

Minutes Monthly Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 8th February 2005 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

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

Also present:

*Mr. Des O'Brien, Director of Services
Ms. Catherine Halligan, Town Clerk
Mr. Sean O'Neill, Town Engineer
Ms. Joan Kavanagh, Housing Officer*

St. Patrick's Day Festival

Councillor Anne Ferris informed the meeting that the St Patrick's Day festival committee is seeking funding of €20,000. She asked the members to consider transferring an amount of €15,000 from the Business related facilities fund to supplement what had already been allocated to the committee. Otherwise the committee had not sufficient funds to organise a Parade/Festival.

Some members expressed their views on this: -

- Would like to compliment the Cathaoirleach on this issue. Delighted with parade coming back.*
- Has the business related fund built up over the years? Would like information on this and how much money was there in the fund.*
- There are a number of traders in the town who are not members of the Chamber of Commerce – the Council needs to build up a fund for refurbishment of the town centre.*
- One or two businesses seen to have an impact but should leave to all businesses themselves.*
- Suggestions should be made by the businesses in town but decision be made by Council.*
- Would like to broaden the fund definitely – let them come to next MPC meeting and exchange ideas.*

The Town Clerk advised the members that there was €150,000 currently in the fund. She said that discussions had taken place with the Chamber of Commerce regarding the spending of this money and we were awaiting feedback from the Chamber. When proposals were received these would be considered and brought back to the members.

Advertisements in the local paper would probably be the best way to advise of the scheme.

It was proposed by Councillor Anne Ferris and seconded by Councillor Pat Vance that an amount of €15,000 be transferred from the Business Related Activities Fund to the St Patricks Festival Committee.

1. To Consider the Housing Progress Report

The following points were raised:

- *Does the Council have a starting date for James Everett Park? Are the Council buying back houses in James Everett Park?*
- *Is the Council buying back any houses other than those mentioned in the report?*
- *The public know more than the Councillors as to what is going on.*
- *Rubbish and dirt in the back gardens of some houses needs to be removed.*
- *Ceding of open space in Fassaroe and Oldcourt needs to be finalised.*
- *Sycamore Drive – has a snag list been completed?*
- *Disappointing that only a few houses in Bray are under construction.*
- *Need to look at where we can get land and if we cannot do this then we will have failed hundreds of people on the housing list.*
- *Would like to see a clean up at O’Byrne Road lane soon as there is a lot of rubbish and also to examine lighting for this lane.*
- *Need to look at how we can get best value for money in relation to clean ups.*
- *Could our own staff do these clean ups?*
- *Flowerbeds on some estates are in very poor condition. Can EMO attend to this matter?*
- *Welcome the €8,000,000 refurbishment funding for the Fassaroe area.*
- *Giltspur Heights – a wall needs to be looked at as it is in a dangerous position.*
- *Housing list – there were a number of applicants on the list since 2000 and they have received no correspondence from the Council. One person was told that there was no record of him being on the list, when he actually did apply for housing.*
- *Did people have to be on the housing list to apply for the Lottery scheme and what provisions were put in place for this?*
- *The Travellers Halt at Hollybrook needs to be addressed and would like this to be resolved speedily.*
- *Would like specific action on this and this is a serious environmental and health hazard.*
- *Housing Scheme in Ballywaltrim – there is conflict between Wicklow County Council and one of the residents and this is holding up the work. Is there any sign of a resolution?*
- *Welcome the accommodation plan but there is no timescale – would like a review of this.*
- *Silverbridge Halting Site – Are the residents getting a part time caretaker?*
- *Giltspur Heights – windows, doors, plumbing, heating etc. Is anything being done about the snag list?*
- *Can the Council review the emergency services in Bray?*
- *Are there fire breaks in houses?*

The Cathoairleach informed the members that she would have to leave the meeting at this stage. Councillor Deirdre De Burca took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

The members continued with the following points -

- *There has been a poor response to the advert for contractors for the Richmond Hill scheme.*
- *Would like assurance from the Director that assessments will be carried out with regards to Disabled Persons Grants.*
- *Does the Council install smoke alarms and other safety equipment into all Council houses?*
- *Would like a completion date on the houses at the fire depot.*
- *Would like extensions to Council houses be put on the housing report every month.*
- *Bray Town Council should be encouraging more people to build extensions - ideal for young single parents etc.*
- *Changed policy on purchasing of houses in Fassaroe and Oldcourt. Are we looking in other areas also?*
- *Is the Council aware of a large amount of land advertised recently in the Little Bray area?*
- *Disappointed that work has not started yet in Wolfe Tone area – can work start this week?*
- *When is the 8 week period for the Compulsory Purchase Order's up and do we have contractors ready to start work?*

