

- Giltspur Heights – two tenants have nowhere to park up here. Anyone who owns a house is entitled to a parking space and it is totally unfair these tenants cannot park.
- Wolfe Tone Square Scheme – the whole purpose was to enhance this area and reduce traffic but the traffic is still busy. Can we get a report on all outstanding works?
- Local Government Fund – welcome the 9.2% increase the minister is allocating but very disappointed that Wicklow County Council are asking for 14% on County Demand and because we have five councillors on Wicklow County Council this should not have been allowed to happen. It puts Bray in a very difficult position.
- 500 gas boilers – very glad to see that these will be included in planned maintenance.
- Windows and doors scheme – would like to see an increase in maintenance in this area.
- Homeless – what will we be providing for homeless persons this year? It is disgraceful that people have to travel to Rathdrum for accommodation.
- Is the manager aware that Airtricity are offering special deals if you sign before February?
- Is there any possibility we could look to getting some grants from Sustainable Energy Ireland?
- The estimates seem to be a lot more accurate this year so would like to congratulate staff.
- County Demand – this is not the last time we will see an increase in the County Demand. It is a disgrace that the five councillors who sit on Wicklow County Council representing Bray did not try to stop this increase.
- Social and affordable housing – our record is disastrous in this area. Our responsibility is to source land and I do not think there is a pro-active attitude from officials to find serviced land.
- Last year we estimated it would cost €20,000 to clean estates but we ended up only spending €7,000. This is partly down to pro-activeness in the estates.

The administrative officer informed the members of the following –

- Central Heating Scheme - €120,000 was provided by Bray Town Council. The balance of this expenditure will be recouped from department.
- Re-lets – it is council policy to check housing stock and bring them up to today's standards.
- Planned maintenance – this will be continuing this year.
- We are continuing to look at land in Bray.
- Homeless persons – this was discussed at the Municipal Policy Committee in September and the minutes were forwarded to the members. We are currently looking at sourcing accommodation for women and women with children.
- B&B's – a number of B&B's would only take people who we can vouch for and this makes it quite difficult. We ceased using two B&B's because their standards were very poor.

The Town Engineer informed the members of the following –

- Wolfe Tone Square works – hopefully we can finish these works shortly.

The Town Manager informed the members of the following –

- Energy Costs – these are added on because we cannot predict them unlike salaries etc. Sometimes it would come down to the judgement of the engineers.
- We have been in contact with Airtricity regarding energy supply.

8620 - Programme Group 2 – Road Transportation and Safety

The members were advised of the following estimated expenditure and income under this programme group.

Estimated Expenditure - €2,154,187

Estimated Income - €1,200,000

A general discussion took place where the following points were made and views expressed:

The members raised the following points –

- Traffic calming - €70,000 has been provided which is very good but I do not think all of this is needed to go toward the Wolfe Tone Square scheme.
- Estate Management – Oldcourt Drive and Kilbride – it says in draft budget that speed ramps have been put down here but this is not true.
- Road maintenance – what is the position regarding this? Does Wicklow County Council owe us money?
- Can the Engineers have a look at the tarmac on O’Byrne Road? Seems to be cracking.
- Restricted parking - €785,000 is proposed to be brought in this year. Where is the extra €285,000 on last year coming from?
- Concerned that we are not looking after our roads properly because Wicklow County Council are not giving us proper funding. We should rescind Section 85 to Wicklow County Council.

Councillor Pat Vance proposed to take programmes 3, 4 and 5 next.

8621 - Programme Group 3 – Water Supply and Sewerage

The members were advised of the following estimated expenditure and income under this programme group.

