

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 13th March 2007 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

- Councillor Anne Egan, Cathaoirleach**
- Councillor Joe Behan**
- Councillor John Byrne**
- Councillor Caroline Burrell**
- Councillor Brid Collins**
- Councillor Deirdre De Burca**
- Councillor John McManus**
- Councillor John Brady**
- Councillor Anne Ferris**
- Councillor David Grant**
- 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**
- Mr. Stephen Fox, Executive Engineer**

1. To further discuss the extension of the LUAS to Bray

Mr. Ger Hand and Ms. Claire Faulkner gave a presentation to the members on the possibility of an extension of the LUAS to Bray.

The members raised the following points –

- Last time we heard on this was at the oral hearing. Disappointed to hear the words 'west of Bray'. Focus should be on town.
- This thinking is against government recommendations and strategic planning guidelines.
- Has there been discussions with developers at the Bray Golf Club Lands and has there been any positive discussions regarding the LUAS connecting up with the DART?
- If the line is to be west of the M50 it will be going to Old Fassaroe. We want it to come east and then to spur to Fassaroe, not the other way around.
- We need more clarification on this. Coming into town has not been ruled out.
- I feel that it might be better to go to Fassaroe as I think it is more beneficial to serve the people of the county and not just Bray.
- Both access points need to be engineered to serve the people of Bray and Wicklow and to service the DART.
- There is going to be just one opportunity to get this right.
- We reached a bad state when allowing developers to decide where the lines are to go.
- The priority should be to serve Bray town centre.

- Are we going to have a complete dependency on people from south Wicklow to use their cars to get to Fassaroe?
- Why should Bray Emmett's suffer with the line going through their land?
- Pay tribute to the Bray Chamber of Commerce for putting pressure on the R.P.A with this.
- Disappointed an eastern route is being ruled out.
- How much funding has the developer proposed to put in? We do not want this project developer led; we want it needs led.
- Urge R.P.A. to look long and hard at this.
- I would totally support the LUAS coming to the Town Centre and linking up with the DART. It is still viable for the LUAS to go through the Golf Club Lands.
- Transport should be destination driven and accessible. It should also be needs led for the future.
- Where do we go next and what is the time frame? What is the current position on the extension to Cherrywood?
- It is our job to provide the people of Bray with a service.

Mr. Ger Hand and Ms. Claire Faulkner responded to the members with the following:

- The line we would like to have would be in the shape of an inverted Y.
- We do speak to developers and we speak to anyone else who is prepared to speak to us.
- We do take account of Transport 21 also and we are actually approximately 4 or 5 years early with this.
- LUTS – We were influenced by this.
- Bray Emmetts – this club have had discussions with the developers who want to buy the land. We need to give this more time.
- Ultimately we are a railway agency.
- We can be a catalyst for development and improvement.
- We have no other agenda other than to provide a top class public transport system.
- We have had meetings with the developers of the Golf Club lands to identify feasible routes.
- Timeframe – this is hard to call as it depends on a number of issues. I would expect by the end of the summer.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of the Monthly Meeting dated 13th February 2007.

Councillor John Brady requested that one change be made to these minutes. The following was written in the minutes –

The Town Manager stated that it is not necessary to enter into a section 85 agreement and all we had to do was to get **Wicklow Town Council** to give us permission on their behalf.

Councillor Brady requested that it be changed to –

The Town Manager stated that it is not necessary to enter into a section 85 agreement and all we had to do was to get **Wicklow County Council** to give us permission on their behalf.

The minutes of the 13th February 2007 were then proposed by Councillor John Brady and seconded by Councillor Deirdre De Burca.

3. Reports and Recommendations

Flooding Special Alert System

The Town Clerk informed the members of this system in case of flooding.

Review of Seafront policy

The Town Clerk informed the members of the reviewed seafront policy.

Pride of Place

The Town Clerk informed the members that it has been proposed that Fassaroe be entered into the Pride of Place competition in April.

Glen na Smole

The Town Engineer informed the members of the following report.

Glen na Smole is a small estate comprising of a single cul de sac with 9 houses. On the opposite side of the road is a boundary ditch separating Glen na Smole from Wheatfield.

The vegetation on the ditch / boundary consists of trees and scrub and extends in width to over an area of 10metres in places and the boundary is approximately 100m in length.

