

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 11th October at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Déirdre De Búrca, Cathaoirleach
Councillor Joe Behan
Councillor John Byrne
Councillor Caroline Burrell
Councillor Brid Collins
Councillor Anne Egan
Councillor Anne Ferris
Councillor John McManus
Councillor Ciaran O'Brien
Councillor Pat Vance

Also present: Mr. Des O'Brien, Director of Services
Mr. Michael McNamara, Acting Administrative Officer.
Mr. Sean O'Neill, Town Engineer

Apologies: Councillor David Grant
Councillor John Brady

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Monthly Meeting dated 13th September 2005.

Councillor Brid Collins proposed and Councillor John Byrne seconded that the minutes of the monthly meeting dated 13th September 2005 be adopted.

2. Reports and Recommendations.

The meeting administrator informed the meeting that there are no reports or recommendations.

3. To consider the composition of the taskforce for the rejuvenation plan for the Town Centre

Councillor Ciaran O'Brien opened the discussion on this item. He read the following report:

Town Centre Rejuvenation Plan

The Planning and Infrastructure Municipal Policy Committee recommends to the full council that a Town Renewal Sub-committee is established. This should comprise of no more than eight members, with a maximum of five elected members, one of whom is the Cathaoirleach and including representation from other interested parties such as Bray Tidy Towns, Bray Traders and Bray Chamber of Commerce.

The Planning and Infrastructure M.P.C. have recommended that the following issues be addressed:

1. That the best practice in relation to the maintenance and upkeep of town centre areas in other towns and villages around the country is researched by the subcommittee.
2. That issues relating to Bray Town Centre including the implementation of the council shop-front policy and the upgrading of shop-fronts be examined.
3. Planting.
4. The installation and replacement of bins/cigarette ashtrays, street cleaning, upkeep of footpaths.
5. Strategies for attracting new business to the town be addressed by the subcommittee.
6. That the subcommittee reports back to the full council by the end of November 2005.

The discussion was then opened up to the rest of the members:

- A retailer's sub-committee should also be added onto this because the Chamber of Commerce do not represent all businesses in this town.
- Concerned that there is no Council official on this committee.
- What mechanism is in place to elect the five members?
- Have to congratulate the MPC on this. It is for the town centre, were money needs to be spent.
- Can the hoarding on the main street be removed. It is ugly and not beyond the bounds of engineering to remove it. Can Bray Town Council get onto Ballymore Properties to support this structure from the inside and not hoarding the outside?
- There is also a question of removing chewing gum on paths. We need to look at the fantastic work done on the Florence Road to see it can be done.
- There is a sense that the Town Centre lacks the attention it needs and this is making it hard to attract businesses to the town.

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that there should be a maximum of eight members on this committee, including a maximum of five elected members.

She then suggested that the members nominate the committee tonight.

The Town Engineer informed the members that the Council will look at the licence for the hoarding and also look at removing chewing gum from paths in the town. He added that since he arrived in Bray Town Council approximately one year ago there has been a drastic improvement on the Quinsboro Road and also a lot of other improvements around the town that might not be noticed but have taken place.

The Town Manager then stated that the Council needs to tackle the problem of parking at this end of the town. He added that the Health Service Executive is an obvious option so the Council will look into this. He added that an official of either the Town Engineer or the Town Clerk should be on this task force.

The Cathaoirleach then proceeded to ask the members to nominate their preferred members.

Councillor Joe Behan proposed and Councillor Brid Collins seconded that Councillor Pat Vance be nominated.

Councillor John Byrne proposed and Councillor John McManus seconded that Councillor Anne Ferris be nominated.

Councillor Anne Egan proposed and Councillor Anne Ferris seconded that Councillor John McManus be nominated.

Councillor John McManus proposed and Councillor Anne Ferris seconded that Councillor Brid Collins be nominated.

Councillor Caroline Burrell proposed and Councillor Pat Vance seconded that Councillor Ciaran O'Brien be nominated.

Councillor Deirdre De Burca, as Cathaoirleach would also be included on this committee.

Councillor Ciaran O'Brien then informed the members to report back for the end of November.

