

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District
held remotely on Tuesday, 20th July 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 Willie Kavanagh,
Cllr Donal Kenny
Cllr Joe Sullivan,

Officials: Ms Liz Stanley, A/District Manager,
Ms Joanne Kehoe, Senior Executive Engineer,

Attendance (Microsoft Teams):

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

Officials: Ms Amanda Byrne, A/District Director,
Mr Barry Hammel, Executive Engineer,
Ms Debbie Stanley, Assistant Staff Officer,
Ms Helen Frayne, Senior Staff Officer,
Mr Philip Knight, Senior Staff Officer,
Mr Niall Sheehan, Assistant Planner.

Vote of Sympathy

Members extended their sympathies to the families of recently bereaved, Liam Rooney and Elizabeth Dunne.

Offer of Congratulations

Cllr P Breen paid tribute to Ms Maura Higgins, Town Gardener and wished her well in her new post with the OPW. Cllr Breen said Ms Higgins has been a tremendous asset to the District, particularly her work with Gorey Tidy Towns. District Manager, Ms L Stanley also thanked Ms Higgins for her excellent work around town and wished her well for the future.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin offered his congratulations to Gorey filmmaker, Rachel Gregan whose most recent documentary on gambling addiction premieres at the Galway Film Fleadh.

No. 1 Confirmation of Minutes & Matters Arising

1.1 Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr A Donohoe, seconded by Cllr M Farrell the following Minutes were signed and adopted:

- ✚ In-Committee Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District held on the 1st June 2021.
- ✚ Annual General Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District held on the 15th June 2021.
- ✚ In-Committee Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District with An Garda Síochána held on the 15th June 2021.
- ✚ Monthly Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District held on the 15th June 2021.

1.2 Matters Arising:

Cllr D Devereux reported that there has been no improvement with jet ski operators in Courtown and that the matter must be dealt with. Members considered the matter at length with differing opinions as to what the solution was. District Director, Ms A Byrne suggested inviting the Gardaí and Captain Phil Murphy back to the September District Meeting and see what level of reports have been made over the summer and what the outcome was, and this was agreed.

No. 2 Consideration of Reports & Recommendations

2.1 Housing

Members noted the Housing Report and Ms H Frayne responded to members queries. Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin asked about the timeframe for the delivery of affordable housing in Gorey. Ms Frayne advised that they had received 203 responses from the Affordable Housing Expressions of Interest Marketing Survey, 87 of which came from Gorey. She added that she could not give a definitive date as several issues need to be dealt with, such as legislation to be signed into law, regulations to be issued and that they will need to go for a Scheme of Priorities. Cllr A Bolger asked that a definitive timeframe of the next steps be brought to the September District Meeting and Ms Frayne agreed to do so.

Cllr M Farrell enquired about the expected start date for the Monamolín Scheme and whether there would be a secure boundary with the existing housing estate. Ms Frayne said she did not expect a start within the next 12 months and agreed to check with the Architect about boundary treatment.

Cllr W Kavanagh enquired about a completion date for The Ballagh Housing Scheme. Ms Frayne said the expected Q3 2021 completion remains on target. Cllr O Walsh pointed out that an agreement had been made that the footpath connecting to the village should be in place before houses are allocated. Ms J Kehoe, District Roads Engineer added that a Contractor was ready to commence.

Cllr J Sullivan sought an update on the Wexford Street development. Ms Frayne advised that the date would be confirmed at the next meeting.

Cllr J Sullivan enquired about a vacant property in Coolgreany which is in Council ownership. Ms A Byrne said that following an inspection by the Housing Section it was deemed not suitable and will now be put on the market.

2.2 Environment

Members noted the Environment Report. Mr P Knight informed the Committee that Captain Phil Murphy met with the Gardaí and Inshore Rescue regarding jet ski usage and that both are on board to alleviate the problems. He added that the Gardaí have been monitoring the situation and warnings have been given.

