

MINUTES OF JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, MILL ROAD, GREYSTONES, CO. WICKLOW ON TUESDAY 28TH JANUARY 2025 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present: Councillor T. Fortune, Cathaoirleach
Councillors O. Finn, L. Fenelon-Gaskin, L. Scott & S. Stokes

Also Present: Mr. M. Devereux, 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 from: Councillor M. Barry

At the outset, votes of sympathy were passed to the families of Councillor M. Barry on the death of his father Kevin James Barry in Tipperary; to the Quinn family from Kilcoole on the death of Anne Quinn, sister of K. Coughlan; and to the Sweeney family, The Harbour, Greystones on the death of former Town Commissioner Joe Sweeney. A minutes silence was observed in remembrance of the deceased.

The Cathaoirleach also welcomed the recent resolution of the local fishermen’s issue that had been ongoing for a long time.

The District Administrator informed the members that a new media system had been installed in the chamber which would enhance facilities for presentations for the members and for people in the public gallery. She pointed out that no recordings would be made and in response to queries from the members she stated that hybrid meetings were not held in any of the Municipal Districts currently but that this could be looked at in the future.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Councillor S. Stokes requested that the second sentence of the first paragraph of item 2 in the draft minutes be amended to include that the District Engineer stated that he needed to get clarification on whether maintenance works at the Charlesland Dog Park were the responsibility of Shoreline Leisure or Greystones Municipal District, and this was agreed.

It was then proposed by Councillor S. Stokes, seconded by Councillor L. Fenelon-Gaskin and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 10th December, 2024, as amended, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

2. DEPUTATION FROM GREYSTONES TOWN TEAM

Members had been circulated with a copy of a Powerpoint presentation prior to the meeting and the Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Ruth Kidney, Mr. Tom O’Mahony and Mr. Richie Power to the meeting.

The Town Team members went through the presentation which highlighted details of their role and community projects that they had applied for funding for such as a ‘Grow Your Own’ project and expansion of the ‘Picnic in the Park’ event as well as a ‘Community Celebration Infrastructure Project’ that will enhance the town’s capacity for hosting inclusive, sustainable and vibrant community events. They also outlined proposals for applying for Heritage Council’s Historic Towns Initiative funding which would enable them to have a Heritage-Led Regeneration Plan carried out to develop projects identified in the 2020 Greystones Public Realm Plan. They outlined details of their

retail and community initiatives which included the launch of a 'Greystones AslAm Friendly Town Programme' and the St. Patrick's Day Parade. They answered any queries from the members in relation to their presentation.

In relation to insurance costs for the St. Patrick's Day Parade, Mr. T. O'Mahony stated that they had been quoted €5,700 for cover for the event. He stated that as volunteers, the parade committee could not take on the legal responsibility of the event and he requested that the Council agree to do that as had happened with the Christmas Lights event.

In response to queries from the members, the District Manager stated that previous funding agreed for an outdoor arts space at the La Touche Road car park had been lost because issues in relation to the history of the old turntable site there had not been addressed in that scheme. He pointed out that the Town Team was now applying for funding for a study to look at all issues and aspects for projects going forward. In relation to the St. Patrick's Day Parade he stated that it should be community organised but that this was a difficult issue for both the Greystones Municipal District and the Town Team.

Following discussion members commended the Town Team on their work and thanked them for their presentation. They emphasised the importance of including disability and environment and climate action voices in all discussions about public realm proposals. They suggested that the Town Team's AGM should be open to the public and that their presentations and the minutes of their monthly meetings should be published on the Greystone.ie website.

3. REPORT FROM GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ENGINEER

The District Engineer's report had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting. He stated that projects from 2024 were still being completed and he pointed out that staff were currently working on the 2025 programme and that the members should advise him as soon as possible of any roads that should be considered for inclusion this year.

In response to queries from the members the District Engineer stated that rubble that had fallen from a truck and caused a hazard on the road earlier in the day had been cleared and that trees would be planted at the Charlesland Dog Park during the upcoming 'tree planting week'. He stated that other necessary works at the dog park would be carried out when he had confirmation of responsibility for those and he agreed to look at the feasibility of providing picnic tables in Burnaby Park. He pointed out that proposed road works at Newcastle would be carried out on the L5050 from the old church to the roundabout and he stated that while the main road through Newcastle was in good condition, the footpaths were too narrow.

The District Engineer stated that public lighting that was not working for some time in Grattan Park, Charlesland and other areas had been reported to the Council's Public Lighting section who were working through a back-log with a newly appointed contractor. He stated that he would look at making the broken light at Grattan Park safer in the interim and he reminded the members that issues with public lighting could be reported by members of the public on the deadsureapp. He stated that the provision of a footpath at the harbour was part of the Active Travel proposals there and he pointed out that he was not aware of a bin being moved from outside Supervalu on Church Road but that Supervalu could provide additional bins outside their premises if required.

