**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD REMOTELY BY ZOOM ON TUESDAY 30th NOVEMBER 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. M. Nicholson, Greystones Municipal District Manager

Mr. R. O’Hanlon, Greystones Municipal District Engineer

Ms. R. Wood, Greystones Municipal District Administrator

Ms. M. Porter, Greystones Municipal District

Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

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1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**
2. It was proposed by Councillor M. Crean, seconded by Councillor T. Fortune and agreed that the minutes of the special meeting held on 19th October 2021, as circulated, be confirmed and signed.
3. It was proposed by Councillor L. Scott, seconded by Councillor M. Crean and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 26th October 2021, as circulated, be confirmed and signed.
4. **CONSIDERATION OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT IN RELATION TO PROPOSED PART 8 DEVELOPMENT OF 4 NO. 1-BED HOUSING UNITS ON FORMER HSE SITE ON MAIN STREET, KILCOOLE**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Helena Fallon and Ms. Gillian Power from Wicklow County Council and Mr. Thomas Campbell, Architect to the meeting.

A copy of the plans and the Chief Executive’s report in relation to the proposed Part 8 age-friendly development of four one-bedroom apartments on the former HSE site at Main Street, Kilcoole had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting.

Ms. Fallon went through the proposals and submissions in detail and answered any queries from the members in relation to same. She pointed out that the site was not big enough to facilitate any parking spaces because of sightlines and existing neighbouring boundary walls, and she stated that all tenants of the new units would be advised of this fact.

Members welcomed the provision of these age-friendly units in the village. They requested that facilities for e-bicycle storage and charging be included and they suggested that the lack of parking may be an issue. Some expressed the view that the proposal represented over-development of the site.

Following further discussion, the members unanimously adopted the Chief Executive’s report.

1. **DATE FOR DECEMBER MEETING**

It was agreed to hold the December meeting on Tuesday 14th December 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

1. **REPORT FROM GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ENGINEER**

The report from the District Engineer had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting and he answered any queries from the members in relation to same.

In relation to the proposed one way system in Delgany village the District Engineer stated that the proposals put forward by the Business Association did not meet necessary criteria and that alternative proposals were being prepared and would be circulated when available. He pointed out that no work would commence in Delgany until the New Year. He pointed out that funding recently allocated for the Cliff Walk should cover the cost of land acquisition and construction costs and that the funding provided for the Three Trout Greenway would cover the cost of a Feasibility Study for the project.

In relation to the temporary closure of the access to Applewood Heights from the western side the District Engineer stated that while many people had objected to the closure before the closing date for submission on 24th November the district office had received many complaints over the years in relation to speeding traffic in the estate. He pointed out that the ramps installed previously had not deterred this and that the proposed closure would be on a temporary trial basis for a period of six months and could be reversed if necessary. He stated that the closure would be between Applewood Heights and Chapel Road and he did not envisage any traffic issues at the junction with the R761 as that junction had been upgraded and the Gardai had not brought any issues to the Council’s attention. He also pointed out that there was no issue in the past with additional traffic using Chapel Road.

Members welcomed the District Engineer’s report and the comprehensive replies given by him to the members’ questions. They commended the great work being carried out in the district with limited resources. Some members expressed concerns about the effects on traffic on nearby roads and junctions after the Applewood Heights closure.

Ms. M. Porter advised the members that funding had been received to provide two public chess tables in Burnaby Park and that they would be installed close to the sensory garden area.

1. **FILLING OF VACANCY ON TOURISM & TWINNING SUB-COMMITTEE CAUSED BY THE RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR L. SCOTT**

Following discussion on this, it was agreed that Councillor G. Walsh would join Councillors M. Crean T. Fortune and D. Mitchell on the Tourism and Twinning Committee in place of Councillor L. Scott who had resigned.

1. **DISCUSSION ON THE PROVISION OF SAUNA AND OTHER SEAFRONT WELLBEING FACILITIES IN GREYSTONES AND CASUAL TRADING LICENCE ISSUES, COMMERCIAL RATES AND PROVISION OF SPACE FOR MOBILE SAUNA OPERATORS**

Councillor J. Neary had requested that this item be included on the agenda. She stated that she had been contacted by a number of mobile sauna owners looking to operate close to the beach in Greystones similar to many areas on the west coast. She stated that saunas had many health benefits and would link in well with the ‘wellbeing’ image of Greystones and she suggested that a site be identified on a trial basis. She also suggested that the whole issue of casual trading locally should be discussed. She stated that Covid had identified a need for local traders and crafters and she wondered if the other members agreed.

The District Engineer stated that while saunas would tie in with the Greystones vibe, there was a need to be cautious as casual trading would take away from existing commercial business. He pointed out that the district office had received numerous requests from coffee truck owners to operate during the Covid lockdown.

While members agreed with the concept of casual trading for marine based and artisan crafts, they did not wish to see wide-scale casual trading and they suggested that further consideration, including discussion with tourism interest groups, was required before any decision was made. Some members expressed concern about commercial uses on public land.

The District Manager stated that if a site for casual trading was identified, then expressions of interest would have to be invited and restrictions would have to be put in place to limit what was allowed. He stated that the matter could be considered again in the New Year.

1. **NOTICES OF MOTION:**
2. Motion in the name of Councillor D. Mitchell:

“The Codling & Dublin Array want to place 2 of the largest Wind Farms in Ireland off this Districts coast, we should write to them and our T.D’s and ask them to place a Visitors/Education Centre & other facilities here. Also write to TD’s to ensure that the visual aspect of the combined facilities is minimised in the Marine Planning Bill”.

Councillor D. Mitchell stated that the motion was self-explanatory. He stated that the proposed new wind farms would be prominently visible from Greystones and that the Municipal District should seek to have the visual aspect minimised in the Marine Planning Bill. He also suggested that the town should benefit from the development by having a Visitor/Education Centre and other facilities here that would attract tourists and school groups.

Members did not support seeking to have the Marine Planning Bill specify the locations of wind turbines based on the visual aspect as the locations needed to be based on technical surveys, biodiversity and the preservation of marine life and birds. Similarly, while they welcomed the idea of a Visitor/Education Centre, they stated that any community benefit fund projects should have consensus and a consultation process on what was required or wanted.

Councillor D. Mitchell pointed out that in other areas, the Wind Farm Company paid for, and staffed, the Visitor Centre and he suggested that any such facility would be sited elsewhere in the county if Greystones did not lobby for same.

Following further discussion it was agreed to write to Codling Wind Farm to enquire if they would be willing to provide and staff a Visitor/Education Centre in Greystones, separate from any community benefit fund. It was also agreed that the motion could be submitted again for consideration at a future date.

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**
2. Ms. M. Porter informed the members of a request from the Greystones & Newtown Branch of the R.N.L.I. seeking the use of one of the Fishermens huts at Greystones harbour.

Following discussion it was agreed to defer any decision on the allocation of the Fishermen’s huts until the issues with the local fishermen had been resolved.

1. Ms. R. Wood informed the members of a request by the Bray Area Partnership to make a presentation to the members at a future meeting and this was agreed.
2. Ms. R. Wood informed the members of the details of two significant planning applications in the district, namely an application for a serviced campsite for short term letting at Timore, Newcastle and an application for four manufacturing units at Bulford Business Campus, Kilcoole. She agreed to circulate this correspondence to the members.
3. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
4. The Cathaoirleach commended everyone involved in the Christmas lights event which was very successful.
5. The Cathaoirleach congratulated Ms. M. Porter on her retirement and wished her well for the future. She thanked her on behalf of the members for all her assistance during her time as District Administrator. She also welcomed Ms. R. Wood to Greystones Municipal District.

Ms. M. Porter thanked the members for their co-operation over the years and for their card, good wishes and gift. She stated that the members had always been respectful towards her in her work and she wished her successor, Ms. R. Wood, well in her new position.

On behalf of the staff, the District Manager wished Ms. Porter well on her retirement and stated that she had made his job easier during his time with Greystones Municipal District. He also wished Ms. Wood well in her new role.

1. Councillor G. Walsh commended local fire service personnel, Mr. Stephen Wade and Mr. Leigh Hillan, on their success in winning gold at the recent virtual World Rescue Organisation Trauma Challenge event hosted in Luxembourg.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

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

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

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