Estimated Expenditure - €1,665,476

Estimated Income - €1,611,276

A general discussion took place where the following points were made and views expressed:

The members raised the following points –

- Public Sewer Maintenance – why is there a big increase here?
- Commercial Water Charges – can we have some more information on the agreement with Wicklow County Council?
- Welcome Fire Hydrants money.
- We need to get in touch with Dublin City Council to ask them that the same thing does not happen again as before with the burst water pipe and the traffic on the M50 / N11.
- Water Meters – in a number of cases this seems to be very effective for people.
- Reservoir capacity – what plans, if any, does Bray Town Council have to address this problem?
- €55,000 for public convenience service outside Civic Offices – it seems this service is not used as it is in a very prominent area. Can it be moved?
- Giltspur Reservoir – welcome budget to fence this. What are the plans for the year?
- Fire Service – this is a matter for Wicklow County Council not the Minister.

Councillor John McManus proposed and Councillor John Byrne seconded that Bray Town Council contacts the five T.D's regarding a reservoir for Bray Town Council.

8622 - Programme Group 4 – Development Incentives and Controls

The members were advised of the following estimated expenditure and income under this programme group.

Estimated Expenditure - €393,819

Estimated Income- €109,000

A general discussion took place where the following points were made and views expressed:

The members raised the following points –

- Development Levies – where are they in the programme?

- Other Developments and promotions – some things in this I am not sure about.
- I would like to see one single heading under contributions and whichever group has to apply would do so under this blanket heading. Can we put this on the agenda?
- Is it true that when the Christmas lights are taken down they are smashed and thrown away? €10,000 is being spent annually so we need accountability.
- Junior Council – very worthwhile to keep this going. €2,600 was allocated but I would like to see this increased.
- Summerfest – I would like to see this getting more funding.
- Legal costs – I do not see anything in the draft budget regarding this.
- Twinning – welcome this funding.
- Did the Chamber of Commerce contribute to the running of the Summerfest?
- Waiver Scheme – think this should have been increased.
- Grave Spaces – prices have been quite high. How do these prices compare with other grave yards?
- We should follow Dun Laoghaire – Rathdown County Councils lead and rent out a part of the Seafront. This could generate major income.

8623 - Programme Group 5 – Environmental Protection

The members were advised of the following estimated expenditure and income under this programme group.

Estimated Expenditure - €1,631,018

Estimated Income - €368,000

A general discussion took place where the following points were made and views expressed:

The members raised the following points –

- Street Cleaning – surprised there is no money included for the upgrading of equipment.
- Heavy Duty Collection – how much equipment did we collect?
- Agency charge for fire service – How did we arrive at €286,000?
- Litter Bins – there are some areas we do need litter bins. EG – Vevay Road.
- Litter fines – what fines came in? Is there a target?
- Mobile recycling – can we look at locations of bottlebanks? Some of them are causing nuisance to residents.
- Street Cleaning - €540,000 spent last year. I hope we will be doing a lot more enforcement this year.

The Administrative Officer informed the members of the following –

- We will be reviewing the development levies over the coming year.
- We will review the Heavy Duty Collection this year. People do not go out and buy new furniture every year though.
- Litter fines – Bray Town Council’s collection, when handed in, are compared under service indicators to other Councils. Sometimes people are afraid to testify though and this can be a problem when trying to prosecute people.
- Bottle banks – I will discuss this with the environmental officer.
- Waiver Scheme – we cannot determine how many bags are to be given out this year. The earlier the budget is adopted the earlier we can give the bags.

The acting Town Clerk informed the members of the following –

- Fire fighters – we pay wages on an agency basis for Wicklow County Council firefighters. What we pay we get back.

The Town manager informed the members of the following –

- Bray Town Council are not the sanitary authority for Bray; Wicklow County Council is. We are carrying out work and then getting money from them.
- Graves – we need to build up a fund for a new graveyard. This cost is not unusual for the greater Dublin area.

The Town Engineer stated the following –

- Reservoir – could be a long time before a reservoir is put in. At present we are proposing to install a new pipe to help with water to Fassaroe area.

This meeting was then adjourned until 16th January 2007.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
Town Clerk

Dated: _____