

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

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

Also Present: Ms. H. Dennehy, Greystones Municipal District Manager
Mr. G. Cullen, Greystones Municipal District Engineer
Mr. J. McGee, Executive Engineer
Ms. T. Kearns, Greystones Municipal District Administrator
Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

Apologies: Councillor L. Scott, Cathaoirleach

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor O. Finn, seconded by Councillor L. Fenelon-Gaskin and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 30th September 2025, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

2. DEPUTATION FROM UN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Viv Collins and Mr. Andy Clarke to the meeting.

Mr. V. Collins stated that while a national day of celebration took place in Dublin each year to honour ex-service personnel it was an invite only event. He suggested that an annual event should be held in the Greystones Municipal District to honour all service personnel and members of the emergency services of all denominations. He suggested that the event could include some prayers and the laying of a wreath to remember deceased members.

All the members supported this request and agreed to look at options to progress same. They thanked the members of Post 21 Wicklow, the local branch of the Irish UN Veterans Association, for their service and ongoing work.

The District Administrator also thanked Mr. V. Collins for taking responsibility for raising the national flag in Burnaby Park on a daily basis.

3. CONSIDERATION OF 2026 DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN FOR GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

As the Wicklow County Council Director of Finance had not yet arrived, it was agreed to defer this item until later in the meeting.

4. 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. He pointed out that the different colours on his report for Restoration Improvement Schemes related to separate tenders and that the proposed schemes that were blank under the status column did not yet have a start date. In response to queries from the members he agreed to look at having leaves removed from the entrance to the Charlesland dog park and having the gap under the fence there repaired. He pointed out that the part required to fix the swing in the Charlesland playground had been ordered and that he would refer the issue of public lighting at Charlesland being blocked by trees to the Public Lighting team.

In relation to the provision of a pedestrian crossing between Applewood Heights and Church Lane in Greystones the District Engineer stated that these works did not get funding in the next round of finance allocated for such works and he agreed to look at the issues with footpaths in the Hillside estate. In relation to works carried out in the Seaview estate in Kilcoole he stated that the works to narrow the junction had been completed.

The District Administrator pointed out that the Seaview works were complete as not all the footpaths were to be renewed, just the ones at the entrance to the estate where the junction was narrowed and the utilities were put underground. She stated that an ecological report had been carried out in Dr. Ryan Park but there had since been a change of staff dealing with this and she would follow up with them. She pointed out that there had been no recent reports of issues or anti-social behaviour there.

The District Engineer stated that there was no need for speed limit signs at the Kilquade Hill estate as national speed limits had been reduced and he agreed to look at visibility issues with trees at the entrance and the condition of the footpaths in the estate. He stated that the kerbs there complied with standards at the time they were completed and he pointed out that the road sign which was turned the wrong way kept being hit by traffic. In relation to an alleged problem with rats at the boardwalk on the south beach he stated that no reports in relation to this had been received by GMD and he stated that traffic issues in Delgany Glen were a matter for the Planning Section as the estate was not taken in charge. He stated that he would contact the contractor again with a view to having works at Crowe Abbey completed and that he would check on an issue with a downpipe at 10/11 Upper Grattan Park as he was not aware of the details.

In relation to the Killincarrig Village Improvement Scheme the District Engineer stated that works would commence when the Chapel Road scheme, which was due to be completed in April 2026, was finished and he stated that the footpath renewal works at Bayview Close, Kilcoole would commence in the coming weeks. He informed the members that the ESB had to come out and do an assessment of the new public lights on Sea Road, Kilcoole and that he would follow up on this with the Public Lighting Team and he stated that concerns relating to a development on Main Street, Kilcoole had been referred to the Planning Section. He stated that planting at Kilcoole NS was being organised and that he would follow up on a street light between St. Kevin's NS and Rathdown Park that had been out for some weeks. He informed the members that there were no mobile speed signs in the district and that these were usually only in place for road works and he added that the GMD did have speed checkers that recorded the number of vehicles and their speeds for data purposes.

The District Engineer informed the members that no works were currently planned at the steps to the cove but that he would have a look at the issue there and in response to further queries from the members he stated that the cost of providing a crossing with belisha beacons between Applewood Heights and Church Lane in Greystones would be in the region of €30,000.

The District Administrator informed the members that although the Wicklow County Council policy was not to remove materials or clean up after bonfires, the GMD had been removing some items from Dr. Ryan Park that posed a threat to public safety. She advised members that requested that materials be removed from Kindlestown House/Dromont and Kenmare Heights to email in the specific details and they could be looked at.

The District Manager informed the members that any safety concerns in relation to bonfires on private property should be reported to the Fire Officer.

CLIFF WALK

In response to queries from the members in relation to the Cliff Walk the District Manager informed the members that the views expressed by them at the October meeting had been passed to Council officials as requested and that the options, including costs etc. were currently being examined by Wicklow County Council in advance of a meeting of the Task Force which would likely take place in mid-November.

5. HOUSING UPDATE REPORT (TO INCLUDE FARRANKELLY CLOSE)

The District Administrator stated that she had circulated a report earlier that advised that contractors would commence working on the first eleven houses in Farrankelly Close, Delgany to replace windows and doors, on the 5th November and it was hoped that these works would be completed by the end of November.

