

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District
held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, The Avenue, Gorey
on Tuesday 21st July 2026, at 2:30pm**

Attendance:

In the Chair: Cllr Mary Farrell, Cathaoirleach,

Cllr Nicky Boland,
Cllr Pip Breen,
Cllr Anthony Donohoe,
Cllr Craig Doyle,
Cllr Paddy Kavanagh,
Cllr Donal Kenny,
Cllr Darragh McDonald, Leas-Cathaoirleach,
Cllr Joe Sullivan,
Cllr Oliver Walsh, via MS Teams,

Officials: Ms Elizabeth Hore, Director of Services & District Director,
Mr Eamon Hore, Director of Services,
Ms Anita McLoughlin, Municipal District Manager,
Ms Joanne Kehoe, Senior Executive Engineer,
Ms Debbie Stanley, Assistant Staff Officer,
Mr Barry Browne, Senior Staff Officer, Housing,
Mr Enda Brennan, Executive Engineer, Environment,
Mr Dermot Wallace, Senior Staff Officer, Roads.

No. 1 Confirmation of Minutes & Matters Arising

1.1 Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr D McDonald, seconded by Cllr P Breen, the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD, held on June 16th, 2026, and Annual Meeting of Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD, held on June 22nd were signed, and adopted.

1.2 Matters Arising from the June Statutory GKMD Meeting:

There were no Matters Arising.

Congratulations:

Members extended their congratulations to the Gorey Show Committee and the Coolgreany Vintage Club Committee on the success of their recent events.

It was agreed that Prescribed Business would be taken prior to consideration of the departmental reports.

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

3.1 Wexford County Council Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD Draft Traffic & Car Parking Byelaws 2026:

Members received a presentation on the Draft Traffic & Car Parking Byelaws 2026, which proposes a modern, countywide framework for parking regulation, replacing the existing town-specific byelaws. The principal changes include:

- Formal recognition of digital payment methods.
- Provision for electric vehicle charging bays.
- Measures supporting active travel and tourism.
- Introduction of statutory signage for parking locations.
- Enhanced enforcement provisions relating to parking offences and contraventions.

Members were advised that Municipal Districts will retain responsibility for local parking policy and will have flexibility to introduce district-specific parking measures. The distinction between the legal framework provided by the Byelaws and the operational management of parking through policy was also explained.

It was noted that a Parking Permit Policy will complement the Byelaws by setting out the operational arrangements for permit management, allowing greater flexibility than legislation alone.

Members were informed that the draft byelaws were developed following benchmarking with other local authorities, legal review, stakeholder engagement and consultation with Roads and Municipal District staff. They were also considered by the Roads & Transportation SPC and submitted to the Chief Superintendent of An Garda Síochána. The public consultation process concluded on 29 June 2026.

The next steps include consideration of submissions received, completion of the statutory process, adoption by the Municipal Districts and Wexford County Council and publication in Iris Oifigiúil and local newspapers. The byelaws will come into effect no earlier than 30 days following their adoption.

The Draft Wexford County Council Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD Traffic & Car Parking Byelaws 2026 were proposed by Cllr A Donohoe, seconded by Cllr D Kenny.

Director of Services, Mr E Hore and Mr D Wallace addressed members' queries. An Cathaoirleach Cllr M Farrell thanked them for their presentations.

No. 2 Consideration of Reports, Recommendations & Presentations

2.1 Housing:

The Housing Report, previously circulated, was noted.

Cllr A Donohoe enquired who had been awarded the contract for the 40 housing units at St. Waleran's. Mr Browne agreed to revert with this information.

Cllr N Boland queried the length of time between the advertisement of properties through Choice Based Lettings and the point at which the units are ready for occupation and handed over, asking whether properties were being advertised too early. Mr Browne agreed to revert with a response.

2.2 Environment:

The Environment Report, previously circulated, was noted.

Cllr P Breen sought an update on the Cahore Contract and was advised that the Cahore and Kilpatrick projects are currently at tender stage.

Cllr N Boland raised concerns regarding wheelchair access to Ballymoney Beach during the summer season, particularly roadside parking and the accessibility of designated spaces. Mr E Brennan acknowledged the concerns and advised that the matter will be brought back to a future meeting.

Cllr A Donohoe raised concerns regarding emergency vehicle access to Ballymoney Beach, noting that the current parking situation could prevent ambulances from reaching the beach if required. Mr E Hore advised that he would arrange for a warden to attend Ballymoney Beach on a more regular basis.

Cllr D McDonald raised concerns regarding water quality at Courtown and asked whether the Council could undertake regular monitoring, including the possibility of weekly testing. Mr Hore confirmed that Courtown Harbour will be included in the Council's ongoing monitoring programme.

Cllr M Farrell requested more frequent sweeping of the boardwalk at Morristcastle Beach. Mr Brennan advised that sweeping had been increased to twice weekly and that the matter would be discussed with the National Parks & Wildlife Service, including the possible removal of sand and review of the boardwalk condition.

Cllr M Farrell advised that an individual was available to undertake litter control duties at Morristcastle Beach, and Mr Brennan agreed to confirm the position.

Cllr D Kenny sought an update on the next mattress amnesty, which Mr Brennan agreed to confirm.

Cllr J Sullivan welcomed the access works at Clone Beach but expressed disappointment that he had not been notified in advance of the works commencing, particularly as he had raised concerns regarding monitoring of the bridge at the previous district meeting.