Mr Knight informed Committee members that bollards would soon go up in Cahore and that CCTV is expected at the same time. Cllr P Breen welcomed the impact that recent works at Ballinamona were having with Cllr M Farrell and Cllr O Walsh agreeing that it had resolved health & safety issues. Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin added that it was crucial that Community Wardens be in place at Ballymoney, Courtown and Cahore over weekends to enforce by-laws due to the volume of people present.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin questioned works which took place at Courtown Woods. He said that the members had been assured that no works would take place without prior notice. Mr Knight understood the works involved to be relatively minor - surface dressing some of the walkways. He volunteered to discuss the matter with Rory O'Mahony, Environment Engineer.

Cllr D Devereux referred to a recent meeting between Senior Engineer, Mr G Forde and the residents of Clogh regarding the Compost Plant and enquired had a follow-up letter been issued by the Council. Mr Knight advised that a Notice under S26 of the Air Pollution Act was currently being reviewed by the Council's Solicitors to ensure it was sufficiently robust and enforceable.

Cllr J Sullivan sought an update on the Ahare River Survey. Cllr M Farrell advised that the Survey Report is on the Agenda for the next Environment SPC. She added that a survey has also been conducted by Coastwatch Ireland which they hoped would support the project.

Cllr M Farrell again called for bins and bottle banks to be emptied more regularly at weekends. Cllr Farrell suggested erecting signage asking the public to bring their rubbish home if bins are full. Mr Knight informed the members that the Council held a contract with Glasco to service bins throughout the county and that the difficulty arose with the number of visits to bring sites. Cllr A Donohoe suggested asking Glasco to supply additional bins during busy times. Mr Knight agreed to explore this further and report back at the next District Meeting.

Cllr O Walsh highlighted overgrown ditches along several beach access roads which require trimming. Cllr A Donohoe mentioned roads in the vicinity of the vaccination centre in Kilanerin and approach roads to Ferns also in need of trimming back. District Roads Engineer, Ms J Kehoe said that the trimming at road junctions as a safety measure is ongoing and that she would inform the Enniscorthy District about Ferns. Cllr O Walsh felt the Environment Section should have more responsibility with hedge trimming in beach access areas. Ms J Kehoe advised that a hedge-cutter is on hire for beach access roads but that there is a short supply of skilled workers with only two working Contractors available.

Cllr A Donohoe noted how the Clogh Roundabout is completely overgrown and a hazard to oncoming traffic. He acknowledged the importance of biodiversity but in more appropriate areas. Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin agreed with Cllr A Donohoe and felt the Clogh

Roundabout was an opportunity to showcase Wexford with a fitting display. Ms J Kehoe agreed the wildflower display at the Clogh Roundabout had not been as successful as was hoped but was being looked at by the District Gardener. Ms A Byrne said an allocation from the Festival's Budget could be considered as any works will be very expensive. Ms L Stanley agreed to bring proposals to the Committee for the remaining Festival Budget spend.

Cllr D Devereux asked if the boardwalk to Ballymoney Beach could be inspected as two accidents had occurred in recent weeks. Mr Knight agreed to refer this to the relevant Engineer.

2.3 Planning

Members noted the Planning Report. Members sought updates on Taking-in-Charge Applications for Tinteskin Close, Housing Estate & the common area in Chapelwood Housing Estate, Kilmuckridge and Rosemount Gardens, Ballymurn. Mr N Sheehan agreed to report back with updates.

Cllr A Donohoe questioned the absence of the St. Waleran's Masterplan presentation on today's Agenda. Mr Sheehan advised that the Masterplan was being finalised and expected its presentation at the September District Meeting. Cllr Donohoe suggested calling a Special Meeting before September if the Masterplan was almost ready for approval and sought clarification that funding applications were underway. Ms A Byrne informed the members that Conor Norton would complete the Masterplan shortly and that the Council was working on key funding elements for services and access.