In response to a query from the members the District Administrator stated that the sale of a property ear-marked to fund the works in Farrankelly Close was progressing.

CONSIDERATION OF 2026 DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN FOR GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The draft budgetary plan for 2026 had been circulated to the members in advance together with a report from the Chief Executive in relation to same and the Leas-Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Brian Gleeson, Head of Finance to the meeting. Mr. Gleeson informed the members that this was the second stage of the budget process and that the draft budgetary plan needed to be approved before the Wicklow County Council budget meeting. He went through the figures and answered any queries from the members in relation to same. He pointed out that the members could raise additional funds by introducing fees for the Park and Ride car park or by seeking sponsorship of roundabouts as happens in other districts. In response to queries from the members in relation to additional outdoor staff in Greystones Municipal District he pointed out that the proposed increase in LPT for extra staff was not agreed so there was no real scope for increasing staff numbers at this point in time. He stated that the Council needed to be able to generate funds for any additional staff and it had to be signed off by the Department.

The District Administrator informed the members that funding was in place in the district for the current compliment of outdoor staff and was not lost if someone retired or left and she stated that some work had already been done on setting up a sponsorship scheme for roundabouts in the district.

Members thanked the Head of Finance for attending the meeting but were critical of the whole budget process. While they welcomed the possibility of getting sponsorship for roundabouts they were not in favour of charging for the Park and Ride car park. Following further discussion it was proposed by Councillor L. Fenelon Gaskin, seconded by Councillor O. Finn and agreed that the Draft Budgetary Plan for Greystones Municipal District for the 2026 financial year be approved.

The Head of Finance reminded the members about an on-line workshop in relation to the budget which would be held on Thursday 30th October.

6. PARKING ARRANGEMENTS IN GREYSTONES IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS

The District Administrator informed the members that it was usual practice to allow two hours free on-street parking in Greystones on the Saturdays in the run up to Christmas and it was proposed by Councillor S. Stokes, seconded by Councillor O. Finn and agreed that 2 hours free on-street parking be provided on 22nd and 29th November and on 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th December 2025.

The District Administrator pointed out that Traffic Wardens would operate on these Saturdays to enforce any illegal parking.

7. UPCOMING PART 8 PROCESS FOR NEWCASTLE PLAYGROUND

Mr. J. McGee, Executive Engineer informed the members that Wicklow County Council had sourced funding to upgrade the playground in Newcastle village and that it was also proposed to provide an additional tennis court at the location. He stated that the Council was working with the Newcastle Community Group who had also received funding towards these works. He pointed out that the works would require Part 8 planning and that it was hoped to bring the Part 8 proposals to the members at their January or February meeting, tender the works in March and get the works started as soon as possible.

Members thanked the staff for their work on this.

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Motion in the name of Councillor L. Fenelon-Gaskin:

“That Greystones Municipal District Council agrees to remove the temporary planters (on the side of Bank of Ireland) which were installed along Greystones Main Street during the Covid-19 pandemic and to replace these with properly designated parking spaces for elderly, age-friendly and disabled users in order to improve access to local shops and services”.

This motion was seconded by the Leas-Cathaoirleach, Councillor M. Barry and agreed.

Councillor L. Fenelon Gaskin stated that the planters were introduced on Church Road as a temporary measure during Covid-19 but suggested that they were now negatively impacting on local businesses as it was difficult for elderly and disabled people to get to the shops.

The District Engineer stated that this area was part of the Pathfinder Scheme which was about to go to Part 8 planning and he pointed out that Consultants were currently reviewing the proposals before presenting them to the members in advance of the public consultation process. He stated that there would be issues with providing disabled parking spaces at the location as the standards had changed and spaces were now doubled in size so there may not be enough space. In response to a query from the members he confirmed that if the motion was passed, works could only be carried out if they complied with the current standards. He pointed out that the provision of parking spaces would come under the Parking Regulations which were due to be reviewed in the near future.

In response to a query from the members the District Manager stated that the review of the Parking Regulations was the responsibility of Bray Municipal District. She stated that the notice of motion passed would be sent to the Roads Section for consideration as part of the Pathfinder scheme.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

1. The District Administrator advised the members that the Greystones Town Team had secured funding to have a Heritage Plan carried out for the town and that a representative from the Consultants would give a presentation on same at the Town Team meeting on 29th October to which all the members were invited to attend.
1. The District Administrator informed the members that the Greystones Wellness Hub had sought a letter of support from Greystones Municipal District for their application for LEADER funding to provide a wellness hub in Greystones. This was agreed.
2. The District Administrator referred to correspondence that had been sent to the Council in relation to the Plaza Christmas Market and the District Manager advised that a group response would issue to all when the issues raised were looked at.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Councillor S. Stokes reminded members that a delegation from Holyhead, and the Holyhead Male Voice Choir would travel to Greystones on 21st – 23rd November and that all the members were invited to join the group in the Parkview Hotel if available. Members suggested that this event should be shared on the Council's social media.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____ **CATHAOIRLEACH**

CERTIFIED: _____ **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**

DATED THIS: _____ **DAY OF** _____ **2025**