

Minutes of Special Housing and Planning Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 6th March 2007.

Present:

- Councillor Anne Egan, Cathaoirleach**
- Councillor Joe Behan**
- Councillor John Brady**
- Councillor Caroline Burrell**
- Councillor John Byrne**
- Councillor Brid Collins**
- Councillor Déirdre de Búrca**
- Councillor Anne Ferris**
- Councillor David Grant**
- Councillor John McManus**
- Councillor Ciaran O'Brien**
- Councillor Pat Vance**

Also present:

- Mr. Des O'Brien, Director of Services**
- Ms. Christine Flood, Town Clerk**
- Mr. Sean O'Neill, Town Engineer**
- Ms. Triona Irving, Administrative Officer**
- Mr. Stephen Fox, Executive Engineer**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Councillor Anne Ferris back to the Council meetings after her absence and this was echoed by the rest of the members. She also welcomed Mr. Alan O'Brien and Ms. Bevin McFadden from Fauber Maunsell to discuss the Public Transport Study for Bray.

1. Presentation on the Preliminary Report by Bevin McFadden and Alan O'Brien of Faber Maunsell, on the findings of the Public Transport Study for Bray.

Mr. Alan O'Brien proceeded to give the members a presentation on the findings of the Public Transport Study for Bray.

The members raised the following points –

- Welcome this report and would like to thank Mr. O'Brien and Ms. McFadden for their presentation.
- There is a lot to take in but it is very interesting.
- Very interesting that car ownership in Bray is lower than expected. We tend to forget about people who do not have their own transport. We need to ensure the public transport is there.
- It is key that we potentially have public transport coming into the town that is linked to Dublin city.
- People should have the opportunity to access LUAS and DART from the buses.
- The public will have a lot to say on this but I cannot see to many problems.
- Killarney Road – how could we put a Quality Bus Corridor here?
- Do you know how many buses service the DART?
- Vevay Road – surprised that the findings said there was not a lot of congestion on this road. Are there too many bus stops on the Vevay Road?

- Appalled at the lack of public transport on the Southern Cross Road.
- Were the private bus companies taken into consideration during this study?
- The Vevay Road is chaos when the schools are out. There is nothing in this to provide any service to and from the schools.
- The biggest problem in Bray is parking and this needs to be sorted urgently. There is no alternative for parking and before we consider anything else this needs to be addressed.
- Traffic coming from Greystones in the morning is extremely heavy. Surprised this was not addressed in the study.
- What is the timeframe on this and is there funding available?
- Church Road junction – was any preliminary work done here and if so what work?
- LUAS – A fast service on the Seafront would be very welcome.
- Has the possibility of a second bridge into Bray been examined?
- Safe routes to schools – this should be included in the study.
- This whole study seems to begin and end at Old Fassaroe.
- Over two million bus trips per annum is extraordinary. The only way to properly deal with the traffic problem in Bray is to have a proper traffic management plan.
- Killarney Road Quality Bus Corridor – the bus does not travel the full length of the Killarney Road. If there was any attempt to alleviate from its normal route it would create a lot of problems for people.
- Have the consultants looked in detail at the Golf Club development? The current infrastructure will not be able to cope when this is built.
- We need commitment from Dublin Bus and they have shown nothing but contempt over the years.
- Accessibility for wheelchair users – has this been examined?
- Where is the funding for this plan going to come from?
- Feeder buses – if they are anything like what is provided at the DART station they won't wait.
- It is vital that the LUAS and the DART meet at some location.
- All stakeholders in this project should be consulted.
- 2500 cars per hour is not manageable, even for the N11.
- It is impossible to look at this whole study without involving the LUTS.
- The LUAS must serve Bray Town Centre and must intersect the Golf Club Lands.
- We need to look at creating a LUAS station and a DART station near the Golf Club Lands and a service to Bray Town Centre.
- South end of the town – access from the N11 to Bray is chronic at peak times. This is for a number of reasons such as access points do not allow for long enough filter lanes.
- Would like to thank Mr. O' Brien and Ms. McFadden for their presentation but I do not welcome this report.
- Proposing a Quality Bus Corridor in the main street is crazy. This would mean drastically taking traffic from the street and I would not support this.
- There was no attempt to create a Round Bray bus route and schools transport was also omitted. The report is very flawed.
- Are we supposed to pass this tonight? Why have the officials allowed such ambiguity in this report?
- Loading bays – I would not agree with removing these; maybe restricting them.

The Town Manager also asked the representatives why the Upper Dargle Road was not really considered in the report?

Mr. Alan O' Brien and Ms. Bevin McFadden informed the members of the following –

- This is not the final report but is just to explore opportunities.
- By assigning a Quality Bus Corridor status it gives other bonuses other than just a quick bus route.
- We are still dealing in concepts here and we must remember that.
- Dublin Bus has been very supportive of this study. They even had cameras on their buses to study some routes.
- Schools transport – we do intend to make reference to the safe – routes to schools. We have worked with schools in Donabate and it has been quite successful.
- The timeframe is really up you as we are ready to move on this.
- Funding – we haven't sourced any funding as yet but we believe we can get it.
- Vevay Road – we are not saying there are no problems on the Vevay Road and any proposals would include the Vevay Road.
- Traffic Problems – we are aware of the effect the Golf Club Lands will have.
- The main focus here is destination based public transport planning.
- Around Bray bus service – we did not want to propose something that we did not think was achievable.
- Church Road – we appreciate that there is a problem here and we would be looking at realigning the road.

The Town Manager stated that the aim of this study is for public transport and public transport infrastructure provision. He added that it is at a very interesting stage at the moment and the study will move on and come back to it at a later stage.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of the Special Housing and Planning Meeting dated 6th February 2007.

Councillor John Brady stated that he would like these minutes amended to include the following –

“Councillor Brady requested that the Old Bray Wheelers Club house on the Upper Dargle Road be secured and demolished”.

The minutes of the Special Housing and Planning meeting dated 6th February 2007 were proposed by Councillor John Byrne and seconded by Councillor John Brady.

3. Reports and Recommendations

Dump at Harbour

The Town Clerk informed the members of the current situation.

The land in question is in the administrative area of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. A section 55 notice (under the 1996 Waste Management Act) had been served on the landowner by Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council requiring that loose material be removed .

The members raised the following points –

- This report was requested a good while ago. It seems there is an attempt to pass this over.
- The cliff face is very unstable and constantly being eroded. A long-term approach is needed.
- This dump is a major contributor to pollution in the sea in Bray and could have an affect on the Blue Flag Status for Bray.
- Very strange that the owners now have the responsibility. It is not too long ago that the ownership was changed so how can the present owners be responsible? This does not seem fair.
- Who are the owners of the land? Can we ask the Minister of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to provide funding to clean this up?
- We need to be very careful accepting responsibility with this. We have to protect the people of Bray. If this is not in our jurisdiction then it is not in the interests of the people of Bray to clean it up.

The Town Clerk informed the members of the following –

- It is not appropriate to name the owners of the site.
- The initial plan is to remove loose waste immediately but there is a long-term plan to completely remove all waste.
- If someone buys land with landfill the new owner takes all responsibility for what is on that land.

Stone Wall outside Lawn Tennis Club grounds

Councillor John Byrne stated that he had requested a report on this a while ago and would like an update.

Ballywaltrim and O' Byrne

Councillor John Brady stated that he had requested reports on issues around these areas.

Councillor David Grant stated that members should not keep requesting reports as this slows down the meetings. He added that only reports from MPCs and SPC's and other sub-committees should be raised as a lot of these can be sorted out at these meetings.

4. To consider the Housing Progress Report

The members raised the following points –

Ashlawn Court

- Are the officials aware of any problems here?

James Everett Park / Richmond Hill

- The contractor's left a lot of rubbish at the refurbishment works here and youths are using it to cause damage to houses.
- The roads need to be repaired here too as conditions are bad.

Fire Safety Audit

- This seems to be going on forever. How long does it take to investigate a house?

Kilbride Lane C.P.O

- Worried about the number of units proposed because it seems very dense.

Ms. Triona Irving informed the members of the following –

- We cannot guarantee a completed report on the fire audit at next months meeting. There are two houses left as we are depending on the consultants.
- Silverbridge – there has not been any progress with this and that is why it was not put on the agenda.
- Part 5 – this can be looked at in the M.P.C meeting.
- Carrigoona – this is still out with the consultants.

The Town Engineer informed the members of the following –

- Housing Engineer is looking at possibility of demolishing Bray Wheelers old clubhouse.
- Ashlawn Court – There have been disagreements with people here and that is what is causing the delay.
- We are at a stage where we have more houses becoming available to us. There is an issue of how much we take out though. We need to keep houses free in case we do need to do work.

The Cathaoirleach stated that she would place the issue of Glen na Smole on the next Special Housing and Planning Agenda.

The Town Clerk stated that there is no correspondence.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
TOWN CLERK

Dated: _____