4. To consider the Pilot Recycling Project

Councillor John McManus read out the following report to the members.

PILOT RECYCLING PROJECT – OLDCOURT & KILBRIDE GROVE

A pilot recycling project to be carried out in two of the Rapid areas within Bray has been discussed by the MPC. Meeting was held with representatives from both estate management/residents association who are in favour of the project. Support has been sought from FAS for CE workers for the scheme and funding has been sought from the Dept of Environment Heritage & Local Government. The project would be funded on a two-thirds one-third basis between Bray Town Council and Wicklow Co Council. It would be intended to commence the project in January 2006 and monitor it during the year.

Prior to commencement of the project:

Establish level of recycling in the estates

Assess the amount of waste/litter dumped and cost of removing same to Council

Objective of project:

To educate people regarding recycling, reduction of waste

To reduce the amount of litter/dumping in the estates

Proposed Project:

Recycling on a weekly basis – Saturday morning for residents who sign up to scheme

Paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, steel cans & tetra pack cartons – items for collection

Residents will bring items to designated location within estate and place their items in collection bins

Collection bins will be brought to Wicklow for disposal pending recycling facility opening in Bray

Education programme for residents on recycling

FAS have been contacted to seek CES workers to become educators/helpers for scheme

Council to employ a person to carry out duties of educator of scheme and caretaker within estate, this position would be part time – 20 hours per week

Council to ensure enforcement of Litter Act

Estimated budget for year €60,000, funding has been sought from the Dept of Environment Heritage & Local Government, shortfall to be funded by Bray Town Council and Wicklow Co Council

Composting bins would be made available during project to interested residents

Establish levels of recycling on a quarterly basis to evaluate success of project.

The following discussion took place between the members –

- Compliment the chairman on the MPC and the members of the committee on this excellent idea.
- When is this going to be introduced and is it going to be carried out by the Council or a private firm?
- Can we have assurance that the areas will be monitored?
- Can residents in the estates be employed as caretakers?
- If this idea is a success can we leave the possibility open to moving it to other parts of the town?

Councillor Anne Ferris then stated that she had previously written to the competition authority asking if Greenstar were ever in breach of Section 5 of the competition Act 2002 (“the Act”). She informed the members that she had recently received correspondence from the Competition Authority regarding this query.

In the letter they stated that Greenstar were not actually in any breach of the Act but they also added the following –

“While the evidence does not support a finding of a breach of the Act in this instance, the Authority’s extensive enquiries into household waste collection suggest that the market for household waste collection is not working well for consumers. The Authority is accordingly of the view that a radical overhaul of the current regulatory framework for household waste collection services should be considered by the Department for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (“the Department”). In that respect the Authority recommends that the Department introduce competition for the market, i.e., the procurement of services by local authorities from service providers following competitive tendering processes. This system should replace the existing model of competition within the market, i.e., where waste providers “compete” side-by-side with each other.”

Councillor Ferris then stated that the Council and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government have roles to play here and she hopes that this will be acted on.

The members raised the following points:

- Improvements have been made in Greenstar because people can actually get through to the Call-Centre in now.
- An open competition would be healthy for this town.
- We have to congratulate Triona Irving and Maura Byrne on the work they have put into this.
- €60,000 for the year for two estates is not much. Rolling this scheme out to the rest of the town would cost a lot.
- Because it would be successful people would expect to move this to the rest of the town and money would be a stumbling block then.
- Greenstar maybe a monopoly in the town but when you compare to the rest of the country they are quite favourable.
- This is all the more reason to have a recycling centre for Bray.

Councillor John McManus stated that this scheme will be run by the Council. He stated that there will be an educator / caretaker who will work 20 hours per week and on the truck there will be one driver and one helper.

He added that this is not in direct competition with Greenstar and it does give people the option to rid their rubbish in an effective way.

Councillor McManus also added that the MPC did meet with the residents in Oldcourt and Kilbride who had a lot of views on this pilot project.

He then thanked the members for their comments.

The Cathaoirleach then stated that she had serious concerns over this matter. She stated that it seems the Council is looking at a recycling service provided by Greenstar. She added that Wicklow County Council has provided money for a recycling centre, which would provide a free service.

