

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 12th September 2006 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Anne Egan, Cathaoirleach
Councillor John Brady
Councillor John Byrne
Councillor Ciaran O'Brien
Councillor Bríd Collins
Councillor David Grant
Councillor John McManus
Councillor Caroline Burrell
Councillor Pat Vance

Apologies: Councillor Anne Ferris

Also present: Mr. Des O' Brien, Director of Services
Ms. Christine Flood, Town Clerk
Mr. Sean O'Neill, Town Engineer
Mr. Kevin McCarthy, I.D.A. Ireland
Mr. Kevin Kavanagh, Enterprise Ireland

1. To receive a deputation from Mr Kevin Kavanagh of Enterprise Ireland and Mr Kevin McCarthy of the I.D.A.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the delegation from the I.D.A and Enterprise Ireland to the meeting.

Mr. Kevin McCarthy from the I.D.A Eastern region informed the members of the following –

- The IDA is continually competing with other regions, worldwide for business on a large scale.
- Bray Business Park is an integral part of the East Region
- Bray also profits from surrounding business parks such as Cherrywood.
- The IDA is happy to work with Local Authorities and private companies to develop business locally.
- The IDA works with Tony O'Neill and Wicklow County Council's economic development team to attract business to the county.
- There are sites available in North Wicklow at Greystones, Newtownmountkennedy and at Rathnew the IDA would be very interested if development is to go ahead at Fassaroe.
- Ireland as an internet hub is increasingly important in attracting business such as Yahoo, Ebay and Google etc.
- It was noted that Bray did not participate in the broadband MANS (Metropolitan Area Network) Project.

Mr. Kevin Kavanagh, Area director of Dublin and Mid East, Enterprise Ireland informed the members of the following –

- Enterprise Ireland focuses on helping Irish Companies to develop
- €9 million in grants has been paid to companies in County Wicklow this year.
- €1 million has been paid to 16 companies in Bray.

The members raised the following points –

- Would like to welcome the delegation and thank them for attending.
- The concern is of Bray as a development base. What is our position now regarding this?
- Our biggest concern is Dell.
- What is going to happen with the AO Smith site?
- We need an enterprise centre in Bray.
- Unemployment in Ireland is currently at 4% which is practically full employment.
- A decent ICT infrastructure is critical.
- The focus should be on attracting high paid knowledge economy jobs
- We should seek a deputation from Eircom for a future meeting.
- Emphasis should be on having sustainable jobs that pay well and are good for the country.
- We should support any good proposals from the I.D.A. or from Enterprise Ireland for any developments on the AO Smith site or Dell.
- The location on the Boghall Road is an excellent location for companies as it is in close proximity to the N11 and easy to get to Rosslare / Dublin etc.
- Welcome the fact that sixteen Bray based companies have received funding from Enterprise Ireland
- Bray needs an Enterprise Centre.
- Concern a possible technological deficit .
- Bray Town council should arrange an audit to find out if a deficit exists.
- One would assume that the former Dell site they has an excellent telecommunications infrastructure
- What are the blocks on infrastructure coming to Bray?
- We must be careful about rezoning AO Smith and Dell sites.
- The Manager should request Wicklow County Council to upgrade be upgraded the Southern Cross Route - appearance and signage.
- It seems that Bray is not being prioritised so can we hear what the views are on this?
- Is there a future for industrial sites in Ireland? What can Bray Town Council do to encourage companies into Bray?
- What competitive advantages does Bray have over other areas?
- We should encourage local jobs to reduce commuting.
- Is there any scope for recycling business ?
- Bray Business Park took a long time to get off the ground.
- A Mid East Regional Authority survey found that there is jobs growth in Dublin and housing growth in the rest of the region resulting in an imbalance.
- The location of the LUAS will be important to development
- In granting permission for Fassaroe, Wicklow County Council have been positive towards development, however this was turned down by an Bord

Pleanala, however Cherrywood does not seem to have experienced the same planning difficulties.

- The Strategic Planning Guidelines are one of the reasons development was turned down.
- I support the development of the Enterprise Centre and anything that can be done to support employment in Bray.