In relation to traffic issues at the schools at Blacklion he stated that public consultation on the 'Safe Routes to Schools' proposals for this location would commence in the coming weeks and he pointed out that only the footpaths on the main roads in Redford Park were renewed and that there were no plans to do any more at this point in time. He stated that footpath repairs were very costly and that the worse ones in the district were in Bayview Close, Kilcoole and would cost circa €325,000 to renew. He suggested that discretionary funding should be used for these before resurfacing the road there.

The District Engineer stated that the weather was too bad at present to resurface the path at Darcy's Field and he pointed out that the GMD Technician was being trained on traffic counts and would then be in a position to carry out speed surveys where required. He stated that potholes on the Main Street in Kilcoole had opened up again after the bad weather and that any queries or complaints in relation to the current building works on the Lott Lane should be directed to the Housing Section. He pointed out that the re-instatement work carried out for Irish Water following a water connection on the Sea Road was only temporary and that the yellow markings placed on the road were only to mark the road edge. He pointed out that the proposed 'Pathfinder' project was along the coast and that the NTA wanted the Greystones end completed before work commenced on the Kilcoole end.

The District Manager then went on to give a breakdown of 2025 allocations for 'Active Travel' projects in the district and it was agreed that any queries in relation to these should be emailed to him.

Members welcomed the Engineer's report and works carried out in the district.

The District Manager agreed to follow up on proposals for redeveloping the primary care centre/south beach site.

4. UPDATE ON CLIFF WALK

The District Manager informed the members that the coming week was the closing date for receipt of tenders from consultants for a study of all the issues relating to the Cliff Walk to include recommendations for short term, medium term and long term proposals for the walk.

Members welcomed this news and emphasised the need to get the Cliff Walk re-opened as soon as possible.

5. HOUSING UPDATE REPORT (TO INCLUDE FARRANKELLY CLOSE)

An update on housing capital schemes; part V deliveries; Farrankelly Close works; re-lets and retrofits had been circulated to the members in advance of the meeting.

The members welcomed the report and in response to queries from them, the District Administrator pointed out that council staff were working to identify sources of funding for various remedial works at Farrankelly Close. She stated that she would follow up with the Housing Section in relation to queries about delays in having the Cois Droichead housing development completed and the houses allocated.

The District Manager stated that he had spoken to the residents of Farrankelly Close recently and he agreed to follow up on issues with leaking doors in the estate and to write to the group that attended a recent GMD meeting to outline the situation and to copy that to the members.

The District Engineer informed the members that the houses currently being built at Lott Lane, Kilcoole was Phase 1 i.e. the social housing aspect of this development of 142 houses and that Phase 2 would include affordable houses.

6. NOTICES OF MOTION

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

"Greystones Municipal District thanks Aircoach for their continued service. However the Greystones Municipal District calls on Aircoach to ensure that drivers do not leave their engines idling for long periods before commencing a service. Additionally the Greystones Municipal District would request to be consulted ahead of any decision to change the 702 route".

Following discussion on this motion it was agreed to write to Aircoach in relation to the issue of drivers leaving bus engines idling when stationary.

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

“Greystones Municipal District should upgrade the bin at the Newcastle bus shelter (northbound), to a big belly bin”.

Following discussion on this motion, the District Engineer agreed to provide a solar powered bin at the Newcastle bus shelter.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

1. The District Administrator referred to a lengthy report from the Environment Section in relation to dumping issues at clothes banks in the district and she agreed to circulate same to the members.
2. The District Administrator informed the members of a request from Greystones Town Team for funding towards the St. Patrick’s Day Parade as outlined in their presentation earlier.
3. The District Administrator informed the members of an update received from Kathleen Kelleher in relation to twinning and confirmation of the date for the Greystones Christmas Lights event in 2025. Councillor S. Stokes pointed out that the Holyhead Male Voice Choir planned on making a return visit also in November 2025.
4. The District Administrator referred to a report that she had circulated on works carried out after storm Éowyn.
5. The District Administrator reminded the members about the public consultation on the Wicklow County Outdoor Recreation Plan which would take place in the Parkview Hotel from 7 – 8.30 p.m. on Thursday 6th February 2025.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. The Cathaoirleach requested that the members be kept informed about all major projects commencing in the district.
2. The Cathaoirleach highlighted the need to discuss all the issues in relation to the running of the Greystones St. Patrick’s Day Parade with the Council management.
3. The Cathaoirleach also requested that the Council continue to urgently seek an interim solution to allow the re-opening of the Cliff walk and that the members be kept informed of all the details.
4. In response to a query from Councillor S. Stokes, the District Administrator stated that she would check on the current position in relation to the Dr. Ryan Park Management Committee.
5. Councillor O. Finn requested an update on the provision of an Arts Centre in the district.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____ **CATHAOIRLEACH**

CERTIFIED: _____ **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR** **DATED THIS:** ____ **DAY OF** _____ **2025.**