The Housing officer responded as follows –

- *James Everett Park – a report was sent to the N.B.A this week. It will then go to the Department and we are hopeful of a quick turnaround.*
- *Houses are being purchased and all areas are being considered.*
- *Have asked housing engineer to meet with residents regarding ceding of back gardens.*
- *O'Byrne lane- this matter is in hand. Quotations are being sought.*
- *Flowerbeds – this matter will be raised with the Estate Development Officer.*
- *Refurbishment in Fassaroe – the money is for the areas that were highlighted in the Housing Stock Audit, it is hoped to get a response soon.*
- *Giltspur Heights wall – will ask Town Engineer to examine this.*
- *People did not have to be on the housing list to be considered for the sites in Ballywaltrim/Glenthorn.*
- *Housing Assessment Form – members should tell applicants how important it is to re-apply for housing to continue to stay on the list.*
- *Ballywaltrim Refurbishment – not aware of any problem but will make enquiries.*
- *Traveller Accommodation Committee – the Estate Development Officer is on this committee.*
- *Silverbridge halting site – a response is awaited from the Department. We will look at other duties when a caretaker is appointed.*

- *Richmond Hill – we have received ten responses and they have now gone to the architects Burke-Kennedy-Doyle for examination.*
- *Disabled Persons Grants – An assessment is to be carried out by the Eastern Regional Health Authority.*
- *Smoke alarms – elderly persons only at present get these.*
- *The fire depot completion date is September / October 2005.*
- *Extensions – will look into overcrowding conditions – will see if funding is available.*
- *Not aware of land for sale in Little Bray.*
- *Compulsory Purchase Order – the eight week period has recently expired – this matter is now in hand and we are just waiting on the Department’s approval.*

The Director of Services informed the members that Wicklow County Council is the Fire Safety Authority and that all issues in relation to fire safety must be channelled through them. With regard to the Hollybrook situation, we have asked the Gardai to help with this matter. Wicklow County Council are trying to rehouse the families, which is quite difficult because of certain requirements that they have. The Compulsory Purchase Orders advertisement will be in next week’s Wicklow People.

It was suggested by some of the members that the manager visit this particular site to see first hand some of the problems.

- 2. To seek the approval of the members to enter into a Section 85 Agreement of the Local Government Act, 2001 to enable Bray Town Council to carry out the water function on behalf of Wicklow County Council.***

Councillor John McManus asked the Director of Services what financial arrangement have Bray Town Council got with Wicklow County Council concerning water and sewerage.

The Director stated that water and sewerage is updated by Bray Town Council which is funded through the Local Government Fund. If Wicklow County Council were to run this programme it would probably be added onto the County Demand charge.

It was proposed by Councillor John McManus and seconded by Councillor John Byrne to enter into a Section 85 Agreement of the Local Government Act, 2001 to enable Bray Town Council to carry out the water function on behalf of Wicklow County Council.

- 3. To consider the taking in charge of Brookwood Housing Estate, Herbert Road***

This was proposed by Councillor John McManus and seconded by Councillor Brid Collins to take in charge the Brookwood Housing Estate on the Herbert Road.

4. To consider the taking in charge of the open spaces areas in Aravon Court, Meath Road

A number of points were raised regarding this open space –

- Is the field behind the Garda Station also taken in charge?
- The residents in this area knew what they were signing – if the normal consultation went through then we should take this in charge
- This is a substantial amount of space – is everything to the right of the laneway in Aravon Court being taken in charge?
- There is a lack of clarity with this open space – we should defer this till next meeting
- Bray Town Council should check out correct ownership of the questioned land – There would be major complications if we proceed and someone owns this land

Councillor Pat Vance put forward a proposal which was seconded by Councillor David Grant to vote on whether the members should postpone this item on the agenda until issues have been clarified regarding the areas of open spaces to be taken in charge at Aravon Court.

The above proposal was voted upon as follows:		
	FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Joe Behan	✓	
Councillor John Brady		✓
Councillor Caroline Burrell		✓
Councillor John Byrne	✓	
Councillor Bríd Collins	✓	
Councillor Déirdre De Búrca		✓
Councillor Anne Egan	✓	
Councillor Anne Ferris	-ABSENT-	-ABSENT-
Councillor David Grant	✓	
Councillor John McManus		✓
Councillor Ciaran O'Brien		✓
Councillor Pat Vance	✓	
Total	6	5

The above proposal was voted in favour by six vote to five. It was agreed to put this item on the agenda for next weeks meeting.

5. To consider the report on the public consultation under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994 regarding the introduction and construction of ramps at Oldcourt Avenue.

Councillor David Grant stated that some residents in this area have difficulty getting into their driveways because of ramps blocking the entrances and he asked that the ramps be arranged in such a way that they cause the least amount of nuisance to residents.

It was then proposed by Councillor David Grant and seconded by Councillor John Byrne to install ramps at Oldcourt Avenue under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994.

6. To consider the report on the submissions received on the public consultation under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994 regarding the introduction and construction of ramps at Hazelwood

Councillor Anne Egan mentioned that she hoped that the buses would be able to go up around Hazelwood. Councillor John Brady suggested that ramps should not be used that traffic calming measures such as speed tables should be used. However the meeting was informed that no submission was received from either Bus Eireann or Bus Atha Cliath.

It was proposed by Councillor Anne Egan and seconded by Councillor John Brady to install ramps at Hazelwood under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994.

7. To consider the report on the submissions received on the public consultation process for the Part XI of the Local Government Planning & Development Act 2000 on the proposed Bray Promenade Environmental Enhancement Scheme

The following points were raised on this item –

- *Everyone wants to see an increase in the use of the bandstand*
- *The seating over to the seaside area – insurance and licensing might be a problem*
- *Sidmonton Avenue/Strand Road very little sight distance coming on to the Seafront*
- *Would like a safety audit of whole seafront before Council go ahead with this scheme*
- *Would like architect, O'Mahony & Associates, to be at meeting to hear what they have to say on some of the submissions*
- *Same submissions coming in from same people again although some do raise valid points. Inside walk is used by older people*
- *Not happy about the parking – not prepared to make a decision on this item tonight*
- *Will people be able to wheel prams and wheelchairs etc on this?*
- *What type of granite will be used on the stand and how much to maintain? Granite when wet becomes very slippery*
- *Seatbacks and streetlights – they are quite rusty already and have they been attended to?*

- *Access to the pedestrian crossings need to be looked at.*
- *Not happy with the grass mounding, children would destroy grassed areas during the Summer*
- *€250,000 is over the top compared to other needs in Bray*
- *The use of the bandstand is prohibited by insurance costs to groups etc*
- *Up to Council to ensure the highest specification for the seafront and people from all over the country come to enjoy it our Seafront, it is the jewel of the town*
- *We are not acting responsibly on behalf of the people of Bray and this item should not be delayed any further. A full public consultation process has been completed*
- *Should not try to “fix this matter if it is not broken”*
- *Would like to see a lot more seating around seafront – can we arrange this with the architects?*
- *Would like an extra meeting to conclude this issue properly*

The Director of Services stated that the architect probably would not feel it is worth his time coming in to a second Council meeting as he has heard the same arguments previously and not much progress was made. The Town Engineer also knows this scheme very well.

The Town Engineer stated that this is a very modest proposal. The area around the bandstand will be re-paved with granite. A public consultation would not come up regarding the specification of the granite. There are three public houses across the road from the seafront. So Loading bays are not effected by the proposal. He stated that he has not seen the scheme for the pedestrian crossings as yet but they are definitely needed on the seafront. These would not be controlled pedestrian crossings. If we put two seats along the seafront it might interfere with the walk. The mounding is very slow hump and is approximately three feet high over a distance. There are currently twenty seven car parking spaces in this area and with this proposal there would be a reduction of fourteen spaces.

A further discussion took place and the following points were raised:

- *Would like to reach a consensus on this issue – people are concerned*
- *Would like mounding taken out and to omit the two seats along the walkway*
- *Would prefer if pedestrian crossing was deleted – must have these at correct places at a blind junction*
- *Against this scheme, people should be concerned about the loss of parking spaces*
- *A one-way system is not a problem in itself*
- *Is there a view to getting CCTV on the seafront?*
- *Is the Town Engineer recommending this scheme on the grounds of safety?*

The Town Engineer stated that this location was picked to fit in with the overall Master-plan and that he was not aware that it is no safer than any other location.

Councillor Joe Behan made the following proposal that all new members be given a copy of the master plan and that the architects be invited to next meeting. Councillor John Brady seconded this.

Councillor John McManus proposed that the Council proceed with this scheme but omit the seating on the seafront. Councillor Anne Egan seconded this.

Councillor Pat Vance stated that it was not a good idea to rush this scheme through and that the Town Engineer should bring back alternatives /modifications to the scheme and this was agreed to by the Members.

Councillor Caroline Burrell proposed that the Council hold an extra meeting this month. Councillor Ciaran O'Brien seconded this.

This proposal was then put to a vote by the members of the Council –

The above proposal was voted upon as follows:		
	FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Joe Behan	✓	
Councillor John Brady	✓	
Councillor Caroline Burrell	✓	
Councillor John Byrne		✓
Councillor Bríd Collins		✓
Councillor Déirdre De Búrca	✓	
Councillor Anne Egan		✓
Councillor Anne Ferris	-ABSENT-	-ABSENT-
Councillor David Grant		✓
Councillor John McManus		✓
Councillor Ciaran O'Brien	✓	
Councillor Pat Vance		✓
Total	5	6

This proposal was defeated by five votes to six.

8. Disposal of Fee Simple Interest in 26 Wolfe Tone Square North, Bray in accordance with Statutory Notice

It was proposed by Councillor Joe Behan and seconded by Councillor John Brady to dispose of the Fee Simple Interest in 26 Wolfe Tone Square West, Bray in accordance with Statutory Notice.

9. Disposal of Fee Simple Interest in 8 Wolfe Tone Square North, Bray in accordance with Statutory Notice

It was proposed by Councillor Joe Behan and seconded by Councillor John Byrne to dispose of the Fee Simple Interest in 8 Wolfe Tone Square West, Bray in accordance with Statutory Notice.

Signed:

CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:

TOWN CLERK

Dated:
