

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District
held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, The Avenue, Gorey
on Tuesday 20th February 2024, at 2:30pm**

Attendance:

In the Chair:

Cllr Pip Breen, Cathaoirleach,
Cllr Andrew Bolger,
Cllr Anthony Donohoe,
Cllr Mary Farrell,
Cllr Willie Kavanagh,
Cllr Donal Kenny,
Cllr Fionntán Ó'Súilleabháin, Leas-Chathaoirleach,
Cllr Joe Sullivan,
Cllr Diarmuid Devereux,
Cllr Oliver Walsh,

Officials:

Ms Liz Hore, Director of Services & District Director,
Mr Philip Knight, Municipal District Manager,
Ms Liz Stanley, Senior Staff Officer,
Ms Joanne Kehoe, Senior Executive Engineer,
Ms Debbie Stanley, Assistant Staff Officer,
Ms Paula Shortall, Senior Staff Officer, Housing, MS Teams,
Mr Enda Brennan, Executive Engineer, Environment,
Mr Ian Plunkett, Executive Technician, Environment,
Mr Oisín Boland, Executive Planner,
Ms Claire Goodwin, Cycling & Walking Officer.

No. 1 Deputation from Ballycanew National School

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr P Breen welcomed a deputation from Ballycanew National School which comprised of Principal Seamus Dempsey, Green Schools Travel Officer Lucy Murphy, and students from the Green Schools Committee. The Group expressed the growing concerns of their school community and appealed for further infrastructure to be put in place to ensure the safety of their students.

Ms C Goodwin, Cycling & Walking Officer informed the Committee that Ballycanew NS has applied for funding under the Safe School Scheme, which she hoped will be prioritised. Cllr D Devereux agreed to support such an application at the next Roads Infrastructure SPC Meeting.

Members agreed that in addition to infrastructure improvements, driver behaviour awareness and enforcement also needs to be addressed. Cllr A Donohoe proposed writing to An Garda Síochána to request their presence particularly at school drop-off and collection times, seconded by Cllr D Devereux.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr P Breen and all the members acknowledged the concerns of the deputation and particularly praised the students who presented the findings from a survey conducted by them in front of their school. The Committee thanked them for attending the Meeting and agreed to provide any assistance they could.

No. 2 Confirmation of Minutes & Matters Arising

2.1 Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr D Kenny, seconded by Cllr A Donohoe the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD, both held on January 16th, 2024, were signed, and adopted.

2.2 Matters Arising:

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin sought an amendment to the January GKMD Minutes that accessible car parking markings be put in place close to the accessible toilets at Ballymoney Beach (and not Cahore).

Mr P Knight informed the members that he had met with the District Director, Transportation Director, Senior Planner & District Roads Engineer to review plans for the development of Ballytegan and the following actions have been determined:

1. A funding application was made and granted for safety improvement works at the junction of Ballytegan Road with the Arklow Road, including pedestrian and vehicular safety measures. This will be moving to design in the coming weeks.
2. A bridge linking Ballytegan Road to Woodlands Manor is to be designed and constructed. Footpath linkages throughout the estates and on the Ballytegan Road will be identified and constructed to increase pedestrian access throughout the area.
3. The Inner Relief Road link to the Arklow Road and Railway Bridge is to be designed and constructed.

No. 3 Consideration of Reports, Recommendations & Presentations

3.1 Housing:

The Housing Report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin raised concerns over the proposed height of the 22-unit development at Creagh and asked whether the design could be changed. Cllr O'Súilleabháin was informed that the units will adhere to the planning permission which has already been granted. Cllr J Sullivan welcomed the commencement of this development but also sought the timeline of the additional 24 units at Creagh. Ms Shortall agreed to revert.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr P Breen informed the members that the Council is conducting an online survey to determine the level of interest in Affordable Housing in County Wexford. He advised that the information gathered will help to establish the need and plan for the delivery of affordable housing in the county.

Cllr M Farrell asked about the timeline for the 14 X 2-bed units in Ballynaglogh, Blackwater (Phase 2). Ms Shortall advised that they are working off the current end of Q2-2024 delivery deadline.

3.2 Environment

The Environment Report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted.

Mr E Brennan announced that works at Ballymoney North Beach have gone to tender with a Contractor expected to be appointed in March.

On the matter of illegal dumping, Mr Brennan informed the members that a fixed penalty notice has been issued to the individual disposing of cat litter trays which will now go before The Courts.

Cllr O Walsh highlighted access issues at Ballyconnigar Beach due to the bridge being washed away.

Cllr M Farrell called for the replanting of marram grass at Morriscastle Beach which has become uprooted due to recent storms.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin called for the North Wexford 2K Clean Programme to commence earlier this year.

Cllr A Donohoe noted that the Reverse Vending Machines for the new Deposit Return Scheme are not wheelchair accessible.

3.3 National Septic Tank Inspection Programme Presentation:

Mr I Plunkett presented the National Septic Tank Inspection Programme to the members and responded to any queries raised.

3.4 Planning









The Planning Report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted.

Cllr O Walsh asked where the Council stands with wind strategy within the County Development Plan and Mr Walsh agreed to revert.

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin enquired the number of sites for CPO within the District and Mr Walsh agreed to revert.

