of this Design and Build Scheme. It stated that the site was a difficult one for several reasons including the need for a bridge to access the site across the stream, the need to achieve a reasonable density and as many units as possible and the need to balance ecology and biodiversity with concerns around flooding. It stated that the detailed design had resulted in some minor changes which were being assessed and reviewed with the contractor as well as possible pinch points between structures on site and the riparian zone.

Members welcomed the many works being carried out in the district and thanked the District Engineer for his comprehensive report. In relation to the wall that was constructed by the Housing Section at the Three Trout Stream, members sought further information in relation to this. They pointed out that this wall was not included in the plans for the Part 8 which were discussed at length but was not now being built as agreed.

5. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Motion in the name of Councillor L. Scott:

"That Greystones Municipal District rescinds the resolution which adopted Part III of the Gaming and Lotteries Act, 1956, in respect of the administrative area of the entire Greystones MD."

Councillor L. Scott stated that there was a lot of concern about the recent renewal of a Gaming Licence that allowed for fifty slot machines to operate in a premises in Greystone from 10 am to 2 am daily. She stated that Part 3 of the Gaming and Lotteries Act 1956 only related to slot machines and she pointed out that adopting and rescinding the act was a reserved function for the members of the local authority. She sought support for the motion.

The District Manager informed the members that a search of Wicklow County Council records showed that while Part 3 of the Gaming and Lotteries Act 1956 was adopted by the members of Wicklow County Council on 16th April 1956 and subsequently published, it was later rescinded by the members on 24th February 1989. He pointed out that this information had only been provided to him now and he stated that he could not comment on how the District Court had granted a licence and on whether or not that licence was legal other than to say that it should not have been granted and that it would not be renewed. He suggested that a decision on this motion should be deferred until such time as the licence was due to be renewed.

Councillor L. Scott asked that the motion be adopted and other members supported that. Following further discussion it was agreed to add "unless already rescinded" to the end of the motion and the members voted on it as follows: For the motion – Councillors M. Barry, D. Mitchell, S. Stokes & L. Scott; Abstained – Councillor G. Walsh.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

1. The District Administrator referred the members to details that had been circulated in relation to the Greystones Town Team's website and social media operations for which they had sought a contribution of €3,000 and following discussion it was agreed to allocate €3,000 towards this.
2. The District Administrator informed the members that the bathing waters at the Cove, Greystones had been monitored for the past three years during the bathing season from May to September and that the Council was now awaiting the completion of a risk assessment by Water Safety Ireland.
3. The District Administrator referred the members to the Greystones South Beach Accessibility Audit Report that had been circulated. Members queried why the Cove had not been included in the audit.

4. The District Administrator informed the members that the Kilcoole Music Festival Committee had requested a contribution towards their event, which was returning this year after a three year absence due to Covid 19. She advised the members of the costs involved and following discussion, it was agreed to allocate a sum of €2,000 towards the event.
5. The District Administrator also advised the members that a contribution had been sought by the organising committee towards the cost of the St. Patrick's Day Parade and it was agreed to allocate a sum of €3,000 towards the parade. The Cathaoirleach informed the members that a meeting of the parade committee would be held in the Tennis Club on Thursday 2nd March if anyone was available to attend.
6. The District Manager informed the members of the details of a Community Recognition Fund being rolled out by the Department of Rural and Community Development to support communities across the country that have welcomed and are hosting families and citizens from Ukraine and other countries. He requested the members to come up with suggestions for projects that could be funded from this scheme which would provide a total of €1,680,997 for County Wicklow. He pointed out that a decision had not yet been taken on whether or not the funding would be divided between the five Municipal Districts based on the numbers of immigrants in each district in which case Greystones Municipal District would receive circa €144,000. He requested that the members submit any suggestions for projects to the CCSD office by Friday 3rd March.
7. The District Administrator informed the members of the details of a request received from the municipality of Ejea de los Caballeros, Spain seeking a twinning arrangement with Greystones. It was agreed that this request should be politely declined.
8. The District Administrator informed the members of the contents of an email received from Kathleen Kelleher in relation to twinning updates.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Councillor S. Stokes referred to the visit to Holyhead by Ms. Kathleen Kelleher to mark their National Day and he requested that a letter be sent to the Mayor of Holyhead on Wednesday 1st March 2023 to wish her and the people of Holyhead a very happy St. David's Day. This was agreed.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____ CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____ DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

DATED THIS: _____ DAY OF _____ 2023