

**MINUTES OF FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, MILL ROAD, GREYSTONES, CO. WICKLOW ON TUESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025 AT 7.30 P.M.**

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Present: Councillor T. Fortune, Cathaoirleach  
Councillors M. Barry, 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

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At the outset, votes of sympathy were passed to Councillor L. Fenelon Gaskin and her family on the death of her father Noel Gaskin; to the family of Patricia (Pat) Brennan from Church Lane, Greystones and to the family of Vincent Denard, Bray & Greystones Chess Club, who all died recently. A minutes silence was observed in memory of the deceased.

Councillor L. Scott proposed that Standing Orders be suspended in order to discuss the imminent cancellation of the Aircoach service from Greystones to Dublin Airport and this was agreed. The Cathaoirleach stated that discussion on the matter could take place at the end of the meeting.

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Councillor S. Stokes requested that the draft minutes of the January meeting be amended to include the later wording of his motion in relation to Aircoach as follows: 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". He pointed out that the motion included in the draft minutes did not contain the last sentence. This was agreed.

It was then proposed by Councillor L. Scott, seconded by Councillor L. Fenelon Gaskin and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2025, as amended, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

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

As the District Engineer had been on leave, he did not provide a written report but he advised the members that all hedge cutting in the district had been completed and that road re-surfacing works had been carried out at Leabeg Lane and Church Road in Newcastle, on the R761 and Woodstock Road in Kilcoole and on Chapel Road at St. Lawrence's NS in Greystones. He stated that re-surfacing works would be carried out at Chapel View and Burnaby Court in Greystones in the coming weeks and that road works on the Delgany Wood road were almost completed. He pointed out that works on the Charlesland dual carriageway under the Pathfinder scheme were progressing well and that pedestrian traffic lights would be erected soon. He stated that gravel and stone had been ordered for the Cliff walk path at Darcy's Field and that works were being carried out to repair paving and bollards at the train station. He informed the members that eighteen new benches, including a bespoke bench at the memorial garden, had been provided at Burnaby Park together with a Petanque court,

two additional chess tables and four solar powered litter bins. He stated that access to the park had been improved and that the water feature at the entrance had been repaired and drainage improved.

In response to queries from the members the District Engineer stated that it was hoped to get funding for road resurfacing works at Killadreenan this year and he stated that he would ask the Active Travel Team to consider looking for funding in isolation to provide a crossing point at this location as well as at the end of Applewood Heights. In relation to potholes on the Main Street in Kilcoole he stated that he would look into a road improvement scheme for resurfacing at an early date rather than waiting until the construction works at Kilcoole NS were completed. In response to a query about the stream that runs through Holywell in Kilcoole he pointed out that this estate was not in charge of Wicklow County Council. He stated that responsibility for rivers lay with the landowner unless they were part of a local authority drainage scheme.

The District Engineer informed the members that the Chapel Road scheme involved a major restructuring of the road from the Redford junction to Church Road in Delgany, including the provision of footpaths and cycle lanes, and would take eighteen months to complete. He pointed out that contracts for the work had now been signed and that the contractor would put a timeframe in place in due course. In relation to the provision of a picnic bench in Burnaby Park he stated that he would consider this but pointed out that additional furniture in the park reduced the space for other events taking place there.

In response to a query about public lighting at the Pig's Hollow the District Engineer stated that he had been told by the previous contractor that all the necessary paperwork and certification required had been submitted to the ESB but he had now discovered that this was not the case and a new contractor was needed to certify the works. He informed the members that the Killincarrig Village Renewal works would commence when the Council's Active Travel team completed their current job and that the works would be carried out as per the Part 8 proposals with some tweaking. He stated that he was looking at the best options for dealing with the invasive species in the sandpit at Killincarrig and that a speed survey would be carried out on Bellevue Road.

The District Engineer stated that new burial areas and an extension to the road behind the altar at Redford cemetery were required and that he was working with the Environment Section of the Council in relation to this. He pointed out that there was no bus terminus at the Nurseries in Delgany but buses had been stopping there because of a miscommunication by the Bus Connects team. He confirmed that the only terminus was at the Glenheron estate on the R761. He stated that the footpath on the eastern side of the R761 at Knockroe would be completed when work on the wall there was finished and he pointed out that the works being carried out on the Charlesland dual carriageway were part of the Pathfinder scheme to improve facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and vulnerable road users.

Members thanked the District Engineer for this update and for works carried out in the district.

### **3. UPDATE ON CLIFF WALK**

The District Manager informed the members that a number of tenders had been received and that a consultant would be appointed in the coming weeks. He stated that he recently walked the route with the District Engineer and that they had some ideas to put to the consultant when appointed. He also pointed out that Wicklow County Council had responded to a query from RTE who subsequently announced that it was not safe to walk the cliff path and he stated that the walk would not be re-opened for St. Patrick's weekend.

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

The District Administrator stated that there was no update on housing since the last meeting except to confirm that there was a paperwork issue with the Cois Droichead development that was delaying the allocation of the

houses. She informed the members that Council technicians had been up to Farrankelly Close and that the residents had been in touch with the office and she pointed out that a letter would be issued to the residents shortly, and copied to the members, in response to their recent deputation at a GMD meeting.

Members stressed the need to have the houses at Cois Droichead allocated as soon as possible and the need to have repairs carried out in Farrankelly Close as the estate was very poorly built. They also requested that they be kept informed of all progress with the Farrankelly Close estate.

The District Manager informed the members that all relevant information in relation to Farrankelly Close was being collated for forwarding to the Housing Section as soon as funding was identified.

## **5. NOTICES OF MOTION**

No notices of motion were considered.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. The District Administrator informed the members that the Estate Development Funding Scheme for Wicklow County Council social housing estates was now open for applications and that the closing date for applications was Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March.
2. The District Administrator informed the members of an update received from K. Kelleher on the twinning with Holyhead. She stated that ten people from Holyhead were travelling to Greystones for the St. Patrick's Day Parade and if anyone would like to join them for a meal in Bocelli's while they were here, at their own expense, they should contact K. Kelleher. She stated that there were no St. David's Day celebrations in Holyhead this year as it was not a national holiday and would fall on a weekend. She informed the members of the Tourism & Twinning Committee that she would be arranging a meeting of that Committee in the coming weeks.

## **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. The Cathaoirleach referred to an earlier discussion with Ms. Sorcha Walsh, Senior Planner with Wicklow County Council and he suggested that the members agree a date to meet with Ms. Walsh to discuss the revised process for Local Area Plans.

Following discussion it was agreed to seek a meeting with Ms. Walsh at 9.30 a.m. on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March or if that date didn't suit her, to have the meeting at 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March.

2. The Cathaoirleach stated that he understood that a sum of €2,000 had been agreed by the District Manager for the Greystones St. Patrick's Day Parade and he proposed that a further €2,000 be provided from the GMD budget towards the cost of the parade.

Following discussion this proposal was agreed.

3. In response to a query from the members, the District Administrator stated that responsibility for Dr. Ryan Park had moved to a new directorate in Wicklow County Council and that the staff member with responsibility for the Dr. Ryan Park Management Committee was on leave. However, she had arranged to meet her in the coming weeks and would revert to the members in due course.

4. The District Engineer informed the members that he hoped to use the full €200,000 footpath renewal fund for the district in Bayview Close, Kilcoole this year and that he hoped to also use €150,000 from the Greystones Municipal District discretionary fund to complete the job.

Members requested that a report on what monies were available from the discretionary fund be provided for the March meeting, together with proposals for the use of same, before a decision was made on any spending. They requested that the upgrading of the public lighting on Lott Lane in Kilcoole also be included for consideration.

5. The District Engineer informed the members that he would be leaving his position at the end of April after ten years to take up a new position elsewhere within the organization.

The Cathaoirleach wished him well and stated that the Greystones Municipal District members would mark the occasion closer to the date.

### **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

Councillor L. Scott stated that changes to the route and delays in journey times had made the Aircoach service from Greystones to Dublin Airport untenable which resulted in a reduction in the number of people using the service and the company had now issued notice that the service would be discontinued. She stated that this would mean that there was no direct transport link from Greystones or Bray to the airport and she stated that the population in these towns deserved a safe and reliable service.

Following discussion it was agreed that a letter be sent to the National Transport Authority to request them to examine, as a matter of urgency, an alternative solution for a dedicated transport link from Greystones and Bray to Dublin Airport.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

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

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

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