3.5 Roads

The Roads Report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted and Ms J Kehoe responded to the following issues raised:

-  Relocation of 2 X Bus stops from Main Street,
-  N-11 National Rehabilitation Funding,
-  Inclusion of Ballinamona & Kilmichael Roads on the Programme of Works,
-  Road-sweeping in Courtown,
-  Completion of Gorey to Courtown Footpath,
-  Road Repairs from The Ballagh to Ballymurn, through to Ballylucas,
-  Surface Water on Garrylough to Castlebridge Road,
-  Removal of old signage in Kilnamanagh.

Cllr A Donohoe asked that the district write to a local quarry company about the increased presence of their lorries on Main Street, Gorey and to request that an alternative route be used.

Cllr J Sullivan sought the number of Active Travel applications made in the last 3 years and suggested the connection of Gorey to Arklow by footpath and cycling path be considered. Cllr A Bolger also sought an update on the €400,000 funding available to spend on the Gorey to Courtown footpath. Ms Kehoe agreed to forward these queries to the Active Travel Team for response.

Cllr A Donohoe proposed that the new District Council meet with the Chief Executive in June or July to readdress the €207m Capital Programme Spend for the County as only 6% of the overall spend is coming back to the Gorey District.

3.6 Additional Departmental Reports

The Community Development, Library Services and Wexford Fire Services Reports, copies of which had previously been circulated were noted.

3.7 District Manager's Report

The District Manager's Report, a copy of which had previously been circulated was noted.

Mr P Knight informed the members that a reception was being held in The Ashdown Park Hotel on Monday, 26th February to recognise the hard work and dedication of Tidy Towns Groups in their communities.

Mr Knight also provided relevant updates on:

- ✚ Completion of Outdoor Dining Facilities,
- ✚ Recent visits from the Australian & United States Ambassadors to Ireland,
- ✚ St. Patrick's Day Celebrations,
- ✚ Dates for Gorey Market House Festival 2024, and
- ✚ Meeting with Representatives from Chamber of Commerce (Gorey Area).

Mr Knight extended an invitation to all members to St. Patrick's Day Review Stand.

Cllr D Devereux strongly condemned the vandalism that recently occurred at the Market Square Graveyard and asked members of the public to come forward if they have any information. All the members wished to be associated with Cllr Devereux's sentiments.

Cllr J Sullivan objected to the way the revised dates for this year's Gorey Market House Festival were announced and felt this should have come before the members for approval in the first instance before being released to The Press. Cllr Sullivan also felt the event should continue as a 3-day festival and not be reduced to 2 days.

Mr P Knight explained that Council resources will be drawn to Wexford leading up to and during the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann (4th to 11th August) and how this led to the new dates for this year's Market House Festival. Mr Knight also explained the change in legislation with private security companies and how all security personnel must be fully trained in line with PSA event security standards. He said this increased security cost has had a direct impact on how the festival moves forward. That and the fact that retailers were not happy with the effect a 3-day festival was having on their businesses led to the decision to reduce to a 2-day festival for 2024. Mr Knight said this could be re-visited again next year.

Cllr M Farrell again referred to the Community Engagement Meeting held in Kilmuckridge in May 2023 and asked that a couple of the projects suggested by the community be addressed. Mr Knight agreed to proceed.

Cllr P Breen referred to the ACRES Scheme and how many farmers will be in breach of this Scheme as prolonged rainfall and the saturation of fields has made it impossible to cut hedgerows in compliance with current legislation. Cllr Breen asked that the district write to the Minister of Agriculture, Food & the Marine requesting that the season for cutting hedges be extended from 15th August until 15th March from this year onwards to allow for adverse weather conditions, seconded by Cllr D Kenny.

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

None.

No. 5 Notice of Motion from Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District

Consider Motion submitted by Cllr Andrew Bolger

"Pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, this Council will seek to bring forward proposals to discuss the disposal of land in accordance with the above section, if at all possible, in the circumstances. The land is situated at the right-hand side of the entrance to Hillview and at the back of the Community Centre at St. Columba's Old Folks Club in Sean O'Byrne Park, Gorey, Co. Wexford.

Reason:

St. Columba's Old Folks Club have requested the ownership of this land. The Club would like to put in more parking for the Old Folks Club. This motion requests the disposal of the land and then to work with the Old Folks Club to further their plans."

Mr P Knight informed the members that this was previously examined by the DoS and Senior Planner as an ESB pillar sterilises this piece of land. He agreed to seek clarification on this matter.

No. 6 Correspondence

6.1 Correspondence to the Office of Mr. Roderic O'Gorman, TD., re: St. Therese's B&B, Mount Alexander, Gorey.

6.2 Correspondence from The Hon. Gary Gray, Australian Ambassador to Ireland.

6.3 Acknowledgement from the Office of Mr. Roderic O'Gorman, TD., re: St. Therese's B&B, Mount Alexander, Gorey.

The above correspondence was noted. Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin noted the acknowledgement from the Office of Mr. Roderic O'Gorman, TD., but asked that a more comprehensive response be issued by them prior to the March District Meeting, seconded by Cllr D Devereux.

No. 7 AOB

Cllr F Ó'Súilleabháin called on the Council to take Ardamine Court Housing Estate into charge. Mr P Knight agreed to follow up with the Planning Department.

Ms B Cosgrave reminded the members of the upcoming Local Enterprise Week from March 4th to 8th. Ms Cosgrave said this national initiative provides entrepreneurs and small businesses an opportunity to engage in free business advice and digitalisation clinics.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Daingnithe ar an _____ lá de _____ 2024

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