

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District
held remotely on Tuesday, 19th January, 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 Joe Sullivan, Cathaoirleach,

Officials: Mr Michael Drea, District Manager,

Attendance (Microsoft Teams):

Councillors: Cllr Andrew Bolger,
Cllr Pip Breen,
Cllr Diarmuid Devereux,
Cllr Anthony Donohoe,
Cllr Mary Farrell,
Cllr Donal Kenny,
Cllr Fionntán O'Súilleabháin,
Cllr Oliver Walsh,

Officials: Ms Amanda Byrne, A/Director of Services,
Ms Joanne Kehoe, Senior Executive Engineer,
Mr Barry Hammel, Executive Engineer,
Ms Liz Stanley, Senior Staff Officer,
Ms Debbie Stanley, Assistant Staff Officer,
Mr Diarmuid Houston, Senior Planner,
Mr Paul L'Estrange, Senior Executive Officer,
Mr Niall McCabe, Administrative Officer,
Ms Michele Bridges-Carley, Administrative Officer,
Ms Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner,
Ms Cliona Connolly, Senior Staff Officer,

Apologies: Cllr Willie Kavanagh.

Vote of Sympathy

Members extended their sympathies to families of the recently deceased, including John Maher, Annie Walsh, Mary Nolan, Joe O'Leary, Chrissie Dixon, Mary Morris, Solson Saviour, Tom Doyle, Robert Hempenstall, Mimi Earle, Bill Owley, Paddy Conroy, Garda Alan Lebligue and all those who have died of Covid-19. A special mention was also made to survivors and victims of the Mother & Baby Homes scandal.

No. 1 Confirmation of Minutes & Matters Arising

1.1 Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr P Breen, seconded by Cllr D Kenny the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District held on the 15th December, 2020 were signed and adopted.

Update on St. Walerans Site

Mr. D Houston provided a Progress Report to Committee members on St. Walerans. Mr. Houston referred to plans for the site which include a cycle track, green spaces, community & education zones and a particular focus on sustainable housing development. When asked about the sites suitability for the construction of a secondary school this year, Mr. Houston advised that the site is not serviced yet, something which the Department of Education would have issue with. He added that whilst the St. Walerans site is zoned for such use, so too are other sites within Gorey and the Council would assist the Department to find the correct site, if requested. When asked about the Masterplan, Mr. Houston advised that this Plan will assist with how to proceed next with the site and will ensure all details are in place to apply for Grant Funding. Mr. Houston expects to present the Masterplan to the Committee by the end of Q1 2021 and the planning side to be concluded by the end of Q2 2021.

No. 2 Consideration of Reports & Recommendations

2.1 Housing

Members noted the Housing Report. In response to concerns expressed by members with the housing situation in North Wexford, Mr N McCabe informed the Committee that the Housing Department is currently compiling a list to determine the number of people looking for affordable housing and that the challenge was to bring houses to the market that cost substantially less than €250,000. Mr McCabe also addressed queries raised regarding Social Housing numbers, Housing Improvement Grants, those presenting homeless from other counties and delays with allocations.

2.2 Planning

Members noted the Planning Report and Ms Niamh Lennon responded to queries raised by Members. Ms Lennon informed the Committee that the Public Consultation period for the Draft County Wexford Development Plan 2021-2027 ended on the 9th December and submissions are currently being reviewed.

2.3 Community Development

Members noted the Community Development Report. Mr P L'Estrange congratulated those involved in securing funding under the latest round of Town & Village Funding for projects in Boolavogue and Courtown-Riverchapel.

2.4 Roads

Members noted the Roads Report. Ms J Kehoe informed the Committee that an application for funding in the amount of €180,000 for the Gorey-Courtown Footpath has been made under the Active Travel Scheme. Ms Kehoe explained that the project consisted of three phases:

1. The construction of next phase from existing path to the entrance of the Brickyard;
2. A Feasibility Study and Route Selection for the remainder of the project, and
3. Consultancy Services for the design, environmental reports and Part VIII for the pedestrian bridge at Courtown Wood.

Ms Kehoe also informed the Committee that funding has been sought under the Active Travel Scheme to separate cycle lanes from vehicular traffic on the Paul Funge Boulevard.

Ms Kehoe also responded to queries raised regarding repair works on the Park Road, Camolin and the one-way system at the Monument.

2.5 *Environment*

Members noted the Environment Report and Ms C Connolly referred to:

- ❖ Ballyconnigar Bridge repaired and pathway being checked for damage;
- ❖ Continued monitoring of Blue Flag Beach, Courtown;
- ❖ Barrier operating at Cahore Slipway;
- ❖ Delays to Ahare River Survey due to Covid-19 restrictions;
- ❖ Approved ORIS Funding to Kilanerin/Curragh Wood Trail, Kilmichael Point Trail and Sli Charman.

Ms Connolly highlighted an increase in registrations for the Green Dog Walker Scheme with 500 registered in less than one week. Ms Byrne added that focus should continue on such programmes to encourage a change in behaviour as it is not possible to install bins everywhere.

Councillors expressed their frustration with the increased level of illegal dumping taking place in the District and how the use of CCTV has been halted due to restrictions imposed by the Data Protection Commission. Ms Connolly informed the members that under the Household Regulations the Council can write out to households in areas where illegal waste is being disposed and where they do not respond, serve a notice to see what they are doing with their waste.

2.6 *Water Services*

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

2.7 *Wexford Fire Services*

Members noted the Wexford Fire Services Report.

2.8 *District Manager's Report*

Mr M Drea provided Members with an update on the following projects in the District:

- ❖ TVR Schemes;
- ❖ Gorey Town Park Re-development;
- ❖ Wexford Welcomes you Safely Initiative;
- ❖ GKMD Christmas Lights Grant Scheme;
- ❖ GKMD Business Improvement Grant Scheme;
- ❖ Feasibility Study for Multi-User Community Facilities;
- ❖ Esmonde Street Regeneration Part VIII;
- ❖ WCC Prohibition of Overnight Camping in Courtown Bye-Laws.

Cllr F O'Súilleabháin suggested a site close to Willow Park as a potential site for Gorey's Community Centre given its accessibility and surrounding population. Mr Drea said that this site is specified in the brief for Method Consultants and will be presented with Wexford County Council's landholding in the Gorey Area where they will give their views on suitability, servicing and expansion possibility. Mr Drea added that Consultants will engage with members and the public for their views on location.

Cllr D Devereux asked whether clarity had been sought regarding a request by members to donate the cost of their Christmas Dinner to the SVP. Mr Drea confirmed no donation had been made and felt it more appropriate if such a Contribution was to be made, it

should come from the District Manager's budget. Ms Byrne felt such an act might create greater issues and suggested referring to the Protocol Committee for clarity.

Members expressed their frustration over on-going delays with the completion of works at Gorey Town Park. Mr Drea advised that he would have an update from the Special Projects Office for the February Meeting. Ms Byrne added that the Council will be using every power that it has within the Contract to ensure work is expedited and completed once restrictions permit.

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

None.

No. 4 Notice of Motion

None.

No. 5 Correspondence

None.

No. 6 AOB

Cllr A Donohoe sought an update on The Market House. Ms Byrne advised that officials met with the qualifying tenderer before Christmas and would provide an update at the February Meeting.

Cllr D. Devereux asked that the District look at supporting a specific project in Gorey in the event of 2021 Festivals not taking place this year. Ms Byrne advised they are currently working on a Plan to get the best value for money from the Festival Allocation.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Daingnithe ar an _____ lá de _____ 2021

**Joe Sullivan,
Cathaoirleach,
Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District**