

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, MILL ROAD, GREYSTONES, CO. WICKLOW ON TUESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025 AT 7.30 P.M.**

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

Also Present: Mr. M. Devereux, Greystones Municipal District Manager  
Mr. G. Cullen, Greystones Municipal District Engineer  
Ms. T. Kearns, Greystones Municipal District Administrator  
Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

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At the outset the members passed a vote of sympathy to Ian and Sarah McGahon from Bray on the death of their brother Cormac and to the family of Alice Quinn from Kilcoole who died recently.

The Cathaoirleach stated that this meeting would be the last one with Mr. Marc Devereux as District Manager and she expressed disappointment that he was moving as he had a great rapport with the members. She wished him well in his new position with Wicklow County Council. All the members echoed her sentiments and agreed that he would be a big loss to GMD and had made a huge difference in his short time as District Manager.

The District Manager thanked the Cathaoirleach and members for their kind remarks and stated that it was a pleasure working in the district and with the members. He stated that he was disappointed to be moving but would still be available to answer any queries from the members going forward.

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

- (a) It was proposed by Councillor T. Fortune, seconded by Councillor S. Stokes and agreed that the minutes of the annual meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2025, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.
- (b) It was proposed by Councillor O. Finn, seconded by Councillor L. Fenelon Gaskin and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2025, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

**2. REPRESENTATIVES FROM WCC ACTIVE TRAVEL TEAM IN RELATION TO PROPOSED PART 8 SCHEME FOR CONVENT ROAD, DELGANY**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Fiachra O'Connor, Acting Senior Executive Engineer, Wicklow County Council Active Travel Team and Mr. Rory Collins, EGIS Consulting to the meeting. Mr. O'Connor gave a short background to the Convent Road scheme and Mr. Collins explained the process in advance of their giving a slide show presentation on the proposals.

Following the presentation members suggested that the proposals focused on pedestrians, cyclists and the public realm rather than businesses and they pointed out that the car parks mentioned in the proposal, which were already very busy, were privately owned and may not always be available so should not be included in the scheme. They suggested that all options needed to be re-assessed and re-evaluated as there were a lot of new houses and businesses in the village now. They pointed out that the Delgany Community Council (DCC) favoured Option 7 and they stressed the need to get the proposals right. They suggested that a one-way system would create a rat-run for the new houses to the north of the village and they spoke about the danger of shops having to close if there was no parking nearby. They enquired if it was possible to include Option 4 – the Wicklow County Council preferred option – and Option 7 – the DCC preferred option – in the Part 8 and public consultation.

Mr. R. Collins informed the members that the proposed scheme allowed for wheelchairs to pass rather than two cars and while it was regrettable that there was no parking included, this came down to the width of the carriageway.

Mr. F. O'Connor stated that a lot of work was put into the scheme and into considering the various options. He pointed out that Option 7 would require land acquisition to make it work as the road width was not adequate and he stated that the carriageway was not wide enough to provide parking in the Option 4 scheme either. He stated that the National Transport Authority was

willing to fund the Option 4 scheme if it got through the Part 8 process but that this funding was likely to be lost if it was not approved. He informed the members that it was not possible to put the two Options to Part 8 public consultation together.

Members enquired if traffic calming would prevent the road becoming a rat-run if Option 4 progressed and if there was any information available on foot-fall. They also enquired about how feedback was assessed, e.g. if Delgany Community Council made a submission was that counted as one submission or as the number involved on DCC, and they stressed the need to have vehicular access to the local butchers/abattoir. They enquired if any disabled or age friendly parking spaces were proposed in either Option and if there was any timeframe or costing for land acquisition if Option 7 was selected. They spoke about the need for safety of pedestrians, parents with buggies and wheelchair users in the village.