Mr. Kevin McCarthy informed the members of the following –

- Dell moved because it was economically more viable – this created more jobs when they moved.
- Dell are in private ownership so we can only do so much – we do not control that situation but we try to influence whatever way we can.
- Bray is in as good a position as any other town, however an audit would be a good idea.
- The IDA do not have any other sites in Bray but Bray is part of a bigger picture.
- The focus should be on getting high end business
- The IDA is willing to promote any suitable available space in Bray.
- The AO Smith building is on the IDA disposal programme. If the owners want to change the zoning they would have to go to the council. The building is quite old and would need redevelopment.
- The cost of land is a big issue, especially along the eastern seaboard. Single story buildings no longer make any sense
- Under the Community Enterprise Scheme €940,000 was approved in 2000. The centre was to be built in 2001, however a major constraint has been availability of a site. Wicklow County Council have now identified a site and proposals are being prepared. This may be conditional on work starting by the year end.
- There is a very successful example of a recycling company in Tuam.
- Access to Third Level education is also important and the development by Wicklow County Council of Clermont is very positive.

The Town Manager asked the deputation about the situation with the lien on the AO Smith site ? Would the IDA give that up?

Mr McCarthy responded that it is generally IDA policy to give up freehold. The 999 year lease specifies “manufacturing”, however the IDA would be willing to consider employment instead of manufacturing.

The Cathaoirleach then thanked the deputation for attending the meeting.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of the Monthly Meeting dated 18th July 2006.

Before the minutes were adopted Councillor John Byrne stated that he had previously raised the issue about residents of 25 Boghall Cottages. He stated that Bray Town Council were to replace the wall in this house but this still had not been done.

The Town Engineer stated that he is aware this has not been carried out yet but will be chased up.

It was proposed by Councillor Brid Collins and seconded by Councillor John Byrne and unanimously agreed to confirm and adopt the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Bray Town Council dated the 18th July 2006.

3. Reports and Recommendations

A report on the Proposed Pilot Recycling Project was circulated to all members.

Approval had been received for funding of €30,000 from the Department of Environment for the Pilot Recycling Project.

Wicklow County Council as the Waste Authority will be formally applying for this funding and it is to form part of the funding for the Recycling Centre. This together with the amount in the 2006 Budget will total €60,000.

Discussions are currently taking place with FÁS in relation to the placement of a CE worker for the Pilot Scheme. Training in relation to recycling is to be provided through Wicklow County Council. In addition when residents have signed up to the scheme and have received the necessary training, domestic composters will be provided to interested householders.

The involvement of the Estate Management Committee and the Residents Association will be crucial to the success of this project. A meeting will be arranged when details have been finalised with FAS & the County Council.

Obviously the ownership of the scheme by the residents will be a key to its success

The members raised the following points –

- This report is inadequate. Bray Town Council provided funding in the budget for Oldcourt and Kilbride. I would suggest this be teased out at an Municipal Policy Committee.
- Shocked – this project was fully supported by Bray Town Council.
- Proposed that the members decide what to do and not some official in Wicklow County Council.
- Do we need this project? Would the money be better used elsewhere? We cannot compete with the private sector.

- A lot of work has been put in. This has been fully supported by Bray Town Council and for Wicklow County Council to come back and say no is disgraceful.
- The purpose of this was to take away from the private sector.
- How many people have access to transport as it is not feasible to ask people to take bus.
- RAPID areas – is there an intention of extending these? It is costing a lot of money to keep estates clean.
- Would like the project to go ahead as we have a problem with litter. Can we get some feedback from the MPC for the council?
- The whole emphasis on this should be about education. This needs a lot more thought.
- Councillor John McManus, Triona Irving and Moira Byrne have all worked very hard on this. Wicklow County Council should be told that we want the service in St. Peters also as there are a lot of elderly people who would use it.
- Nobody told Bray Town Council that this service was going to be changed from twice to once a month. Bray Town Council wants this service.
- Can Wicklow County Council tell us what aspect of this is not feasible?

The Town Manager informed the members that he will take this in hand and speak to the officials in Wicklow County Council and will come back with something for the first meeting in October. He added that education is very important. Mr. O'Brien also stated that the people who run this scheme should attend the MPC to discuss it further and that Wicklow County Council officials do not realise that Bray Town Council are funding this. He also stated that 20% of householders do not have access to transport.

River Dargle Flood Study

The Town Manager informed the members of the following –

- We are trying to keep to a strict deadline.
- Office of Public Works input has been very valuable and we must commend them on this.
- We have listened to several ideas and deepening the river seems to be the best. This will cater for 100-year flood protection and 200-year tide protection.
- In the future the tide will be a huge influence.
- We are trying to arrange a special briefing for the members.

Councillor David Grant requested that this briefing be made public.

