

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District
held remotely on Tuesday, 20th April 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: 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 Pip Breen,
Cllr Diarmuid Devereux,
Cllr Anthony Donohoe,
Cllr Mary Farrell,
Cllr Willie Kavanagh
Cllr Donal Kenny,
Cllr Fionntán O'Súilleabháin,
Cllr Oliver Walsh,

Officials: Mr Tom Enright, Chief Executive,
Mr Tom Banville, Senior Executive Officer,
Mr Sean Meyler, Executive Engineer,
Ms Helen Meehan, Senior Staff Officer,
Ms Cliona Connolly, Senior Staff Officer,
Ms Niamh Lennon, Executive Planner,
Mr Barry Hammel, Executive Engineer.

Vote of Sympathy

Cllr D Devereux extended his sympathy to the Carton & McGuire Families on the recent passing of Mrs Ita Carton, Camolin.

Offer of Congratulations

Cllr J Sullivan praised Community Groups and families from North Wexford who have participated in litter picking events in their areas.

No. 1 Confirmation of Minutes & Matters Arising

1.1 Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr P Breen, seconded by Cllr D Devereux the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District held on the 16th March 2021 were signed and adopted.

1.2 Matters Arising:

An update was sought in relation to the taking-in-charge of Carrig Vale, Kilanerin and Mr T Banville advised that it would be realised by the year end.

No. 2 Consideration of Reports & Recommendations

2.1 Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive, Mr T Enright provided members with a progress report on major on-going projects in North Wexford:

Esmonde Street Regeneration:

Mr Enright referred to the Council's unsuccessful funding application under the Rural Regeneration & Development Fund for the redevelopment of Esmonde Street and assured members that it is the intention of the Council to proceed with this project without Central Government Funding. He advised that Consultants will look at which elements of the project can be brought forward to create a proper town centre, focusing on public realm space with improved footpath, pedestrian and traffic arrangements. Mr Enright acknowledged the important role Esmonde Street plays in the local economy and said that Council Funds of €1.5m will be made available to progress this project.

Gorey Town & District Park:

Mr Enright expressed his disappointment with the duration of time it is taking the Contractor to complete works within the Town Park but did note that Covid 19 must be factored into this delay. He assured members that the initial contract value on site has not increased but as a more ambitious project was brought forward, overall project costs have changed. Mr Enright expects works to be complete within two months of the Contractor returning on site and advised that the park will be open to the public during the summer. Mr S Meyler concurred with this and added that the Contractor has been instructed to return on site next week due to safety concerns as a result of suspected intrusion.

Former St Joseph's Site:

Mr Enright informed the Committee that surveyors would be returning to the site next week and that Part 8 should be brought before the members shortly.

Ramsfort Affordable Housing:

Mr Enright advised the members that the Council is progressing the 20 Unit Affordable Housing Scheme in Ramsfort and this development will be going to Part 8 shortly.

St. Walerans:

Mr Enright acknowledged that the St. Waleran's Masterplan was delayed as a result of the pandemic which prevented Consultants from accessing the site but informed members that a draft would be brought before them at the May District Meeting. Mr Enright described the site as a huge development for the District which will provide valuable social and affordable housing along with education, community and enterprise facilities. He further advised that it is the intention of the Council to sell some of the land for private housing in order to create income to invest back into other Gorey projects. When asked whether it will affect other developments in the area in terms of zoning, Mr Enright advised that zoning of land is linked to population growth figures that must be

complied with but once the Masterplan is agreed the Council can move forward with a variation of the Town Plan to amend zoning. Mr Enright also added that it is the intention of the Council to apply for funding for services and infrastructural development but some smaller works can progress without this.

Gorey Market House:

Mr Enright explained that the process has been significantly delayed due to Covid-19 and an extension has been granted to the preferred tenderer to gather further information. He confirmed that a final decision will be made next month and brought before the members at the June District Meeting for consideration.

Courtown Leisure Centre:

With the announcement of the new owners of Courtown Leisure Centre imminent, Cllr F O'Suilleabháin expressed the concerns of Courtown Community Council's ownership and access to Courtown Woodlands. Mr Enright assured Cllr O'Suilleabháin that the new owner of the Centre has agreed to honour any existing agreements and covenant and he is hopeful that the Centre will be open during the summer.

Gorey to Courtown Footpath:

Cllr A Bolger sought an update on the completion of the Gorey to Courtown Footpath. Mr Enright confirmed the Council's intention to complete the current short gap in the footpath. He added that the footbridge restoration works would be costly but was currently being looked at. Mr Enright suggested that an off-road greenway linking Courtown and other coastal areas together and to Gorey as a safer option for walking and cycling and agreed that this proposal should be examined.

Mr Enright assured Committee members of his commitment to drive on and complete these projects for the better of the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District. Cathaoirleach Cllr J Sullivan thanked the Chief Executive for his Progress Report and invited him back to the November District Meeting for further updates.

2.2 Housing

Members noted the Housing Report. Members sought updates on The Ballagh Housing Scheme allocations and confirmation that the estate's footpath would be constructed prior to these allocations. Cllr M Farrell expressed concerns over the shortage of 1 and 2 bed accommodation units and Ms H Meehan agreed to get a breakdown of the type of housing involved in each housing project coming on stream from Capital Projects. Ms Meehan also agreed to forward queries regarding the construction of a wall at Hunters Hill and Choice-Based Letting to the relevant officials for comment.

2.3 Environment

Members noted the Environment Report and Ms C Connolly provided additional updates on:

- ❖ Ahare River Survey;
- ❖ Draft Beach Bye-Laws;
- ❖ Dune Restoration at Morriscastle;
- ❖ Ounavarra River Pollution;
- ❖ Courtown Beach Recovery;
- ❖ Parking at Beaches;
- ❖ Ballinamona Beach Access;
- ❖ Biodiversity LEADER Funding.

Cllr A Bolger highlighted the need for repairs of a wooden walkway at Courtown Beach, specifically fencing repairs and broken glass in the display board. Ms. Connolly advised she would look at removing any hazards but added that the display board had housed the beach's Blue Flag Information and as this has since been lost it is unlikely the glass will be replaced.

Cllr D Kenny enquired about dog fouling bins for Askamore. Ms. Connolly advised that the Council continues to promote their Dog Fouling Awareness Campaign through social media platforms encouraging dog owners to pick up after their dog and dispose of the bag responsibly.

Cllr D Devereux enquired if unused paint tins could be disposed of in any other location other than Holmestown and Ms. Connolly advised that this is the only current location accepting paint tins as paint needs to be specially treated prior to disposal. She further added that the Council have held "Hazardous Waste Days" in the past and would look at raising more awareness and rearranging a similar event over the summer period.

Ms. Connolly informed Committee members that Courtown and Ballymoney beaches would not be entered for blue flag awards this season. Members expressed their disappointment at such a loss to the District and insisted that everything should be done to re-instate these beaches to their former glory.

2.4 Planning

Members noted the Planning Report. Cllr F O'Súilleabháin and Cllr D Kenny requested that the Council proceed with the CPO of properties on Eire Street and Garden City immediately and that the 7% levy be applied in the event of CPOs being challenged. Cllr P Breen also sought an update on The Macamore Inn, Ballyedmond and 2 individual houses in Ballyedmond also. Ms Lennon advised she would seek updates from Mr T Banville for the next District Meeting and asked that if other members had any specific premises or sites of concern to forward details to her in advance of the next meeting.

Cllr M Farrell sought an update on an application for taking-in-charge from Rosemount Gardens, Ballymurn dating April 2016 and Ms Lennon advised she would seek an update from Building Control.

A discussion took place regarding the issue of visiting motorhomes to the District this summer. Members felt that adequate facilities should be provided and suggested car parks at Community Centres, Sports Clubs or Public Houses should be considered as an option for motorhomes to park in temporarily. Ms Lennon said strictly speaking planning permission is required for such a change of use. She acknowledged that motorhomes are a growing concern for many coastal areas which are already under recreational pressures and stated that a strategic balanced approach is needed on how to try accommodate these developments. Ms Lennon hoped to have guidance in the next few weeks. Ms Lennon referred to the environmental and traffic safety issues which also come with such developments and agreed that properly serviced sites are required but Management are aware that a solution is required which will satisfy regulations.

2.5 Roads

Members noted the Roads Report. Cllr M Farrell asked if the Kilmuckridge to Morriscastle footpath could be cleaned before the May Bank Holiday and once again during the summer season. Ms J Kehoe advised that the majority of crews are currently assigned to surfacing works but she would try to address this request.

Cllr D Devereux called on the Council to increase enforcement in the cycle lane on the Paul Funge Boulevard. Illegal parking and deliveries are impacting negatively on the area and suggested that a loading bay should be considered for this area. Ms Kehoe advised that this issue will be addressed under Active Travel Works.

Cllr F O'Súilleabháin asked that the DoS, Transportation write to the Minister requesting emergency funding to address the rapidly deteriorating condition of rural roads in the District.

Ms Kehoe also addressed queries raised regarding connection of lights in Askamore, Coolgreany and Tara Hill.

2.6 Water Services

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

2.7 Additional Departmental Reports

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

2.8 District Manager's Report

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

- ❖ TVR Schemes (Standard & Accelerated Measures);
- ❖ Feasibility Study for Multi-User Community Facilities;
- ❖ Allocation of Car Parks Spaces for Outdoor Dining;
- ❖ Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Businesses Scheme (OSAS).

In relation to the Outdoor Seating & Accessories Grants, the members were advised that three coffee shops had approached the District Manager a number of months ago requesting the support of the Council in using car parking spaces for serving tea/coffee outdoors as soon as restrictions allow. It was agreed to trial this on Main Street and McCurtain Street and the proposal was welcomed by the Members as everyone is anxious to see business commence again and normality return to our shops, businesses and tourism sector.

Cllr A Bolger enquired whether Courtown TVR Works will cause any disruptions during the tourist season. Ms Stanley advised that initial works will commence in the boat area and thereafter one segment only will be cordoned off at a time in order to impact as little as possible on the tourists and locals in the area.

Cllr D Devereux suggested that the Festivals Allocation for 2021 be diverted to benefit a specific project at the discretion of the District Manager on a once-off basis bearing in mind Covid-19 would restrict large events from taking place again this year and all members concurred with this proposal.

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

3.1 GKMD Residents Association Grant Scheme 2021

The Chairman advised that Residents Association Grant Applications had been received from Brooklyn Court, Twin Oaks and Woodlands Manor Residents Associations and on the proposal of Cllr A Bolger, seconded by Cllr D Devereux, it was agreed to provide a grant of €500 to each Group.

No. 4 Notice of Motion

None.

No. 5 Correspondence

5.1 Correspondence to the Minister of State for Postal Services - re: Withdrawal of Transformation Payment to Postmasters;

The Correspondence outlined above was noted by the members.

No. 6 AOB

Cllr D Kenny was nominated to sit on the Litter and Waste Action Sub-Committee.

Cllr A Bolger called on the Council to extend the Gorey Town CCTV System to include the lane between The Avenue and Wexford Street. On the proposal of Cllr D Devereux, seconded by Cllr P Breen, Ms L Stanley agreed to commence the application process, pointing out to the members that it is a lengthy process.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Daingnithe ar an _____ lá de _____ 2021

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