

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District  
held remotely on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021, at 2:30pm from the Council Chamber,  
Offices of the Municipal District, Civic Square, Gorey, Co. Wexford**

**Attendance (In Chamber):**

In the Chair: Cllr Pip Breen, Cathaoirleach,  
Cllr Joe Sullivan,  
Cllr Donal Kenny,

Officials: Ms Amanda Byrne, A/District Director,  
Ms Liz Stanley, A/District Manager,  
Ms Joanne Kehoe, Senior Executive Engineer,  
Ms Debbie Stanley, Assistant Staff Officer,

**Attendance (Microsoft Teams):**

Councillors: Cllr Andrew Bolger,  
Cllr Diarmuid Devereux,  
Cllr Anthony Donohoe,  
Cllr Mary Farrell,  
Cllr Willie Kavanagh  
Cllr Fionntán Ó'Súilleabháin,  
Cllr Oliver Walsh,

Officials: Ms Helen Frayne, Senior Staff Officer,  
Mr Philip Knight, Senior Staff Officer,  
Captain Phil Murphy,  
Ms Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner,  
Mr Niall Sheehan, Assistant Planner,

**Vote of Sympathy**

Members extended their sympathies to the families of recently bereaved, Maureen Willoughby, Ben Murphy, Patrick Nolan and Mary Ellen Wafer.

**Offer of Congratulations**

Cllr J Sullivan offered his congratulations on the selection of Paul Boyle for the Irish Senior Rugby Season. Cllr P Breen also offered his congratulations to Foster Horan following the qualification of the Irish Rugby Sevens for the Tokyo Olympics in July. He also offered his congratulations to Buffers Alley after winning The Guardian 2020 U-15s Division 1 Shield.

**No. 1 Confirmation of Minutes & Matters Arising**

*1.1 Confirmation of Minutes:*

On the proposal of Cllr J Sullivan, seconded by Cllr D Kenny the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District held on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were signed and adopted.

### *1.2 Matters Arising:*

Matters Arising were dealt with during the Meeting.

## **No. 2 Consideration of Reports & Recommendations**

### **2.1 Housing**

Members noted the Housing Report. Ms H Frayne informed the members that the Affordable Housing Expressions of Interest Marketing Survey has been extended to the 30<sup>th</sup> June and so far, 151 applications have been received.

Cllr M Farrell sought clarification on the location of proposed houses in Monamolin and Ms Frayne advised she would report back once she has consulted with the County Architect.

Cllr W Kavanagh asked when The Ballagh Housing Development would complete. Ms Frayne advised that it was due for completion in Q3 and is on target. Cllr O Walsh enquired what the additional funding received for this development was for and Ms Frayne agreed to report back.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin enquired about affordable housing projections for Gorey and Ms Frayne advised that Ramsfort Park is the only site identified and owned by the Council which will consist of 20 X 3-bed Units. She added that the St. Waleran's Masterplan may provide additional Units once finalised.

Cllr M Farrell asked about the impact Covid-19 has had on the uptake and repayment of Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans. Ms Frayne advised that this is being dealt with by the Finance Department but would come back with this information before the next District Meeting.

Cllr W Kavanagh enquired where the Voids Allocation is not drawn down in the year of allocation is it lost. Ms Frayne agreed to check this out and report back.

Cllr J Sullivan asked whether any works would commence on the Wexford Street Development this year. Ms Frayne confirmed that it is due for Part VIII by the end of Q2 but did not expect works to commence before 2022.

### **2.2 Environment**

Members noted the Environment Report which had been circulated prior to the Meeting. Mr P Knight informed the Committee that the consultation period for the Beach Byelaws had ceased and that there had been 151 submissions. He added that the Chief Executives' Report would be brought before members in September. Mr Knight informed the members that additional parking had been secured at Morriscastle and all resorts are being monitored in conjunction with An Garda Síochána.

Cllr M Farrell sought an update on access to Ballinamona Beach to which Mr Knight said he would consult with the Engineer, Mr G Colfer.

Cllr M Farrell called for bottle banks to be emptied more regularly at weekends as bottles are being left on the ground. Cllr Farrell said previously the Council could rely on CCTV

to monitor the banks but now they are relying on members of the public to notify them of any issues. Mr Knight agreed to look at the Contract for emptying bottle banks.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin highlighted the huge deficiency in toilet infrastructure, particularly in Cahore. Mr Knight agreed to refer Cllr Ó'Súilleabháin's concerns to the Engineer. Members expressed their concerns over dangerous jet-ski operators in harbours and close to beach areas and members debated whether-or-not they had the power to ban such activities. Captain Phil Murphy advised that legislation is in place in the WCC Harbours & Piers Bye Laws 2020 and that National Legislation has been in place since 2005. He added that he would be meeting with the Gardaí later in the week to discuss such matters.

Cllr W Kavanagh felt that the Council should try and accommodate all activities in the water but in a safe manner. Captain Murphy agreed with this view and explained to the Committee the policy regarding jet-ski users in harbours. He explained that with the slipway barrier the public must engage with them to access the slipway and users are reminded by staff to operate their vehicles in a safe manner. In the event they do not, they can be given a final warning and if they continue to misbehave their access is removed. Captain Murphy felt that banning their use would only drive them elsewhere but by policing users they could minimise the problem.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin advised that he had contacted the Coastguard regarding jet-ski users and had been told that you can own and operate a jet-ski without training and without a licence, registration or insurance. He also highlighted how jet-ski users are not confining themselves to the harbours but travelling close to the beach area and swimmers. Captain Murphy advised no training is required for any marine vessel. He said that existing Bye Laws allow for jet-ski use but that new Bye Laws will address launching off slipways and piers only.

### **2.3 Planning**

Members noted the Planning Report. Ms N Lennon provided members with updates on the CPO status of properties on Eire Street and Garden City, the taking-in-charge of Rosemount Gardens and the upcoming inspection of the old Tara Hall, Courtown.

Cllr J Sullivan enquired about the plans for the properties on Eire Street & Garden City and for a property in Coolgreany. Ms Lennon agreed to refer to the Property Section for an update. Ms A Byrne advised that the Coolgreany property had been secured for community use but if it can be established that there is no need the property can be handed back over to the Council.

### **2.4 Roads**

Members noted the Roads Report and Ms J Kehoe provided members with an update on surfacing works in the District, Local Improvement Scheme funding approved and increased litter bin collections in coastal areas.

Cllr D Kenny commended works carried out at a blackspot in Ballyellis but pointed out that the corner needed additional safety improvements, suggesting rumble strips. Ms Kehoe said they would probably be too close to the recommended distance from properties but agreed to look at additional measures to reduce speed.

Cllr D Devereux expressed his concerns for the safety of pedestrians crossing the Fort Road from the entrance to the Town Park and asked about a pedestrian crossing there towards Allenwood Drive. Ms Kehoe agreed to see if any funding was available to carry out such works.

Cllr D Devereux also highlighted safety concerns at The Monument specifically with cars coming from the Carnew Road. Ms Kehoe advised that works were scheduled to take place next year.

Cllr D Devereux asked for trees off the Rams Arms Carpark to be trimmed back as they are growing into the gardens of private houses and Ms Kehoe agreed to do so. Ms A Byrne asked that Gorey Tidy Towns be notified of any cutting taking place.

## **2.5 Water Services**

Members noted the Water Services Report and Mr B Hammel responded to queries raised.

## **2.6 Additional Departmental Reports**

Members noted the Community Development, Library Services and Wexford Fire Services Reports.

## **2.7 District Manager's Report**

Ms L Stanley provided members with an update on the following projects in the District:

### *Courtown TVRS 2018:*

Ms L Stanley informed the Committee that work has commenced on Courtown Pier and whilst the timing of this work is not ideal it was imperative that the Scheme commenced at this time to enable funding to be drawn down by the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021. Ms Stanley advised that the overall benefit of this work will be significant, and the project will deliver an integrated public realm experience between village, pier, harbour and Courtown Woods.

### *TVRS Accelerated Schemes 2020 Round 1 (Gorey):*

Ms Stanley informed the Committee that two murals have been completed in the town, the Theatre Hall and Market Square Car Park. She added that response to this artwork has been very positive and the standard of work excellent.

Ms Stanley said the outdoor dining build outs on Main Street & McDermott Street are complete and work is ongoing with a-number-of other businesses in the town and environs to facilitate outdoor dining on the footpath where width permits.

### *TVRS Accelerated Schemes 2020 Round 2 (Gorey District Village Networks):*

Ms Stanley informed the members that shopfront renovation works are nearing completion.

### *Courtown-Riverchapel TVRS 2020:*

Ms Stanley advised that tender documentation will be prepared for this work over the coming weeks and it is intended that work will commence by the end of the Q3-2021.

#### *Gorey Town Park Re-Development:*

Ms Stanley informed the Committee that the current date for completion of external works is the 9<sup>th</sup> July and that café building works should complete during the week of the 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

#### *Esmonde Street Regeneration:*

Ms A Byrne informed the members that the Esmonde Street Regeneration Design as approved for Part VIII will be tendered for shortly and that works will be completed in phases. Cllr A Bolger said he had spoken to business owners on Esmonde Street and they are not in favour of a one-way system but fully supportive of improved footpaths and underground infrastructure.

#### *Courtown Murals:*

Ms Stanley informed the members that Kate Kos completed a maritime themed mural in Riverchapel and that it is proposed to complete another mural at Ocean Point, Courtown over the coming weeks.

#### *Beach Patrols:*

Ms Stanley advised that the tourist season so far has been extremely busy in North Wexford & surrounding areas which whilst extremely positive for the tourist industry also brings issues and concerns that require attention over the busy summer months. She added that significant improvements have been carried out with litter and traffic management.

Committee members praised the outdoor dining build outs, murals and improvements made throughout village resorts but expressed huge frustration and annoyance over delayed works in Gorey Town Park. Ms A Byrne agreed that delays have been very frustrating but that works are almost complete. She said as soon as the Contractor completes and moves out play & outdoor gym equipment are ready for installation.

#### *Gorey Market House:*

Members noted that they had not received a copy of the Report which includes details of why the Gorey Market House proposal was rejected. Ms A Byrne explained that this is not a document for public consultation and is part of the confidential Tender Assessment. She said that she would need to discuss with the Council's Solicitors as it would not be normal practice to release these details. She added that if the Report were to be released it would have to be heavily redacted because it is an actual assessment of a proposal.

Cllr D Devereux asked what were KPMG's Terms of Reference? Ms Byrne said the Council hired KPMG to conduct a detailed review and analysis of the tender proposal which they had done in a fair and thorough manner. Referring to the original Public Realm Development Plan Cllr D Devereux said that on its' own this proposal is not adequate as it needs to be something that will generate jobs, money and be sustainable. Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin noted that in the County Development Plan Gorey is a key growth town, not just for housing and it is essential that this project proceed. Both Cllr A Donohoe and Cllr D Devereux requested a meeting with the Chief Executive and Ms Byrne agreed to speak with him. Cllr D Devereux felt that they as ten members should seek their own legal advice about access to the Report.

### **No. 3 Prescribed Business by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members**

None.

### **No. 4 Notice of Motion**

#### **(i) Consider Motion submitted by Cllr Fionntán O'Súilleabháin**

*"That we remove the permission for jet skis from Courtown's Beach Bye laws in line with other beaches in the county"*

Cllrs P Breen, W Kavanagh & M Farrell felt that the Motion should be put on hold pending Captain P Murphy's upcoming meeting with the Gardaí. Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin was not in favour of this delay and asked that the Motion progress. Cllr J Sullivan said allowing the use of jet-skies represents a danger to the public and they should not be allowed within 500m of the shoreline and launch only from piers & harbours.

The Motion was put to a vote with Cllrs Bolger, Devereux, Ó'Súilleabháin & Sullivan in favour and Cllrs Breen, Donohoe, Farrell, Kavanagh & Kenny against. Cllr Walsh was not present for the vote. Votes For (4) Votes Against (5). The Motion was not carried.

#### **(ii) Consider Motion submitted by Cllr Fionntán O'Súilleabháin**

*"This Council acknowledges that Ballymoney North is the only beach in North Wexford to have a lifeguard. That we seek to expand the number of lifeguards to help make our other beaches safer for the busy summer season"*

Cllr M Farrell seconded the Motion. Motion was carried.

### **No. 5 Correspondence – None**

### **No. 6 AOB**

Cllr M Farrell requested that a letter of support for the staff, residents and families of residents of Camphill Community Duffcarrig be sent to the HSE to expedite the ongoing mediation process. All members agreed.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

**Daingnithe ar an \_\_\_\_\_ lá de \_\_\_\_\_ 2021**

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**Pip Breen,  
Cathaoirleach,  
Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District**