

MINUTES OF MAY MONTHLY MEETING OF GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE CIVIC OFFICES, MILL ROAD, GREYSTONES, CO. WICKLOW ON TUESDAY 30TH MAY 2023 AT 7.30 P.M.

Present: Councillor G. Walsh, Cathaoirleach
Councillors M. Barry, T. Fortune, D. Mitchell, L. Scott & S. Stokes

Also Present: Mr. M. Nicholson, Greystones Municipal District Manager
Ms. T. Kearns, Greystones Municipal District Administrator
Ms. K. Coughlan, Greystones Municipal District

Apologies from: Mr. R. O’Hanlon, Greystones Municipal District Engineer

At the outset the members passed a vote of sympathy to the family of Andrea Egan, Greystones Municipal District on the recent death of her father in law, Gay O’Reilly. A minutes silence was observed in remembrance of him.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor L. Scott, seconded by Councillor M. Barry and agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 25th April, 2023, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

2. PRESENTATION ON FORWARD PLANNING BY WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICIALS

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Sorcha Walsh, Senior Planner; Ms. Bernadette Harvey, Senior Executive Planner; Ms. Keara Kennedy, Assistant Planner and Mr. Michael Woods O’Rourke, Graduate Planner from Wicklow County Council to the meeting.

Members had been circulated with a document outlining the Strategic Principles, Strategic County Outcomes and the Core Strategy of the County Development Plan and the LAP Process and Pre-Draft Stages.

Ms. S. Walsh gave an outline of the County Development Plan process and current position and she spoke about a New Planning Bill that had been published in early 2023 that would be coming into force and that would likely be adopted as a variation of the County Development Plan and have an effect on the LAP process. She pointed out that the Council was preparing maps for the Residential Zoned Land Tax and that seventy four submissions had been made in relation to same. She pointed out that all had received detailed responses and that a number of appeals were now with An Bord Pleanala. She stated that a final map must be completed by December before being taken over by Revenue and that the maps would be updated annually.

Ms. S. Walsh stated that a Land Value Sharing Bill was also being drafted as well as other plans and strategies that were quite complex and would impact on the CDP and planning, many of which overlapped on issues. She stated that it was difficult to see which plans fed into which and that too many would just confuse the public, so the members would play an important role in getting the relevant information out to the public. However she stated that many of the policies and objectives in the current LAP would most likely be recommended in the new one and she stated that the infrastructure audit and the transport study recently carried out would also feed into it.

Ms. B. Harvey referred to the document that had been circulated and went through the background, processes, timeline, public consultation, etc. for the new LAPs and stated that new issues could be added if needed. She pointed out that it was intended to hold open days and to have comprehensive on-line consultation in relation to same.

Members expressed concern about plans by outside bodies that undermined the County Development Plan and the fact that elected members were continuously being excluded from the planning process. They spoke about the fact

that population targets for the district had already been met and that the figures being used for the current plans were taken from the 2016 census. They requested that simple, easy to understand language be used for the public consultation and that the open days be held in Greystones library instead of the Civic Offices. They spoke about the need for open spaces libraries and arts facilities in the district.

Ms. S. Walsh informed the members that the draft new LAP would have to be agreed by the MD members before being published so that they would have an opportunity to have input into it. She reminded the members that the CDP and LAP only dealt with zoning and identifying land and could not deliver any facilities required. She also pointed out that the public consultation on the LAP would include schools, Comhairle na nÓg and any other interested groups

The Cathaoirleach thanked the team for attending and for their presentation.

3. 2023 SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS FOR GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Members had been circulated with a copy of the draft 2023 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Greystones Municipal District in advance of the meeting.

Councillor D. Mitchell had circulated an analysis of the budget figures and he pointed out that while the population of the Greystones Municipal District had increased from 18% to 20% of the population of the county, the budget figures had decreased. He pointed out that expenditure in the county had gone up by €12 million since 2018 so there should be some additional funding for the Greystones Municipal District.

The District Manager outlined the budget and allocation process and pointed out that funds were not allocated on a population basis but also took account of the running costs of fire, library and harbour services in each district as well as staff numbers. He informed the members that if the SMDW was not adopted, the money went back into the pot and would be allocated to the other MDs.

Members were critical of the whole budget process and spoke about the need for additional facilities in the district. They pointed out that Greystones was the only Municipal District that had no recycling centre and they spoke about the need for additional public parks and an increase in staff numbers.

The District Manager stated that a staff audit was ongoing and that additional funding would be required if it was decided to hire new staff as opposed to transferring staff from other districts. He pointed out that the Council was looking at options for managing and maintaining lands and facilities handed over by developers.

Following discussion Councillors M. Barry, L. Scott, S. Stokes and G. Walsh voted to adopt the Schedule of Municipal District Works as circulated while Councillors T. Fortune and D. Mitchell abstained.

4. REPORT FROM GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ENGINEER

A report from the District Engineer had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting together with an update on NTA projects.

As the District engineer was not present at the meeting, the District Administrator advised the members to email in any queries about the report. In response to queries from the members she stated that a name sign for Kenmare Heights had been ordered.

In relation to the Cliff Walk, the District Manager stated that discussions with landowners were going well and that the Council officials were optimistic that they would reach agreement. Members stated that the fencing provided to close the walk may be causing a hazard as people were climbing over it and they suggested that additional signage would suffice.

The District Administrator advised that the deadline for the Killincarrig Village Part 8 had lapsed so the process would have to re-commence. She pointed out that this would be brought before the members again at the June/July meetings of Greystones Municipal District.

Members welcomed the Engineer's report and requested updates on the risk assessment for the cove and proposals to tackle anti-social behaviour at Dr. Ryan Park. They also requested details of monies still unspent from the GMD discretionary budget and they asked that updates on the Chapel Road CPO be provided every two months. They asked that details of the proposed works to be carried out in Burnaby Park under the Community Recognition Fund be circulated to them.

In conclusion members agreed to allocate a sum of €3,000 to Greystones Tidy Towns to complete a project to protect marram grass, and other vegetation, on the south beach. This project was discussed at the April meeting of GMD.

5. NOTICES OF MOTION

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

"Greystones Municipal District calls for the re-establishment of a Cliff Walk Management Committee, in partnership with the Bray Municipal District. This should comprise of Wicklow County Council Officials and Councillors."

Councillor S. Stokes proposed this motion and stated that a similar motion had been tabled in Bray Municipal District.

The District Administrator informed the members that a Cliff Walk Management Committee was already in place although it had not met in a while, and that Councillors T. Fortune, D. Mitchell and G. Walsh represented Greystones Municipal district on the committee.

Following discussion, it was agreed to get the committee re-activated.

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

"Greystones Municipal District should write to Irish Rail requesting that maintenance works should not normally be scheduled on back to back bank holiday weekends, unless essential."

Councillor S. Stokes proposed this motion and stated that there was great disruption to commuters from the district when the rail line from Greystones was closed and he noted that this seemed to be the case on all bank holiday weekends.

Members supported the motion but agreed that it was better to carry out essential works on weekends rather than during the working week and following discussion it was agreed to write to Irish Rail in relation to the matter.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

1. The District Administrator informed the members that Councillor Hywell Williams had recently been elected as Mayor of Holyhead Town Council for the coming year and that Councillor Vaughan Williams had been elected as Deputy Mayor. It was agreed to send letters of congratulations to both men.
2. The District Administrator informed the members that the details of the proposed Wicklow County Council social and affordable housing scheme for Lott Lane in Kilcoole would be advertised in the coming days.
3. The District Administrator informed the members that the local promoters of a Community Led Housing Project had sought to make a presentation to the members of Greystones Municipal District. Following discussion it was agreed to invite a deputation to the July meeting.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. It was agreed that the annual meeting of Greystones Municipal District be held on Tuesday 27th June 2023 at 7.00 p.m. prior to the monthly meeting.
2. Members expressed support for the case for improved working conditions being taken by retained fire fighters.
3. Councillor S. Stokes informed the members that the South Stack Lighthouse Group in Holyhead had offered to provide a sponsored bench for the area at the flagpole in Burnaby Park. It was agreed to seek details and specifications of the bench to be provided.
4. Members requested that a letter be sent to Water Safety Ireland seeking an update on the risk assessment for the cove.
5. Members requested that the Pride flags be flown at the Civic Offices for the last week of June and the first week of July.
6. The District Manager informed the members that the Department had agreed to recoup the cost of providing land for social housing at the Burnaby site which the Council bought for €3 million some years ago. Members requested that any monies recouped be retained within the district and they sought an update on the Council's proposals for housing on this site.
7. Members were advised by the District Administrator that a response had not yet been received from the NTA in relation to journey times for the Aircoach from Greystones to Dublin Airport and that the matter would be followed up.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____ **CATHAOIRLEACH**

CERTIFIED: _____ **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**

DATED THIS: _____ **DAY OF** _____ **2023**