Mr. R. Collins informed the members that ramps, crossings and chicanes would be included to calm traffic through the village. He stated that he did not have any numbers on foot-fall and he pointed out that while each submission was counted as one in the feedback, it would be noted if the submission was from a group. He stated that it was not certain that the NTA would approve or fund Option 7. He said the fact that the car parks were privately owned would be noted and he pointed out that one on-street parking space was included in Option 4. He agreed to check on access to the abattoir.

Mr. F. O'Connor stated that a loading bay was included in Option 4. He stated that it was not possible to give any timeframe or costing for land acquisition that would be required for Option 7 as it could be by agreement or require a Compulsory Purchase Order.

The District Manager pointed out that just because the members raised issues at this meeting, that didn't mean their concerns would automatically be considered as part of the Part 8 process. He suggested that Option 4 be put forward for the Part 8 process public consultation, including details of why Option 4 was chosen, and that all feedback could then be taken into consideration at the next stage of the process. He pointed out that the members could make individual submissions to the public consultation or the District Administrator could collate their views and make one submission from the GMD. He pointed out that following consultation the Council officials would make a recommendation to the members who could adopt or amend the proposals in the second part of the statutory process. He pointed out that if major amendments were made at that stage, the scheme may have to go back to the drawing board and that it must comply with all statutory requirements and must also satisfy the NTA.

In response to queries from the members Mr. F. O'Connor pointed out that there was no option for on-street parking for residents on Convent Road but he pointed out that there was a wide verge at Convent Court. He pointed out that staff shortages in the section had resulted in Active Travel Schemes having to be prioritised.

Members expressed the view that the final decision would rest with the NTA rather than the Council and they expressed concern that the NTA was not answerable to the public or to public representatives. They suggested that the public needed to be made aware of this.

In response to a suggestion that the scheme should not be put out to public consultation until such time as costings for a CPO were available, the District Manager pointed out that there was a statutory process for CPOs and that there had to be a real need for a CPO for one to proceed.

Following further discussion the members voted on proceeding with the Part 8 process and public consultation and Councillors M. Barry, L. Fenelon Gaskin, T. Fortune, L. Scott and S. Stokes voted in favour while Councillor O. Finn voted against.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Cahill for attending the meeting and for their presentation and requested that the Active Travel Team circulate the members with updates on the other Active Travel schemes in the district.

### **3. REPORT FROM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ENGINEER**

The District Engineer had circulated the members with a report that outlined proposed works and works carried out in the district and he answered any queries from the members in relation to same.

In response to queries from the members he stated that road verges in the district would be trimmed in the coming weeks and that weeds would be cut in an eco-friendly way. He pointed out that it was not intended to seal cracks in pavements due to staffing and budget issues. He stated that play equipment in the Charlesland playground would be assessed and he pointed out that all civil works were completed on the pedestrian crossings on the Charlesland dual carriageway and that the ESB had been requested to connect the lights. He stated that he would follow up on the provision of a solar-powered bin in Newcastle and he pointed out that work would commence on Church Road Greystones in two weeks to complete the scheme there. He stated that completion works at Crowe Abbey would be carried out as soon as the contractor was available.

In relation to the provision of a pedestrian crossing on the Mill Road in the vicinity of Aldi/Castle Villas the District Engineer stated that this would need to be properly appraised and assessed as crossings were not permitted at junctions, bus stops or entrances. He agreed to refer the matter to the Active Travel Team and to follow up on the issues with trees at Grattan Park and Heathervue. He stated that there would be consultation with the Newcastle Village Forum in relation to equipment for the playground at Newcastle and he informed the members that a map of all Active Travel routes was available on the NTA website and that the Council's Regeneration Team also worked on that.

In response to a query from the members in relation to sponsorship of roundabouts the District Administrator informed the members that this matter was being looked into. She pointed out that any sponsorship scheme proposed would have to be advertised to ensure a fair process and would have to include traffic management and maintenance. In relation to CCTV in the district she informed the members that there was no public CCTV operational at present. She stated that a previous application process for community based CCTV had not progressed due to resource issues in An Garda Síochána and she pointed out that the application process was time consuming, costly and paper heavy and that there were no budgets available for maintenance of any CCTV provided. She agreed to raise the matter at the next meeting with Gardai.

