

*Minutes of Special Housing and Planning Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005 at 7.30 p.m.*

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*Present:*

*Councillor Anne Ferris, Cathaoirleach*  
*Councillor Joe Behan*  
*Councillor John Brady*  
*Councillor John Byrne*  
*Councillor Anne Egan*  
*Councillor Bríd Collins*  
*Councillor Pat Vance*  
*Councillor Deirdre De Burca*  
*Councillor John McManus*  
*Councillor Ciaran O'Brien*  
*Councillor David Grant*  
*Councillor Caroline Burrell*

*Also present:*

*Mr. Des O'Brien, Director of Services*  
*Ms. Catherine Halligan, Town Clerk*  
*Mr. Sean O'Neill, Town Engineer*  
*Ms. Triona Irving, Admin Officer*

**Greenstar**

*The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Greenstar delegation of Mr. Jerry Dempsey – Sales and Marketing Director, Ms. Judith Hally – Head of Corporate Affairs, Mr. David Lawlor – General Manager Bray and Mr. John Nolan to the meeting.*

*Mr. Dempsey informed the members that he hoped to give some clarity on questions that the members have tonight. He then proceeded to give a full presentation on the introduction of Pay by use by Greenstar.*

*Mr. Dempsey stated that Greenstar are the leading professional Waste Management Company in Wicklow County and employ one hundred and forty nine people in County Wicklow. They provide a domestic refuse collection service to over 21,000 households and that 67% tonnage of collected waste was recycled and recovered in 2004. He stated that Greenstar invested €26 million in waste management infrastructure in Wicklow County to date with another €23 million planned this year. With regards to the doorstep-recycling scheme – this will be made available to all domestic customers' four months ahead of the July 2005 schedule and there are currently 53% households already on scheme. Mr. Dempsey told the meeting that Greenstar are complying with legislation by introducing pay by volume for 2005 and plan to introduce pay by weight in 2006.*

*Following the presentation the following points were raised by the members: -*

1. *Appalling Customer service – three days before people are getting replies from the customer service office.*
2. *Wheelie bins – if valid until April, why are people putting yellow stickers on bins? Very frustrating for customers.*
3. *How do Greenstar charge for pay by use method?*
4. *Recycling bags can only be purchased at the depot – very inconvenient for older customers or customers without transport.*
5. *Around November and December Greenstar were asking for payment 4-6 weeks up front but this money was not due till January 2005.*
6. *Are Greenstar going to bring in recycling bins?*
7. *Greenstar are making enough money to give a decent customer service and have an obligation to provide this for their customers.*
8. *Weighing – how does this apply to bags and these should also be available for sale in the shops.*
9. *There is no recycling for the business community in Bray – huge amounts of cardboard are going to landfill.*
10. *This presentation is no more than just a publicity exercise for Greenstar.*
11. *Greenstar had a turnover of €85,000,000 – why pass increased charge onto customer? – charge going up by 5%.*
12. *Can Greenstar clarify the free green recycling bins? – these have actually gone up 5%, which is far from free.*
13. *There is a lack of information about the plastic recycling bags – people do not know what week their collection is.*
14. *Recycling bags have gone from €2 to €3.50 – they should be free.*
15. *Bottle banks at Ballywaltrim have not been emptied – barrier is a problem.*
16. *Should give better deal to Bray Town Council with regards to bags for the waiver scheme.*
17. *Greenstar increase their charges because they can have the monopoly.*
18. *Recycling – one lift every four weeks if they have bin.*
19. *Communication from Greenstar during the recent change has been poor.*
20. *Aim of pay by use is to minimise waste by people.*
21. *Having no recycling centre in Bray does not help matters.*
22. *Glad scheme is privatised but disagree with annual payment up front.*
23. *People were led to believe their bins would be weighed – would prefer to do away with plastic bags-these plastic bags are not good for the environment.*
24. *Huge lack of non-transparency in charge – how do customers know what they are paying for?*
25. *Unable to hire skips from other companies – when people try to hire a skip they are referred back to Grennstar.*
26. *Greenstar's main responsibility is to their shareholders – they are out to make a profit.*
27. *Confusion over system – charge by weight was actually charge by use – are people going to refunded?*
28. *Are Greenstar operating under a waste permit? – how many environmental reports have you submitted to Wicklow County Council?*
29. *Would Greenstar hold a public meeting and will they organise this meeting?*
30. *Confirm where waste is disposed of – and also recyclable items – where does this material end up?*
31. *What will they pay by weight charge be in 2006?*

32. *Bin sizes in litres – weight measured in kilogramme's – confusing for customer.*
33. *Courtesy note should be sent to peoples homes – why bins were not collected?*
34. *A lot of people voiced their frustrations to the members on why Greenstar could not do this presentation before Christmas.*

*Greenstar replied to the points raised by the members as follows: -*

1. *Greenstar are still a young company – have previously got things wrong and communications are bad and this will be looked at in detail.*
2. *Pricing – will inform members and residents of changes being introduced in future and will discuss how we can change our system*
3. *Prices in advance – nine months was not enough time for Greenstar – pay by use was not our choice.*
4. *Greenstar have invested in dry recycling – they are not available on all routes – could not put bags in shops for this reason – will be there from March.*
5. *Greenstar lost a lot of money a few years ago when they collected bins for three weeks in advance of payment but then stopped when some people decided not to pay their fees.*
6. *Some people do not want bins and we will not be discontinuing the use of plastic bags – recycling bags are €3.00.*
7. *Will be launching a business-recycling scheme shortly – very labour intensive process and very costly.*
8. *Willing to reimburse people – will look into the different options.*
9. *Greenstar have an export licence to China – one of only two companies in Ireland who has this licence.*
10. *Courtesy letter for customers is a good idea and we will look at getting a mail drop done.*
11. *Bottle Banks – comments will be taken on board.*
12. *Do not have a white goods recycling system at moment.*
13. *Illegal dumping – not down to Greenstar.*
14. *Storing waste is a problem – pay by weight is better system as it is cleaner.*
15. *Will examine annual payments and quarterly payments with Company.*
16. *There is transparency as there is a microchip in the bin – this tells how many times the bin has been lifted – people can query this if they wish.*
17. *Skips – there is a lot of competitors far away from our area and it would not be beneficial for them to service this area. Nothing untoward in this.*
18. *Additional support will be added next week for customer service and customers will get to talk to representatives not a computer.*
19. *Unable to confirm if the company complied with waste permit – will ring Town Clerk and inform her of detail's tomorrow.*
20. *No disposal outlet available in Bray – waste is brought to Arthurstown in Kildare, which is under control of South Dublin Co. Co.*
21. *Greenstar support Green schools and do a lot of education work and awareness regarding waste.*
22. *Greenstar do not recycle garden waste yet but hopefully this will be added in next couple of years.*
23. *This is the start of a process, not the end of one.*

- 24. Willing to meet more regularly with public representatives – will organise a meeting and notify members.
- 25. There is a cost involved when recycling – it is not free.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Budget Meeting dated 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2005 and the resumed Budget meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2005**

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*It was proposed by Councillor Anne Egan and seconded by Councillor John Byrne and unanimously agreed to confirm and adopt the minutes of the Budget Meeting dated 11th January 2005 and the resumed Budget meeting of 18th January 2005.*

**Planning**

**Planning Register Reference 04/236, 04/237 and 04/238**

*Councillor Ciaran O'Brien stated that Planning References 04/237 and 04/238- Esplanade Hotel – that these applications should be for retention and that the best possible design should be used because this is a landmark building. He felt the design is not up to a high standard. He stated that Bray needs houses, not holiday homes – this would not be proper planning in this area. Disco and pubs licences could come under threat in that area.*

*Councillor David Grant stated that he was concerned about the seafront. He said that Councillor Ciaran O'Brien wanted houses on the seafront during development plan and why has he changed his mind. Councillor Grant then said that the wording used in the planning application for the Esplanade Hotel was not appropriate.*

*Councillor Anne Ferris stated that she agreed with the members regarding planning applications 04/237 and 04/238 and opposes these applications.*

*Councillor John Brady stated that he is against planning applications 04/236 and 04/237 and he has reservations regarding planning application 04/238. He also stated that work on the site continued after the planning authority had served enforcement notices.*

*Councillor Pat Vance asked was there any pre-planning meeting regarding planning reference 04/238 and was any advice given to developers.*

**Planning Register Reference 02/242**

*Councillor Caroline Burrell raised the matter of planning application 04/242 – Pinewood Close and stated that this site is not suitable for an ALDI store. People have concerns – light, noise, traffic etc. She also said that there is another application in for a betting shop and that we do not need a betting shop at this location. There is a need for different shops e.g. – cheese shops etc.*

*Councillor Joe Behan, Councillor John Brady and Councillor Pat Vance all expressed their opposition to this planning application.*

**Planning Register Reference 04/122**

*Councillor Brid Collins said that the planning authority should be extra careful when the revised drawings are submitted. She requested that the Florentine Centre to be put onto the next agenda. She stated that businesses are going out of the town because of Ballymore.*

**D.A.R.T.**

*The Cathaoirleach then informed the members that a number of residents have told her that that they heard the D.A.R.T station will be closing for fourteen weeks in the summer. She asked the Town Clerk to enquire from Iarnrod Eireann if this is true because if it is it will be a disaster and a disgrace that they have not informed the Council.*

**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach**

**Signed:**

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**Town Clerk**

**Dated:**

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