

Councillor

Derek Mitchell



CATHAOIRLEACH, WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

www.derekmitchell.ie

FINE GAEL

I would ask
for your
**NO. 1
VOTE**
so that I can
continue to
contribute
positively to future
developments.

Local Update, Spring 2009

More DARTS Coming!

I campaigned for 22 years, together with Cllr. George Jones, to get the DART to Greystones and have continued to press for more trains. Irish Rail have just informed us that they are hoping to provide a half hourly regular service to Greystones at a fixed time after the hour, from October. This includes filling the current gap from 8.30 to 9.30 a.m. I have pressed for this for some time and it is very welcome at a time of cutbacks in many areas. This rescheduling involves reorganising the timetable for the entire east coast. Trains to Kilcoole and Wicklow will be altered by this and they hope to provide some extra services.

Progress on Harbour

The North Harbour Wall is 35% complete and the South Wall is 80% complete. Around 3500 of the 5000 large blocks have been cast. During the Winter the project became 3 months late. However February was a calm month and some time was made up. Initially, the seabed is flattened and a fibre layer is laid, then about 10 (depending on the depth) large blocks are laid on top of each other, locking bars are inserted and rock armour is placed outside from the barge or shore. This is a long process to complete before the walls are safe from storms and working hours have been lengthened in order to complete it before leaving it overnight. Divers watch how the blocks fit

together underwater and video it. They direct the crane driver so they are placed exactly in order to lock together. The photographs show the divers working in the area. Some people have asked whether the developer will keep going with the project in view of the financial crisis in the country. The County Council contract included a condition that there would be a large bank guarantee that the harbour would be completed so we do not expect any problems. I led the campaign to get the harbour renovated, something the town has been trying to do since 1895. I have a good knowledge of the marine and other issues and want to continue to work with those involved to solve the inevitable problems of implementation for the benefit of all.

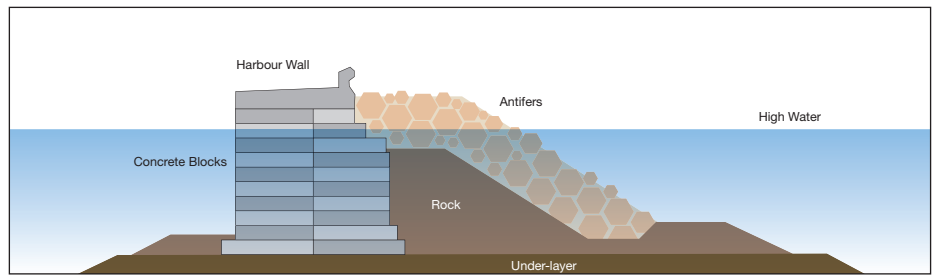


Progress on Harbour (cont'd)

The harbour, including 2 public slipways and buildings for the Sea Scouts, Rowers, Anglers, Sailors, Divers and Coastguard should be complete in August 2010, not so far away. Most of the hoardings will come down at that stage. It will take a further 2 years to complete the public square, homes, shops, boardwalk and public park.

The Harbour is designed to:

- **Be a recreation centre for an expanding population**
- **Put leisure use of the sea as a central feature of the town**
- **Produce a focal point and 'Icon' for the town**
- **Provide public access to the sea.**



Protection of Bray Head

The view of the Head from Greystones, and the attractive view driving down it, are very important for the town. 5 years ago I got the strongest restrictions on house building in Wicklow to apply between the main road and the sea on Bray Head. Only farmers who need to look after their farms are allowed build there. This has prevented the one off houses which one sees being constructed in many other places. I am working to ensure these restrictions remain in the next Development Plan and to continue to improve the Cliff Walk. I also supported the Special Amenity Area Order for the area.

Councillor Derek Mitchell

- Profile

I am an accountant and Carol, my wife, and I have 3 adult children. We race our small boat and last year won a National Championships. I am also interested in old cars do some hill walking. I think that Ireland has neglected the sea, which is why I have been so keen to get the harbour rebuilt.

I have seen and enjoyed the great gains achieved for the Greystones area but there is more that I want to accomplish in the future.



M50/N11 Traffic Jams

There are large traffic jams on this in both directions at rush hour because the road is carrying 1.75 times the amount it was designed for. I am concerned that it will seize up completely. Nobody was paying any attention to this. During my year as Cathaoirleach I have raised this many times and think that it is now a project which will get studied when funding improves. There is a draft plan to build a new large town (7,000 people, 16,000 jobs)!! at Fassaroe. I opposed this plan unless the N11 is expanded and this has now been inserted as a condition.

Enterprise and Recycling Centres

I wrote a paper on providing an Enterprise Centre and it was agreed that a developer was to donate one in Charlesland. He was also to donate a site for a recycling centre but both of these are on hold because of the recession. I intend to push for these if re-elected.

New Secondary School should be in Charlesland



Another secondary school is needed in Greystones and a site near Lidl has been identified for it. However, I think that a site on the IDA land in Charlesland would be better. It would be near ready made sports facilities at the Swimming Pool, Community Centre and Recreation Park. There are also very good cycle lanes and footpaths to the site at Charlesland which is more sustainable. The IDA, having failed to attract jobs in the 25 years they have had this wonderful site, are thinking of

selling part of their site. I am pressing them to sell part for this school. I analysed the 2006 Census figures and these showed that more than half secondary school children go to school in Bray and Dublin. Far more children take the train to school than any other place in Ireland. In order to attract these children to school in the town the type of school must be attractive to them. I think an Educate Together School has the best chance of attracting these pupils to Greystones.

Coastal Walk from Greystones to Wicklow Town

This is a great walk but must be improved before it can be used by more people. My second priority as Cathaoirleach is to get a plan together. The rail track must be fenced off from the walking path and a path welded onto the side of 2 rail bridges for

safety reasons. I have had a positive meeting with Irish Rail and The National Parks and Wildlife Service and hope to initiate a study. It will take some years to put it into place. This would complement the Cliff Walk to Bray and one could get a train to

one end and walk one way. Few walks would be so accessible to public transport.

I have also pushed to get a footpath from Kilcoole to the station included as part of the Kilcoole Plan and this is now included.



Livcom Award

Greystones won the award for the most livable community in the world under 20,000 people at a UN competition held in China. Congratulations to Cllr Grainne McLoughlin who initiated and led the bid for the award.

Health Centre

There is a need for a larger range of services at the Health Centre and I will be supporting an expansion of services.

Delgany

I support the aim of making Delgany a Heritage Village. The Delgany By Pass

has been on the plans for 25 years. I pushed to get it started and it should be complete in 2009. The completion of the R762 footpath and traffic calming works is being done in stages and the third stage will be completed in 2009.

Kilcoole

A site for a children's playground is available on Sea Road and it is important to get this built in the near future. Footpaths to the station and GAA Club are also needed as well as community facilities.

Fine Gael Candidates



Wicklow County Council: Cllrs Derek Mitchell, George Jones and new candidate Simon Harris.

Europe: Mairead McGuinness M.E.P. and Senator John Paul Phelan.



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Kiltoorish, Manor Avenue, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.

Phone/Fax 01-2874115(H), www.derekmitchell.ie Email: mitchelld@eircom.net

FINE GAEL