This boundary is permeable in places and in at least three or four locations there is clear evidence of considerable pedestrian traffic. The two main places that the boundary is traversed is opposite No. 2 (Northern End) and adjacent to the junction with Boghall Road. There is also considerable litter in these areas.

There are a number of issues to be resolved and the physical works recommended need to be reflective of these.

To prevent pedestrian traffic via the cul de sac would be tackled by means of erection of a barrier IE a fence on a wall approximately 2metres high. However, the tree cover would still exist and be a possible harbour for continuing anti – social behaviour.

In any event the construction of a fence would require some scrub clearance, which would reduce the shelter effect. The cost of fencing the joint boundary would be of

the order of €15,000, subject to receipt of tenders, depending on the location of the trees and the fence and the relative location.

The parks budget would be the source of finance for any amelioration of the situation at this location and the level of finance available from this source is not adequate to fund this item in the current year.

The members raised the following points –

Glen na Smole

- Anti-social behaviour is a serious problem and there is a lot of it. This should be given priority.

Councillor John Byrne proposed that this be given priority and this was seconded by Councillor Joe Behan.

- If we had taken care of this a few years ago it would not have cost €15,000.
- There should be liaison with the residents associations.
- Young people who are causing trouble here have a clear run through the estates so something needs to be done.
- There is always slack in our budget to provide something like a fence. If we want we could pass a section 138 but I believe the manager is reasonable and we should not have to.

Pride of Place

- Welcome the fact that Fassaroe want to be entered into this.
- We have a part to play as a council.
- It is worrying when we're told there is a shortage of staff.

Seafront Policy

- I would not be supporting this in its present form.
- The people who run the Summerfest and St. Patricks day parade are all voluntary and very welcome.
- We need to keep an eye on this. We do not want it turning into a booze festival.

Flood Emergency Plan

- Little Bray floods very quickly and is therefore more urgent.

The Seafront Policy was agreed by the members.

Councillor John Byrne then proposed an extension of the meeting. Councillor Pat Vance seconded this proposal.

4. Presentation on the River Dargle Flood Protection Scheme

The Town Manager introduced the team of Mr. Paul Healy and Mr. Ian Crehan who were there to speak about the flood protection scheme. He also added that while the council does not need the members' endorsement on this issue, it would be very much appreciated if it was given.

Mr. Paul Healy and Mr. Ian Crehan then proceeded to give the presentation to the members.

The members raised the following points –

- Thank consultants for an excellent and informative presentation and analysis.
- There was a lot to take in but this was a very competent presentation.
- This shows the wisdom of the council to involve the O.P.W. They are now obliged at a political level as well as an official level.
- This shows that Bray should have been a much higher priority and I hope this moves Bray up for top priority. We are inching towards a very positive move for Bray.
- Were all-feasible options investigated?
- I feel that this is a developer led development. These works have been coloured by the developer.
- I want a flood plan to facilitate the people of Bray and especially for people who live in the affected areas.
- The developers are not leading this – Bray Town Council is.
- It is not important who pays for it as long as there is a scheme put in place.
- We must remember that the SWAP group has played a major part in this.
- I have serious concerns that all options were not looked at and that the consultants are proposing a scheme that will not consider climate change.
- It is quite clear that another flood will happen and it is the people who do not want to do anything who will have to answer.
- This is the biggest decision to affect Bray since local government was adopted in 1899.
- We want to see the river Dargle as a feature of Bray and not to become like the Liffey in Dublin.
- Future proofing – hopefully the scheme can be re-evaluated in future.
- Delighted that people's opinions were taken seriously.

The Town Manager informed the members of the following –

- Endorsement of members – I was stating a fact but I also said that we wanted your approval.
- Planning Permission – this is a matter for An Bord Pleannala.

The consultants informed the members of the following –

- Design model – this extends from the harbour to Bray bridge.
- Walk from harbour - bridge – this would be maintained and upgraded.
- Excavation in Peoples Park – the major regarding has now been reassessed.
- Climate change – everything to do with this has a great degree of variance.
- Design model – as part of the EIS there is a requirement to present an artists impression of what the scheme will look like.
- All options were considered.

Councillor John Byrne proposed that scheme 3, variation E be adopted. This was seconded by Councillor Joe Behan.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed:

CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:

TOWN CLERK

Dated:
