

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District
held remotely on Tuesday, 19th October 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 Andrew Bolger,
Cllr Donal Kenny
Cllr Joe Sullivan,

Officials: Mr Philip Knight, District Administrator,
Ms Liz Stanley, Senior Staff Officer,
Ms Joanne Kehoe, Senior Executive Engineer,
Ms Debbie Stanley, Assistant Staff Officer,

Attendance (Microsoft Teams):

Councillors: Cllr Diarmuid Devereux,
Cllr Anthony Donohoe,
Cllr Mary Farrell,
Cllr Willie Kavanagh
Cllr Fionntán Ó'Súilleabháin, Leas-Chathaoirleach,
Cllr Oliver Walsh,

Officials: Ms Amanda Byrne, A/District Director,
Mr Barry Hammel, Executive Engineer,
Mr Tony Larkin, Director of Services,
Mr Diarmuid Houston, Senior Planner,
Mr Shay Howell, Senior Executive Architect,
Ms Helen Frayne, Senior Staff Officer,
Mr Tom Banville, Senior Executive Officer,
Ms Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner,
Mr George Colfer.

No. 1 Confirmation of Minutes & Matters Arising

1.1 Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr W Kavanagh, seconded by Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin the Minutes of the In-Committee Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District held on the 21st September May 2021 were signed and adopted.

On the proposal of Cllr O Walsh, seconded by Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District held on the 21st September May 2021 were signed and adopted.

Cllr J Sullivan asked that it be recorded in the Minutes that the In-Committee Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District held on the 21st September 2021 was not held in line with the provisions of Section 45 of the Local Government Act 2001.

1.2 *Matters Arising:*

There were no matters arising from the September Committee Meetings.

No. 2 St. Waleran's Progress Report

Members were informed that work on the St. Waleran's Masterplan is now complete. They heard how the Housing Section will now progress with the first phase of housing comprising of 72 units with 35 ideally suitable for the affordable market and that the Special Projects Section will commence with the development of the front area of the site as a "People's Park". It is anticipated that Part 8 Planning for this first phase will be submitted in February 2022. Members heard how the initial planning application will include the access road onto the site and whilst the road bridge will have full vehicular traffic over the railway line, this will not be included at this time as it will involve a lengthy design process.

Mr D Houston explained that the Masterplan was designed to follow the Local Area Plan as much as possible and whilst no change in zoning is required for this first phase, later phases may need some variations. He added that the overall aim is to create a community on the site that is based around sustainable, green infrastructure and had good movement for everyone. Mr S Howell, Senior Executive Architect explained that urban blocks are currently being designed but that most homes will be traditional terrace street patterns with apartments in three-storey buildings. The Project Team responded to several of the member's queries, including:

- ✚ Applications for sewerage services.
- ✚ Management of bins.
- ✚ Timeline for breaking ground and when further zoning needs to begin.
- ✚ Designed benches, drinking fountains and cycle lane facilities.
- ✚ Fully serviced affordable sites.
- ✚ Timeline for bridge design.
- ✚ Rights of Ways.
- ✚ Part 8, Design & Tender Process running concurrently.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr P Breen and all the members commended those involved in such an ambitious plan, a model which could be copied around the country.

No. 3 Consideration of Reports & Recommendations

3.1 *Roads*

Members noted the Roads Report and Ms J Kehoe either responded to or agreed to follow-up with issues raised by members including:

- ✚ Hedge-cutting.
- ✚ Proposed Roundabout on Old Arklow Road and Left-Turn Only off Ballytegan Rd.
- ✚ Hoarding on footpath in Courtown.
- ✚ Move disability spaces in Courtown.

- ✚ Line-marking in carpark in Courtown and outside the cinema.
- ✚ One-Way System at The Monument.
- ✚ Extension of Carnew Road Footpath.
- ✚ Trimming back of trees off the Rams Arms Carpark.

On the matter of hedge-cutting Ms Kehoe agreed that this matter needs to be addressed countywide with a vigorous advertising campaign focusing on landowners cutting back their hedges.

3.2 Housing

Members noted the Housing Report and Ms H Frayne responded to member's queries.

Cllr W Kavanagh expressed his dissatisfaction with the length of time taking to complete The Ballagh Housing Scheme. Ms Frayne said additional information had been requested by Irish Water regarding the correction of a manhole and once drawings are approved it should complete within a couple of weeks. Cllr O Walsh added that it is very disappointing to see that no progress has been made with the footpath connecting to the village which was to be in place before houses are allocated. At this stage he felt both would not deliver in tandem.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin asked that the deadline of the 13th October be extended for existing approved applicants to return their Social Housing Assessment Review Forms. Ms Frayne advised that reminders have issued but it was difficult to see any extension being approved because of timelines to report back to the Department. She added that anyone having difficulty with their Form should contact their AHO.

Ms Frayne also provided an updated timeline for the delivery of Affordable Housing for Gorey.

3.3 Environment

Members noted the Environment Report and Mr G Colfer responded to member's queries.