Cllr A Bolger again referred to some business owners on Esmonde Street not in favour of a one-way system but who were fully supportive of improved footpaths, underground infrastructure and making use of vacant properties. Cllr A Donohoe felt a one-way system would work well, making the street safer but would require a new roundabout on the Coach Road. Ms A Byrne informed the members that RPS has started on a detailed design and that a tender is currently out for a contractor to undertake a site investigation on the street with this information feeding into the design. She added that Part VIII has gone through, consent is in situ and that the Planning Department will take any concerns on board for discussion at a future meeting. Ms Byrne added that the potential of this scheme has been explained to businesses and a significant resource invested in consultation with businesses on the street. It was agreed to review when investigations were complete.

Cllr D Devereux referred to the large number of planning permissions granted in the last 12-18 months and enquired whether there would be any leeway given to people unable to complete within the 5 year timeframe particularly where applicants have not been able to secure architects, engineers and due to increased costs resulting from the pandemic. Mr Sheehan said there is an extension process which allows an additional 2 years and that he would check whether this could be afforded to Covid-19 delays.

Mr Sheehan also agreed to provide progress reports on a derelict property in Oylegate and the taking-in-charge of Carrig Vale, Kilanerin and Creagh Domaine, Gorey.

2.4 Roads

Members noted the Roads Report and Ms J Kehoe addressed the following queries raised by members:

- + Works on Kilnahue Lane;
- + Crash Barriers for a bad bend between Craanford and Gorey;
- + Trimming back of trees off the Rams Arms Carpark;
- + Issues with Wheelchair Users due to Traders in Courtown;
- + Stop Sign for right turn on Kilmuckridge to Wells Road (Murphy's Cross);
- + Watch-house Hill condition of roads.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin suggested a tarmacadam cover as a more durable surface for roads. Ms J Kehoe advised that a tarmacadam cover is not suitable for all locations and at present roads do not have the foundations for a macadam cover. She added that in years to come it may feature more as they will have put foundations back into some roads.

2.5 Water Services

Members noted the Water Services Report and Mr B Hammel responded to queries raised. Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin and Cllr M Farrell complimented Mr Hammel on improvement works which have led to less interruptions in water supplies particularly during the summer season when the capacity required is huge. Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin asked about water quality in rivers and whether the IW Biodiversity Plan would be applied to various sites such as Annagh. Mr Hammel said he would contact IW and the EPA and follow up.

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:

Gorey District Park Re-Development:

Ms Stanley advised that completion works are currently ongoing with external surfacing, line-marking and landscaping. She said that the Contractor Compound and Offices will be removed next week with the park open for public access scheduled for early August with playground & gym equipment to be installed September/October. The HUB Building is also set for completion mid-August.

Cllr J Sullivan referred to a recent site visit to the District Park and meeting with the contractor. He admitted to having raised many questions over the park's works in the past but said he had always gone through the proper channels with Council Officials. He felt the Contractor should have had the same recourse to go through these officials instead of questioning him. Ms A Byrne said the Council was happy to provide any information Cllr Sullivan requested and that the forum for everyone to go through is the Executive. When Cllr Sullivan responded that he had received neither an

acknowledgement nor a response to any questions he had emailed the Chief Executive Ms Byrne said she would follow up on same.

Live Performance Scheme 2021

The Committee heard that funding of €25K had been awarded by the Dept. of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media with the support of WCC's Arts Officer. Ms L Stanley advised that the focus of this Scheme is to support the commercial live entertainment industry that has been badly affected by Covid-19 and to also encourage the public to attend performance events again, that are safe, well-managed and either subsidised or free. Cllr M Farrell asked how the District envisaged getting word out to local musicians as she felt they all deserve an opportunity. Ms Stanley advised that an Events Management Company will be employed to oversee these events but that the Council will also engage with local artists with the help of the Gorey Market House Festival Committee.

Outdoor Dining:

Ms Stanley advised that the District continues to support businesses who request assistance with outdoor dining facilities and to date all applicants have been facilitated with Section 254 Licences. She added that due to the success of outdoor dining it is envisaged that it be included in developments such as Esmonde Street going forward. Cllr M Farrell commended the District for facilitating the level of outdoor dining and agreed that the town is looking very vibrant and has a continental feel about it.

National Triathlon & All Ireland Youth Cycling Championship:

Ms Stanley informed the members that she is at the early stages of assisting Pulse Triathlon Club in planning a National Youth Triathlon in Courtown, Cahore & Ballymoney and an Event Management Plan from the Group is currently being considered. Ms Stanley also said that Gorey is being considered for the first time for the All Ireland Youth Cycling Championships. She added that this would be a welcome initiative that she hopes to progress.

Ms Stanley also provided updates on the 2018 TVRS Courtown (Revised), Esmonde Street Re-generation, Courtown Murals and the Three Billboards Initiative.

Cllr D Devereux asked that any future plans for murals be brought before the Committee for discussion and suggested acknowledging prominent artists in Gorey. Ms A Byrne concurred with Cllr Devereux's suggestion though adding it may be more fitting to acknowledge through art works rather than actual individuals.

Cllr D Kenny enquired whether there was any update on a site for the town's newest secondary school. Ms A Byrne advised that the Department is looking for temporary accommodation in advance of prefabs in order to meet the current school year start date. Cllr A Donohoe was totally opposed to the idea of prefabs and said that the Department must look at a permanent solution to the problems of secondary education in Gorey. Cllr Donohoe felt that students could be left in prefabs for years rather than having a permanent structure built and asked the District Manager to write to the Minister for Education & Science on behalf of the Committee expressing their concerns over the current situation and that a permanent solution must be sought for the students. Ms. L Stanley agreed to do so.

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 a Residents Association Grant Application had been received from Village Gate Residents Association and on the proposal of Cllr P Breen, seconded by Cllr M Farrell, it was agreed to provide a grant of €500.

No. 4 Notice of Motion

None.

No. 5 Correspondence

5.1 Garda Commissioner Drew Harris - re: Letter of Support for additional staff in the Gorey-Kilmuckridge District;

5.2 Health Service Executive - re: Letter of Support for the Staff, Residents & Families of Residents of Camphill Community Duffcarrig to expediate the ongoing mediation process;

The Correspondence outlined above was noted by the members. Cllr P Breen advised that a solution was imminent in the Camphill Dispute and thanked everyone for their support.

No. 6 AOB

A discussion took place on the issue of campervans. Ms L Stanley agreed that the issue has been ongoing for several months and that the Council are aware of the demands. She said that it is a preference to have private individuals develop a site and have something in place by Spring next year. Cllr P Breen said that having four sites with services at the Town Park would help but Cllr W Kavanagh felt that the main problem is day-time parking. He asked whether beachside car parks could cater for campervans during the day as there were cases where vans were not allowed, adding that the Council should accommodate people and let them know where parking is available.

Ms A Byrne agreed that it is an issue that needs to be sorted particularly day-time parking. She suggested holding Workshops in the Autumn for businesses and Community Groups as a way of stimulating this as it may be something that they can pursue in their own areas.

Cllr M Farrell expressed her frustration over raising this issue continuously over the last 2-3 years and at the end of another season still no nearer to a solution. She noted how people are encouraged to 'holiday at home' but there is a complete lack of service provisions. She also felt that there is a negative mindset towards campers when in fact genuine people want to come, spend money and enjoy what the county has to offer. Cllr J Sullivan felt the whole issue was being complicated and that the Council needs to provide a parking area at various locations around the county. Ms L Stanley agreed to continue with this discussion at the September District Meeting with all the relevant officials present.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Daingnithe ar an _____ lá de _____ 2021

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