The District Manager informed the members that he was not aware of any serious issue at the Greystones Waste Water Treatment Plant but a small issue with the storm overflow had resulted in the beaches being closed as a precaution. He stated that the plant was under the control of Irish Water, with oversight by the EPA, and that details of the Discharge Licence for the plant were available on the EPA website.

Members thanked the District Engineer for his report and for works carried out in the district. They suggested that an overall plan of all schemes should be prepared rather than doing works in a piecemeal fashion and they suggested that this might be done by the Council officials.

#### **4. UPDATE ON CLIFF WALK**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the recent email updating the members on progress with the Cliff Walk and in response to a request for copies of the reports given to the Cliff Walk Management Committee, the District Engineer stated that there were no such reports as such, just indications about works being completed.

Councillor S. Stokes stated that the Cliff Walk Management Committee had agreed at their last meeting that briefing notes for circulation to the members should be prepared in advance of the minutes of the meetings being adopted. He stated that the drone survey being carried out would check all issues along the route and would look at all options for re-opening the walk.

As time was running out it was agreed to extend the meeting by ten minutes.

#### **5. HOUSING UPDATE REPORT (TO INCLUDE FARRANKELLY CLOSE)**

The District Administrator had circulated an updated report prior to the meeting. She stated that delays in having some re-lets finalised were mainly due to bigger issues that were being dealt with by the Housing Section. She stated that 34 of the 55 houses in Farrankelly Close had been surveyed to date and that windows and doors were the biggest issues found. She pointed out that a roofing contractor was now also operating in the estate and she agreed to seek a timeframe for the completion of the surveys.

The members welcomed this report and again requested that housing officials attend a meeting with them to discuss options for funding repair works in Farrankelly Close.

## 6. NOTICES OF MOTION

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

“Greystones Municipal District should explore opportunities to provide outdoor basketball courts. Greystones Municipal District is conscious that such outdoor facilities are very limited in the district, especially those that are free to use. Such a facility could possibly host other amenities such as table tennis”.

Councillor S. Stokes stated that there was a need to ensure that there were free to use facilities in the district as they were vital for young people and there were very few available.

This motion was seconded by the Cathaoirleach and the members suggested that the Department of Education should include facilities when building new schools. There was a suggestion that the car park at Shoreline might be a suitable site and while the members generally supported the motion they did raise the issue of maintenance and funding.

The District Manager suggested that the motion be forwarded to the Community & Social Development section of Wicklow County Council for consideration when new developments were taking place and this was agreed.

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

“Greystones Municipal District welcomes the recent Safe Routes to School measures that have been completed. Wicklow County Council should now consider an extra pedestrian crossing on the Kindlestown Lower Road (R761). This should be in the vicinity of Applewood Heights and Church Lane”.

Councillor S. Stokes stated that a safe crossing was required at this location to complement other works in the area and the motion was agreed.

The District Manager agreed to have this matter investigated.

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

1. The District Administrator advised the members of an update in relation to the twinning with Holyhead and she pointed out that the Holyhead Santa and the Holyhead Male Voice Choir would visit Greystones in November.
2. The District Administrator advised the members of a request received from Delgany Community Council seeking funding towards Christmas lights in Delgany and following discussion it was agreed to allocate the sum of €1,500.
3. In relation to the application from Greystones First Responders for funding towards providing AEDs in housing estates, the District Administrator stated that she had contacted the fire service in this regard but had not received a response to date. Following discussion it was agreed to invite the First Responders to the October meeting and to seek a response from the fire service in the interim.

## 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. In response to a query from Councillor L. Fenelon Gaskin the District Administrator stated that she had requested that the members be circulated with minutes of meetings of Shoreline Leisure and that she would follow up on this request.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

DATED THIS: \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_ 2025