Cllr J Sullivan sought an update on the Ahare River Report. Mr Colfer confirmed all surveys have completed and expects the Consultant's Report by the end of November.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin asked about the status of the North Beach Breakwater & Feasibility Study and called on Council Officials to meet with Courtown Community Council as several issues need to be resolved. Mr Colfer advised that this project has now been handed over to Special Projects and outside the remit of the Environment Section but will assist the District Administrator in meeting with the Community Group.

At this time, it was noted by several members that the continuation of District Meetings via MS Teams was not suitable, and it was agreed that going forward arrangements would be put in place for members and officials to meet in person.

3.4 *Derelict Sites*

Mr T Banville, Senior Executive Officer provided the members with an update on Derelict Sites in the District in particular sites and properties in Garden City, Coolgreany, Eire Street and Hollyfort.

3.5 *Planning*

Members noted the Planning Report. Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin sought updates on Taking-in-Charge Applications for The Heath, Creagh Demesne and Charlotte Grove. Ms N Lennon advised that The Heath is under inspection, Charlotte Grove, being a recent application has been acknowledged and that she would need to report back on Creagh Demesne.

3.6 *Water Services*

Members noted the Water Services Report. Mr B Hammel provided members with an update on works being carried out at Creagh Water Treatment Plant.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin sought clarification on the legal responsibility and direct control over Water Treatment Plants and called for a broader discussion on the quality of water in general and to look at the water at source. Mr Hammel agreed to respond directly with these queries.

3.7 *Additional Departmental Reports*

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

3.8 *District Administrator's Report*

Mr P Knight informed the Committee that the re-opening of Gorey District Park will proceed on Saturday, 30th October.

Ms L Stanley informed the members that works are almost complete on the seating plaza and boat refurbishment in Courtown. She advised that the final phase of works under this Town & Village Project involves the replacement of railings along the seafront and that she would be looking for the member's support to complete this.

Cllr M Farrell expressed her dissatisfaction with the operation of the Members Portal and that she is waiting for several responses from queries raised through this System. Ms Farrell felt the System was a hinderance to her role as a public representative as in many cases unsatisfactory responses are being communicated. Ms A Byrne advised that additional training was being provided for Nominated Contacts this week regarding the importance of getting relevant information back. She advised that the Portal was intended to make S40 Requests easier but that there needs to be a way to make it easier to access the required information.

Cllr J Sullivan expressed his concerns over the ever-increasing levels of anti-social behaviour in Gorey and called for additional Garda personnel in the town and District

Park. Cllr Sullivan felt Garda Management do not realise the extent to which Gorey has grown in the last 15 years at a time when the District was downgraded. An Cathaoirleach, Cllr P Breen said that this behaviour cannot be tolerated and requested that a letter to this effect be sent to the Garda Commissioner. Cllr D Devereux proposed that the Minister for Justice be invited to Gorey, seconded by Cllr J Sullivan and it was agreed to do so.

No. 4 Prescribed Business by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members

None.

No. 5 Notice of Motion

None.

No. 6 Correspondence

None.

No. 7 AOB

Ms L Stanley reminded the Kilmuckridge District Members that their 2020 Discretionary Allocation of €10,000 remains unspent and it was agreed by them to divide this equally as a once-off to ensure spend by the year end.

Regarding the 2021 Member's Discretionary Allocation of €60,000, Ms L Stanley suggested that €40,000 be allocated to the Courtown Railings Project and €20,000 towards a project at the discretion of the Kilmuckridge District Members. All members agreed.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin proposed the formation of a Sub-Committee for organising commemorations for the Decade of Centenaries 2022-23 to which Cllr P Breen advised that a Committee will be in place. Ms L Stanley advised that Tidy Towns Groups had been invited by Decade of Centenaries Co-Ordinators to create a Garden of Remembrance & Reflection and that there was a proposal of €5,000 set aside for 2021 of which €3,000 would go towards a Remembrance Garden in Gorey District Park.

Mr P Knight informed the members that there was a requirement to hold a Special Meeting of the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District prior to the next Monthly Meeting to discuss the GMA Allocation. It was agreed to hold this meeting via MS Teams on the afternoon of Wednesday, 10th November.

Cllr P Breen called for any congratulations or sympathies and Cllr M Farrell suggested going forward that these be submitted in advance of District Meetings. She added that it had been agreed at a Protocol Meeting that matters relating to former staff members should be mentioned at the Full Council and more local matters at District Level.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin offered his congratulations to Mr Philip Knight on his recent appointment to the post of District Administrator to the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District.

Cllr D Devereux referred to the recent announcement of the closure of the town's Gorey Guardian Office and paid tribute to Journalist, Cathy Lee and all staff from the Office.

All the members paid tribute to staff in the Gorey Guardian, some mentioning Sean Dwyer, Ger Leacy and Fintan Lambe in particular, and wished them all well in the future.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Daingnithe ar an _____ lá de _____ 2021

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