Cllr J Sullivan also raised concerns regarding increasing levels of litter at Courtown. He advised that several organisations had contacted him regarding the issue and noted the difficulties in monitoring and enforcing littering in the absence of a beach warden. It was suggested that the Council work in conjunction with local voluntary organisations involved in beach clean-ups, including the provision of equipment and support. The possibility of arranging for Council vehicles to collect waste gathered by voluntary groups from a designated collection point on a weekly basis was also raised.

Cllr P Kavanagh highlighted Council-maintained land adjacent to Oylegate NS which had not been maintained this year.

Cllr P Breen enquired about the process for obtaining Blue Flag status, specifically for Cahore-Newtown-Ballinoulart Bay. Mr Hore outlined the requirements, including services, parking, retail facilities and lifeguards, noting that these requirements involve significant costs and make the application process challenging.

2.3 Planning

The Planning Reports, previously circulated, were noted.

Cllr D McDonald sought an update on the Derelict Sites Register and the identification of properties where levies have been applied.

Cllr D Kenny queried responsibility for collection of the 7% levy. District Director Ms L Hore advised that Wexford County Council currently undertakes the valuation and collection process, with responsibility transferring to Revenue from 2027. She agreed to investigate whether levies collected by Revenue would be returned to the Council.

Cllr P Kavanagh queried An Garda Síochána attendance at road traffic accidents where there is no fatality. It was agreed that the matter be referred to the Community Safety Co-ordinator for investigation and that representatives of An Garda Síochána be invited to attend the next district meeting.

2.4 Roads

The Roads Report, previously circulated, was noted.

District Roads Engineer Ms J Kehoe outlined the proposed pedestrian improvement works at Paul Funge Boulevard, The Avenue and Railway Road, including pedestrian crossings at the three roundabout exits. Cllr A Donohoe raised concerns regarding existing congestion and queried the possibility of a future link road. Mr E Hore advised that this would form part of a future Local Transport Plan and Cllr Donohoe stressed the importance of identifying and zoning suitable land at this stage.

Cllr A Donohoe sought an update on the Ballyloughan Part 8 proposal. Mr E Hore advised that the proposal would be brought before the Full Council and subsequently to the Gorey-Kilmuckridge MD in September. In response to a query regarding timescales, Mr Hore indicated that construction is anticipated to commence in early 2027.

Cllr D Kenny asked that damaged pencil bollards along Paul Funge Boulevard be repaired.

Cllr D Kenny raised concerns regarding overhanging roadside vegetation along the N11, causing damage to HGVs and requested that the Council remind landowners of their responsibility to keep hedges and branches clear of roads. Cllr P Breen supported the request, highlighting the potential cost of such damage. Ms Kehoe advised that the Council had previously issued guidance to farmers regarding overhanging branches but requires specific locations to address individual hazards. It was clarified that hedges may be cut outside the permitted period where they are creating a road hazard.

Members highlighted the need for greater clarity for landowners on their responsibilities and Mr Hore confirmed that tree-felling licences are not required where cutting is necessary to remove a hazard.

2.5 Additional Departmental Reports

The Community Development, Library Services and Wexford Fire Services Reports, previously circulated, were noted.

2.6 District Manager's Report

The District Managers Report, previously circulated, was noted. Ms A McLoughlin provided updates on capital projects, community initiatives and recent events.

Ms McLoughlin advised that the contract for the Gorey Market House project was signed on June 30th, marking the official commencement of the construction phase. She further advised that an official sod-turning ceremony is expected to take place in September with the relevant Minister. Ms McLoughlin also confirmed that NTA funding has been secured for a pedestrian improvement scheme in Ballycanew Village.

Ms McLoughlin referred to recent events which took place, including the Gorey Child & Family Support Network Services Day, and the Entente Florale adjudication visit to Riverstown. She also referred to the upcoming Gorey Market House Festival, Gap Arts Festival, Cuisle Cheoil, Rás na mBan & Gorey District Park event, and the Leinster Fleadh in 2027.

Ms McLoughlin informed members that the launch of the Gorey Market House Festival would take place at Gorey Civic Offices on 27 July. She also outlined the new Gorey Festival Passport Campaign, designed to encourage visitors to shop local in the lead-up to and during the festival by collecting stamps from participating retailers and cafes for entry into a prize draw upon completion of the passport.

Cllr D Kenny paid tribute to Michael Gleeson and the Gorey Market House Committee for their sponsorship efforts to date. He also suggested that additional funding be explored for the forthcoming Cuisle Cheoil and Leinster Fleadh events.

Cllr N Boland sought an update on the sauna licence for the district. Ms McLoughlin advised that two applications had been received and that further information was awaited from the Environment Department.

No. 4 Notice of Motion from Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District

None.

No. 5 Correspondence

None.

No. 6 AOB

Cllr A Donohoe suggested that Gorey should explore opportunities to establish a new town-twinning relationship with a suitable town in Europe. Referring to Gorey's previous twinning arrangement with Oban in Scotland, he expressed a desire to develop further international connections.

District Director Ms. L Hore advised that a suitable connection for the district was already being explored. She emphasised the importance of identifying a location with similarities to Gorey, particularly in terms of coastal and maritime heritage. She noted that Normandy now encompasses nine territories, including the Channel Islands, where there is a town called Gorey in Jersey, although accessibility may present difficulties.

Ms. Hore stated that any new partnership should deliver tangible economic benefits to the district. Potential locations would therefore be assessed on their ability to generate a positive economic impact, with the existing link with Savannah cited as an example of the benefits that can arise from a strong economic connection.

Cllr P Kavanagh extended his best wishes to Cllr O Walsh on his family's participation in the forthcoming RDS Dublin Horse Show.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded.

Daingnithe ar an _____ lá de _____ 2026

**Cllr Darragh McDonald
Leas-Cathaoirleach,
Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District.**