4. To consider the extinguishment of the public Right Of Way at the rear of O’Byrne Road

The members raised the following points –

- 25 families will benefit from this – the best thing would be to meet with the people. Propose that we close it off and meet with residents.
- There was a lot of illegal dumping around here. Would like to second the proposal. The onus is on Bray Town Council to tackle illegal dumping.
- There are three objections though and are quite legitimate concerns.
- It is important that the lane is checked every so often for litter and dumping.

The members then took a vote to consider the extinguishment of the Public Right of Way at the rear of O’ Byrne Road.

The above proposal was voted upon as follows:		
	FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Joe Behan	Absent	Absent
Councillor John Brady	✓	
Councillor Caroline Burrell	✓	
Councillor John Byrne	✓	
Councillor Bríd Collins	✓	
Councillor Déirdre De Búrca	Absent	Absent
Councillor Anne Egan	✓	
Councillor Anne Ferris	Absent	Absent
Councillor David Grant	✓	
Councillor John McManus	✓	
Councillor Ciaran O’Brien	✓	
Councillor Pat Vance	Abstain	Abstain
Total	8	1 Abstained

With eight votes for and one abstention this proposal was carried.

5. To consider the extinguishment of the public Right Of Way between Elgin Heights and Ballywaltrim Lane

Councillor Pat Vance proposed that Bray Town Council extinguish the public Right of Way between Elgin Heights and Ballywaltrim Lane. This was seconded by Councillor David Grant.

The members decided to take a vote on this item.

The above proposal was voted upon as follows:		
	FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Joe Behan	Absent	Absent
Councillor John Brady	✓	
Councillor Caroline Burrell	✓	
Councillor John Byrne	✓	
Councillor Bríd Collins	✓	
Councillor Déirdre De Búrca	Absent	Absent
Councillor Anne Egan	✓	
Councillor Anne Ferris	Absent	Absent
Councillor David Grant	✓	
Councillor John McManus	✓	
Councillor Ciaran O'Brien	✓	
Councillor Pat Vance	✓	
Total	9	0

With nine votes for and none against this proposal was carried.

6. To further consider the Establishment of a Joint Policing Committee for Bray Town Council

The Cathaoirleach stated that she will bring this back to the next council meeting. Councillor Pat Vance also requested that item number 8 be taken next. This was agreed.

8. Update on the Boathouse and Harbour Shed

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the lease documents have been sent to the solicitors but as yet our law agent has not heard anything back.

9. Update on the 1.78 acres

The Town Manager informed the members that the assessment committee had a final meeting before he went on holidays and as yet is not in a position to give out details of this. He added that this land is registered in the name of Wicklow County Council and the Town Clerk is doing research into the ownership of this land with the help of the Law Agent.

The members raised the following points –

The land was acquired on a fifty fifty basis by the two authorities

Which local authority settled with the parties to the legal action in relation to a previous proposal to sell this site ?

The Town Manager stated that Bray Town Council settled with the interested parties.

11. Correspondence

LUAS

The Town Clerk informed the members that correspondence had been received from the Railway Procurement Agency regarding a public consultation day on the 13th September 2006 to inform members of the public of the proposals to bring the LUAS to Bray.

ESB Letter

The Town Clerk informed the members that the ESB will have a representative at the Monthly meeting on the 10th October 2006 to answer all members questions. Councillor Joe Behan thanked the Town Clerk for writing so promptly to the ESB and welcomed the fact that the ESB are willing to meet.

12. Any Other Business

Katie Taylor

The Cathaoirleach stated that she would like to compliment Katie Taylor on her recent achievements in boxing in Europe. The members also expressed their congratulations.

Tidy Towns

The Cathaoirleach stated that she would like to congratulate the town of Aughrim on doing so well in the Tidy Towns. She asked the Town Clerk if a letter could be sent to the Tidy Town committee congratulating them on their achievement.

Miscellaneous

Councillor John McManus stated that there are hedges and briars over spilling onto the footpaths in areas like Southern Cross Road. Councillor McManus suggested that Bray Town Council contact people in these areas to maintain these as they could cause injuries to people.

Councillor John McManus also raised the issue of the demolition of the site across from the Bray Town Council offices. He stated that he would like to welcome this work but the footpath is being taken up. He asked if guarantees can be put in place to provide a temporary footpath.

Councillor Brid Collins stated that regarding the 23 acres, something needs to be done with this as it is a disgrace.

Councillor John Brady added that this is a serious issue because only last week a child fell on some broken glass and needed stitches. He added that work must be ongoing up here to keep it well.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed:

CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:

TOWN CLERK

Dated:
