**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD REMOTELY BY ZOOM ON TUESDAY 27th APRIL 2021 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present: Councillor D. Mitchell, Cathaoirleach

Councillors M. Crean, T. Fortune, J. Neary, L. Scott & G. Walsh

Also Present: Mr. M. Nicholson, Greystones Municipal District Manager

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

Ms. M. Porter, Greystones Municipal District Administrator

Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

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1. **Confirmation of Minutes**

It was proposed by Councillor G. Walsh, seconded by Councillor M. Crean and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held remotely on 30th March 2021, as circulated, be confirmed and signed.

1. **Report from Greystones Municipal District Engineer**

Members had been circulated with a report outlining details of works in the district and the District Engineer answered queries from the members in relation to same.

In response to queries from the members in relation to the re-instatement and re-opening of Kilmullen Lane, the District Engineer stated that the HSE had engaged consultants to deal with the diesel oil leakage there. He stated that he was awaiting receipt of a report from those consultants on how best to deal with the issue. He pointed out that it was likely that, when the report was received and accepted, the Council would arrange to have the works involved in re-instating the road carried out and recoup the cost from the HSE insurance company.

The District Engineer agreed to circulate an update on the various Sustainable Transport Measure Grants projects for the district. He informed the members that it was hoped that a small number of additional General Operatives would be assigned to the district in the coming months and that it was then intended to set up a crew that could be tasked with undertaking small footpath repair jobs and other such projects.

In relation to problems with litter in the district the District Engineer stated that providing additional litter bins could actually encourage more littering and required more staff to empty the bins. He stated that special bins capable of taking pizza boxes would be provided and that it was hoped that these might be sponsored by the businesses that sell pizzas. He pointed out that the solar powered bins provided in district, at considerable expense, were capable of holding five times more litter than normal bins but that they were often blocked by large pizza boxes. He suggested that a public education campaign should be organised to encourage people to bring their litter home with them if bins were full.

The District Administrator advised the members that the public toilets at the harbour were closed at 6 pm daily at present but that consideration would be given to extending the opening hours for the summer months.

The District Administrator informed the members that additional funding had been announced to support businesses in providing outdoor dining facilities. She also advised that funding was available to local authorities for outdoor dining infrastructure, mainly in pedestrianized areas, but that no areas of Greystones qualified. She stated that a further funding scheme for up to ten projects nationwide was available to provide outdoor facilities for cultural / artistic events.

1. **Report on Public Consultation for Killincarrig Village Improvement Works**

Members had been circulated with a report on the submissions received in response to the public consultation on the proposed Killincarrig Village Improvement Works prior to the February meeting.

The District Engineer informed the members that funding for the proposed works was ring-fenced from the Greystones Municipal District budget but that he was looking at other sources of funding that might be available to enhance the works further and give better finishes, such as undergrounding of cables, granite kerb- stones, etc.

Following discussion the members formally agreed that Option ‘B’ on the plans for these works, which retained a loading bay/set down area in front of the shop, should be proceeded with.

1. **Update on Cliff Walk**

The District Manager informed the members that the Greystones end of the Cliff Walk remained closed but that a new loop walk had been created on the Bray end.

The District Engineer stated that he was in discussions with private landowners with a view to providing an alternative route for the Greystones end of the walk. He stated that the landowners were open to this and were currently checking out the legalities and insurance implications. He said that it was hoped to have the Greystones end of the walk re-opened by mid-summer.

This news was welcomed by the members who expressed the hope that the walk would re-opened as soon as possible.

The Cathaoirleach spoke about an Arup report which recommended segregated break waters out from the shore and works on Bray Head to help alleviate erosion and other members spoke about the problem of drainage from the cliff contributing to the problem.

The District Engineer stated that a scheme to plant trees on Bray Head to help the drainage problem would have to be incentivised to encourage farmers to participate.

The District Manager informed the members that the Council was making an application for funding for some coastal erosion works.

1. **Update on Delgany to Blacklion Road and Cycle-path and Ballydonagh to Kilcoole Road and path**

The District Administrator informed the members that it was hoped to have the Compulsory Purchase Order for the Delgany to Blacklion road served in early May and to start construction in March 2022.

In relation to the Ballydonagh to Kilcoole road, the members spoke about the need for a much improved road link between the Kilcoole Industrial Estates and the N11 as there was an issue with large trucks on the Main Street in Kilcoole village.  They expressed the view that it was not sufficient to include this link for Kilcoole as part of the proposed Greystones Transport Study as the proposal for a new road linking Kilcoole to the N11 had been included in the Council’s Development Levy scheme since 2004 and a proposed road had also been included in Local Area Plans for a number of years. Members also spoke about the need for a cycle lane between Kilcoole and Newtownmountkennedy.

Members requested that the Council progress plans to provide this road which was urgently required. They also referred to the proposed Strategic Housing Development for Kilcoole and requested that the developer of same should be asked to provide this road as part of his development and, if the developer is not agreeable to this, then it should be stressed with An Bord Pleanala that the road be included as a condition of his building approval.

1. **Issues with Dog Fouling in District**

The District Administrator stated that this issue had been discussed at length in the past and that the Council had written to the Minister requesting stronger legislation to deal with the problem. She stated that the Council had provided additional bins and signage but that there was still a problem with dog fouling all over the district

Members referred to a scheme of DNA testing of dog faeces that had commenced in Leitrim and enquired if it would be financially feasible to have such a scheme in the Greystones Municipal District.

They also suggested that a social media educational campaign and loudspeaker messages should be used to emphasise the need to clean up after dogs. Members stated that the problem was particularly bad in areas such as the Cliff Walk and the Breeches in Kilcoole where it was difficult to have bins emptied and they stressed the need for people to report offending dog owners.

Following discussion it was agreed to request Wicklow County Council’s Environment Section to initiate a social media educational campaign. It was also agreed to seek information in relation to the Leitrim County Council scheme of DNA testing.

1. **Notices of Motion**
2. Motion in the name of Councillors J. Neary & L. Scott (deferred from March meeting):

"That Greystones Municipal District look to secure additional resources to facilitate a revised summer bin collection schedule for the District with more frequent bin collections to cater to population growth, increased tourism (after lockdowns), and increased use of outdoor recreational spaces by local residents."

Councillor J. Neary stated that this tied in with earlier discussions and she welcomed the provision of bins for pizza boxes which should help the situation. She requested that other options like the provision of extra bins and additional collections be put in place for the summer months.

This motion was supported by the other members. They stated that with outdoor dining likely during the summer, the problem would only get worse and while some people brought their rubbish home with them, many did not.

The District Administrator stated that the Council had invested heavily in providing solar powered litter bins that held five times more rubbish than normal bins and that litter bins were emptied daily. She pointed out that the Council worked closely with the Tidy Towns Committees in dealing with litter. She stated that local businesses, and especially take away businesses, needed to be more involved in resolving the litter problems and she stated that it was hoped to get sponsorship for the proposed new bins that would take pizza boxes. She pointed out that the Council had recently provided clean up kits to numerous groups across the district.

The District Manager stated that it was really important to get the message out to people to bring their rubbish home with them. He pointed out that there was no option to employ additional staff for litter duties and that litter fines were very difficult to enforce.

The members commended those who cleaned up litter and following further discussion it was agreed to ask the Environment Section to initiate a social media campaign requesting people to bring their litter home with them. It was also agreed that additional bins should be provided at weekends during the summer months.

1. Motion in the name of Councillor L. Scott:

“That Greystones Municipal District request a report of how much funding in 2021 has been received to retrofit social housing stock in the District, how many houses are being planned to retrofit, in which estates and over what timeframe?”

The District Administrator informed the members of the contents of a report received from the Housing Section of Wicklow County Council which gave details of the retro fitting programme. She stated that she would circulate a copy of the report and that members should direct any queries in relation to the programme to the Housing Section.

1. **Correspondence**
2. The District Administrator referred to the Wicklow County Council Draft Memorial Policy that had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. She stated that this had been referred to the Municipal Districts by Wicklow County Council.

Following some discussions the members expressed their sup-port for the Draft Memorial Policy which had been updated to include items raised at the Wicklow County Council meeting.

Related to the Draft Memorial Policy, the District Administrator also informed the members that, as previously agreed, it was intended to allow a maximum of thirty memorial trees to be planted in the public park at Darcy’s Field at the harbour. She stated that it was intended that these would be planted in groups of ten trees by the landscaper with responsibility for maintaining the park and that the cost of the trees, and of watering same for one year, would be borne by the families. She stated that one small standard plaque, of a type to be agreed by the Council, would be allowed with each tree. She stated that a further application had been received for permission to erect a memorial bench at the Upper Green in Kilcoole and that she would circulate a copy of this together with a copy of the proposals for the memorial trees at the harbour.

1. The District Administrator informed the members that, as previously agreed, it was proposed to allocate Fishermen’s Huts at Greystones harbour to the local fishermen who have been fishing out of the harbour. She stated that these would be allocated under licence at a cost of €2,500 per annum for the 15 sq. m. huts and €2,000 per annum for the 11.5 sq. m. huts. She stated that the Council intended to keep one of the larger huts for storage of equipment for use on the Cliff Walk and that it was planned to allocate one large hut to Ivan Toole and one to Tim Storey. She pointed out that she had received requests from the RNLI and Water Safety Ireland to use huts and that she would make enquiries about their needs. She stated that Ivan Toole might require a second hut for his second boat and that any remaining huts available could be advertised at a later date.

Following discussion it was agreed that the proposed licence and details of proposed costs etc. for the huts be circulated to the members and that the allocation of the huts be agreed at the May meeting.

1. The District Administrator referred to correspondence and a social media campaign requesting that assurances be given that privately owned golf club land in Greystones not be rezoned for housing development and suggesting that the Council purchase the land for public open space. She stated that she would circulate the email to members and following discussion it was agreed to consider the provision of public open space at the May meeting.
2. **Any Other Business**
3. Following a request from the members, the District Administrator stated that she would ask the Corporate Services Section of Wicklow County Council to advise members of all new funding streams that become available.
4. Members welcomed the accessibility works carried out at the harbour and they commended Mr. M. Ovington and Ms. L. English for their work in this regard.
5. The Cathaoirleach reminded members that a meeting of the Greystones Municipal District Policing Plan Committee would take place remotely by Zoom on Wednesday 28th April at 2.00 p.m.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

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

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

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