She then added that she is concerned that an alternative site was proposed and that this makes no economic sense.

She asked then if this council is serious about providing a centre, as we are depriving the people of Bray. She then stated that she will not be able to support this application unless members agree to the Part 8 before Christmas.

At this point of the meeting an argument ensued between certain members of the council and the Cathaoirleach.

Councillor Anne Ferris then asked what is the point in having MPC meetings if the Cathaoirleach will just overrule the proposal anyway?

Councillor John McManus then spoke on a point of order, stating that the member's have accepted the report of the MPC.

Councillor McManus then stated that this has turned into a sham and he then proceeded to leave the meeting.

Councillor's John Byrne, Anne Ferris and Anne Egan also followed Councillor McManus in leaving the meeting.

Councillor Caroline Burrell then proposed that the meeting be adjourned for five minutes as sometimes at these meetings things can get very heated. She added that the members must try to do this together.

She then informed the members that the meeting be adjourned for five minutes to break.

After the break the members who had previously walked out; Councillor John McManus, Councillor Anne Ferris, Councillor Anne Egan and Councillor John Byrne rejoined the meeting.

The Cathaoirleach stated that it is clear the Labour Party feel very strongly on this issue. She added that the securing of a site should be fairly imminent.

Councillor John McManus then stated that he has been twenty-six years on Bray Town Council and he has never walked out of a meeting before. He then said that the Cathaoirleach has been an absolute disgrace with this issue. He stated that she has enmeshed this with the recycling centre issue in which it has nothing to do with.

Councillor John McManus then proposed and Councillor Anne Egan seconded that the Pilot recycling project be adopted by the members.

This item was then put to a vote.

To consider the Pilot Recycling Project		
	FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Joe Behan	✓	
Councillor John Brady	Absent	Absent
Councillor Caroline Burrell	✓	
Councillor John Byrne	✓	
Councillor Bríd Collins	✓	
Councillor Déirdre De Búrca	✓	
Councillor Anne Egan	✓	
Councillor Anne Ferris	✓	
Councillor David Grant	Absent	Absent
Councillor John McManus	✓	
Councillor Ciaran O'Brien	✓	
Councillor Pat Vance	✓	
Total	10	0

With 10 votes in favour and none against the proposal was carried.

5. To discuss the provision of an Angels Plot and a wall for urns at Springfield Burial Ground

The meeting administrator read out the following report on the Springfield Burial Ground proposal.

A statue similar to the one in St. Peter's Burial Ground to be erected in Springfield Burial Ground in memory of all children who have died.

An urn wall to be erected at the car park end of the graveyard; hedge to be raised if necessary to ensure privacy from public road.

Councillor Joe Behan opened the discussion by stating that anyone who has ever lost a child through tragedy would appreciate this idea and he would certainly propose this.

The Town Manager informed the meeting that there is a financial estimate, which the members need to consider here.

Councillor Pat Vance stated that maintenance is also vitally important here. Councillor Brid Collins seconded Councillor Joe Behan's proposal in relation to the Angels plot. She stated that this is nice for people who have lost loved ones. She also stated that little angels statues should be included.

The Cathaoirleach then stated that there is now a proposal from Councillor Joe Behan which has been seconded by Councillor Brid Collins.

6. To approve parking arrangements on the Meath Road

The Town Engineer informed the members of the report.

Restricted Parking Alterations in Sidmonton Road Area

It was agreed at the Council Meeting of 8th November 2004 to proceed to public consultation in respect of altering the current parking arrangements at:

1. Sidmonton Road
2. Sidmonton Place
3. Sidmonton Square
4. Sidmonton Avenue
5. Meath Road
6. Victoria Avenue

This was advertised on 17th November 2004 and submissions were invited to be received before 10th January 2005.

Two submissions were received

- (1) Earlsbrook Nursing Home. (received late)

One issue here is the blocking of the entrance (side) to the Nursing home premises (on Victoria Ave.)

Notwithstanding the designation of the public road as a parking area outside the premises, parking which obstructs entrances is prohibited under the Roads Act.

The Area to the front (on Meath Rd) is not within the proposed restricted area.

- (2) Donore Nursing Home

This submission related to the diminution of the all day unrestricted parking that is available (utilised by the staff) immediately adjacent to the premises (on Sidmonton Rd).

The purpose of the extension of the restricted parking area is to free up the area under consideration from all day parking.

The particular objection received is a common issue from all business premises in restricted parking areas. However it does have the advantage that short term parking (e.g. for visitors to the Nursing Home) will have a much better opportunity to park closer.

The proposals as displayed are designed to give preference to short stay parking.

The Town Engineer recommended to the members that they adopt this proposal.

The members raised the following points:

- Without proper policing this could be bad.
- Hope to increase vigilance for illegally parked vehicles.
- The residents on the Northern end of this road are concerned about parking on both sides of the road. Can the Town Engineer look at this because a number of residents have written before about it.
- A sign has gone up on the Meath Road which residents erected telling people they cannot park there because it is a private estate. This was in fact taken in charge by Bray Town Council. Can the Council make this residential parking only?
- Three or four people in the last few weeks have expressed concern that they cannot get visitor discs. Is the same criteria still used?
- The council needs to look at the overall parking plan for the town.
- Can the Town Engineer look at the junctions at Sidmonton and Meath Road and Florence Road? Can we get a report?
- Have reservations about allowing parking outside Donore Nursing Home. Can this be reviewed?

The Town Engineer stated that he will exclude the section opposite the side wall of Newlands.

Councillor Anne Ferris and Councillor Caroline Burrell seconded that the parking arrangements on the Meath Road be adopted with exception to the new amendment made by the Councillors. This was unanimous.

7. To consider the extinguishment of the public Right Of Way between Upper Dargle Road and Green Park Road

The Town Engineer informed the members of the following report:

Proposed extinguishment of Public Right of Way – Between Upper Dargle Road and Greenpark Road

In response to the wishes of the members as expressed at the Bray Town Council meeting of the 12th July 2005. Proposals relating to the extinguishment of a Right of Way between Upper Dargle Road and Greenpark Road were put on display.

The procedures to be adopted to extinguish the Right of Way are set out in Section 73 of the Roads Act 1993. An advertisement was placed in the Bray People of the 31st August 2005 inviting submissions on the proposal to be made to Bray Town Council up to and including Wednesday 21st September 2005.

Signs were erected at each end of the Right of Way for an aggregated period of more than 14 days during this period.

The Right of Way extends to some 47m long and is between one and two metres wide and extends from the Upper Dargle Road to Greenpark Road (meeting it just north of its junction with Fairgreen Road). Because of the difference in elevation between Greenpark Road and the Upper Dargle Road there is a number of steps in the Right of Way. The Right of Way is lit by a street lamp located on the Upper Dargle Road. The alternative routes from one end of the Right Of Way to the other along Upper Dargle Road and Greenpark Road are both similar in length (i.e. 400m and 420m respectively).

Two number submissions were received in relation to the advertised proposed extinguishment.

- (1) Mary O'Toole, 2 Dargan Street, Bray
- (2) Rita Connors, 10 Fairgreen Tce. Bray - and 44 other signatories.

Both Submissions were against the proposed closure but there were no requests for an oral hearing.

No Submissions were received in favour of the closure.

The stated policy of Bray Town Council is to protect and preserve all existing Rights of Way (Bray Town Development Plan Section 7.4.13)

Therefore I recommend that the walkway remain open as per the policy of Bray Town Council, however the decision is a reserved function for the members.

The Town Engineer recommended to the members that this laneway remain open.

The members raised the following points:

Councillor Anne Egan stated that seeing as there has been no submission to close the laneway, she would propose to keep it open.

Councillor Pat Vance stated that this has always been a traditional right of way and he would support Councillor Anne Egan.

Councillor Brid Collins also supported the two Councillors.

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that the reason this came on to the agenda was because the residents expressed concern over anti-social behaviour in the lane. She added that she will raise the issue at the next Garda Liaison meeting. She then asked the Town Engineer if he would have any suggestions as to how to tackle this problem.

The Town Engineer stated that this would be a matter for the Gardai ultimately.

Councillor Anne Ferris asked the Town Engineer if the Council could erect railings.

The Town Engineer stated that these are all items that need to be brought up at the Estimates meeting.

The members then requested that this item be put onto the Garda Liaison meeting agenda.

8. Update on the Boathouses and the Harbour Shed

The Cathaoirleach asked the meeting administrator for an update on this item.

The meeting administrator informed the members that the Law Agent in Wicklow County Council has written to both parties involved and that we are just waiting on responses.

Councillor Caroline Burrell stated that this process has been very slow. Councillor Burrell then proposed and Councillor John Byrne seconded that the Municipal Policy Committee should draw up a policy that states that all community groups should be given priority in future for items like this.

Councillor John McManus stated that the council should go-ahead with this and be pro-active in their efforts.

Councillor Joe Behan stated that last June the members of the council made a decision to give the Boathouse to this group. He stated that this could all be done a lot quicker for the sake of the young people involved.

Councillor Anne Ferris stated that there should be someone designated to follow this matter up and to speed the whole process up.

Councillor Pat Vance stated that there is an obligation on the officials to expedite this as soon as possible.

The Cathaoirleach then stated that she agrees with Councillor Caroline Burrell that a policy should be put in place regarding community groups and that the best place to discuss this would be on the MPC meeting.

The Town Manager stated that the council must pay tribute to Catherine Halligan for all of her hard work and persistence in making the buildings available again. He stated that the two groups involved had not yet replied to the Law Agents enquiring as to what kind of legal entity they were, therefore Bray Town Council cannot yet know what kind of lease is needed. Bray Town Council must at all costs avoid a situation where we are again effectively leasing the building to an individual. He finally stated that it was not the intention of Bray Town Council to ask for market rent, but that we were only following instructions.

The Cathaoirleach then asked that this item be put onto the agenda for the next Community MPC meeting.

9. To further discuss the Recycling Centre for Bray

The meeting administrator read out the report on the Recycling Centre for Bray. He stated that Wicklow County Council has identified an alternative site for the proposed Civic Amenity centre. However, the cost of rental is significantly higher than the previous site. At this time, costings for the proposed 3 years of the operation have been prepared and approval is awaited from the County Manager to proceed.

In anticipation of approval, there are 2 people fulltime engaged on sourcing equipment for the proposed centre.

The members raised the following points:

- This matter is very close to being solved now. When this decision is made it will be great for the people of Bray.
- Can we ask the County Manager to sign this as soon as possible?
- This is not just a site for Bray but for the whole of North Wicklow.
- The Council should also consult with other businesses around the area.
- A lot of work will have to be done on this new site.
- Some members were not informed of this is because it was very sensitive information. There is no point squabbling over who knew what.
- We must pay tribute to the Town Manager who on this occasion listened to the members.
- Ultimately it would be ideal if we got a door to door recycling collection.

The Cathaoirleach stated that the council must be very careful about this site. She said that the members have one week to raise the Part 8 and she does not see the initiative coming from this Council to complete it.

She then stated that she is appealing to the Town Manager to use his influence with regard to this matter.

The Town Manager informed the Council that this is a matter for Wicklow County Council and that he does not have the influence to sway this decision. He added that as a member of Wicklow County Council and as the Cathaoirleach of Bray Town Council Councillor De Burca should have more say than he would.

Corresepondence

The meeting administrator informed the members that there is no correspondence.

Any other Business

Out of Hours Doctor Service

Councillor Joe Behan raised the issue of an out-of-hours doctor service for the Town of Bray. He stated that there is a genuine concern in Bray that people cannot get to see their doctor. He asked if there are any plans to create longer hours for people to see doctors or is there any possibility of being able to raise this in a public forum meeting with doctors around the town.

Councillor John McManus then spoke on the issue. He stated that a lot of doctor surgeries already open long hours and that they provide a very good service. Ultimately though he added that the whole county is under-doctored. He explained that the lead in time to produce extra doctors is around eleven years.

The Cathaoirleach stated that Bray Town Council should write to the Bray Clinical Society to ask if they can attend one of the upcoming MPC meetings.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed:

CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:

TOWN CLERK

Dated:
