

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present:**

- Councillor Brid Collins, Cathaoirleach**
- Councillor John Brady**
- Councillor Caroline Burrell**
- Councillor Deirdre de Burca**
- Councillor Anne Egan**
- Councillor Anne Ferris**
- Councillor David Grant**
- Councillor Michael Lawlor**
- 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**
- Mr. Liam Bourke, Senior Executive Engineer**

**Apologies:** **Councillor John Byrne**

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Brid Collins, extended sympathy towards the family and friends of the late Brendan Carroll of Raheen Park. Mr Carroll, who passed away recently, had been a player for Bray Wanderers and was capped twice for Ireland. The Cathaoirleach noted that the members, particularly Councillor Vance, wished to be associated with this vote of sympathy.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting dated 15<sup>th</sup> May 2007.**

Councillor Caroline Burrell proposed confirmation of the minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> May 2007 and Councillor Anne Egan seconded the proposal.

**2. Reports and Recommendations**

*CCTV in Ballywaltrim Playground*

The Town Clerk gave the following report from the Town Engineer to the members on the Ballywaltrim Playground:

*"As members are aware, BTC has provided €15,000 towards the cost of improved CCTV surveillance in the Ballywaltrim area.*

*The Gardaí have received the funds and have agreed in principle to extend the town CCTV system to include for extra surveillance in the Ballywaltrim area.*

*Arrangements are in hand by the Gardaí to have the system extended but the date of installation has not yet been confirmed.*

*The Gardaí representative has indicated that this will be given priority due to the time already elapsed."*

The members raised the following points -

- Delighted that this has moved forward. We need to put pressure on the Gardaí to get it in. We can't do anything with the playground until then.
- Can we get a contractor to install and reclaim the cost afterwards?
- The playground is in a state of dereliction, with broken bottles, syringes etc. We need more Garda presence on the ground in the area.
- Priority that CCTV is installed – ongoing issue.
- We need to keep this top of the list and liaise with the Gardaí.
- There needs to be public lighting in the playground. It's essential - it should go in straightaway.

Sean O'Neill, Town Engineer stated that the installation of public lighting was not proposed but the Council will investigate the matter and keep the members updated.

### Draft Proposals For Green Estates

The Town Clerk read out proposals prepared by the Community, Cultural, Social & Environmental Municipal Policy Committee. She added that it was intended to consult with residents associations. Initially a pilot scheme is envisaged, to include an estate in each of the three wards in the town. The Environmental Awareness Officer of Wicklow County Council would be available to meet and work with the relevant groups to develop a workable plan.

### **Draft Proposals for Green Estates**

- Level of recycling undertaken by residents
- Does this involve kerbside collection only?
- Usage of Recycling Centre?
- Number of residents with home composting units?
- Interest in communal composting for grass cuttings etc
- Encourage tree planting in estates
- Number of residents who either walk or use public transport on a daily basis?
- Number of children who walk to school?
- Amount of car trips/mileage on a weekly basis?
- Consultation would have to be undertaken with residents associations, perhaps a pilot estate in each of the three wards in the town. The Environmental Awareness Officer of Wicklow County Council would be available to meet and work with the relevant groups to develop a workable plan.

The members raised the following points:

- Not a good idea to have it on a pilot basis and only three estates participating.
- Should be open to the whole town and create an aspiration to win.
- Need to advertise to gauge level of interest.
- As this is the first time Bray Town Council has run this scheme, we're not sure what the response will be – if more than three estates want to participate that won't be a problem.
- We should encourage a mix of estates.
- Green schools – walking buses a great idea. We need to get this organised.

### Flooding Emergency Plan

The Town Clerk gave the following report:

*“The County Wicklow Major Emergency Plan is currently under review, the Town Engineer has attended a number of meetings in this connection. Part of the overall Co Wicklow Plan will relate specifically to Bray.”*

*The Town Clerk and the Town Engineer lead an Implementation Team charged with carrying out a risk assessment for Bray.*

*We are also preparing an interim plan to deal with the Flood Risk in the Little Bray Area.”*

The members raised the following points:

- The Emergency Plan should be agreed and in place by the end of the summer.
- It doesn't matter who funds it, as long as it's in place.
- Residents associations should be consulted during drawing up of the Plan.
- We should have it in place sooner rather than later.

### Dublin Road Improvement Scheme

The Town Clerk informed the members that there would be a public information day on the 28th June 2007 from 11am to 8pm in St. Peters Parish Hall, and urged the members to attend.

The members raised the following points:

- We must encourage members of the public to attend this meeting, as it is a main artery into and out of Bray.
- The views of residents and businesses in that area are important.

### Pride of Place Initiative

The Town Clerk circulated the press release and advised that members are invited to attend the judging on Thursday 5th July – further information about this event will be released closer to the date.

The members raised the following points:

- Great that Fassaroe are representing Bray in the Pride of Place – they have had a bad reputation in the past.

### Dublin Regional Water Supply

The Town Clerk had circulated a press release from Dublin City Council; she informed the members that she had received correspondence from Dublin City Council stating that they will be running an advertising campaign throughout the summer to ask people to try and conserve as much water as they can.

The members raised the following points:

- The issue of water has been raised before, particularly on the north side of the town.
- There is a need to obtain an update from Wicklow County Council and the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government with regard to proposals to improve the supply to north Bray.
- New developments will impact on the water supply in the north of the town.

### Flood Defence Scheme

Des O'Brien, Town Manager stated that the proposal would be submitted to An Bord Pleanala in July 2007, the Environmental Impact Statement and the Compulsory Purchase Order would be put on public display, members of the public would be invited to make submissions/observations to An Bord Pleanala. It is intended to hold a further public information meeting, during the public display period.

Councillor Anne Egan proposed and Councillor John Brady seconded the proposal that the Councillors should write to the new Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, organise a deputation and request that the Department finance the Scheme.

Councillor Pat Vance added that they should also request an increase in the Government Grant at the same time.

The Cathaoirleach, Brid Collins stated that she'd like to lead the delegation to the Minister.

Councillor Deirdre de Burca asked what the period of submission on Flood Defence was. The Town Clerk replied that the statutory period is six weeks but that Bray Town Council usually gives a bit more time.

The members raised the following points:

- Urge that residents in Seapoint Court and along the Dargle Road be consulted properly prior to any flood protection measures.
- Don't mind who funds this as long as it is done.
- If a developer ever builds on a flood plain he is responsible. That has always been the case.

### Town Rejuvenation

Des O'Brien, Town Manager stated that Bray Town Council had hoped for funding in relation to painting the town, from the two largest developers in the town and one was not agreeable to sponsoring the scheme, at this time.

He suggested that Bray Town Council underwrite the cost, as he was confident the cost could then be recouped. He also suggested that if the cost was not recouped that a small rate increase in the future could fund it.

The members raised the following points -

- Terrific idea – support underwriting the cost.
- The Town Hall needs to be fixed up. We are waiting two years for the developer to do so.
- Very disappointed that one of the major developers is not willing to sponsor the painting. Hope it's not the same developer that left a big hole in the middle of the town.
- Agree to underwriting the cost and recoup at a later date.
- Very good feedback from the traders in regard to this.
- We need to seize upon it and go forward.
- Work completed by Christmas.
- Get it done – benefits to the town would be enormous.
- Very good scheme – congratulations to the members who are on the Committee.
- A lot of work has been done on the ground – well done to everyone involved.
- Well done to the traders for hanging in there.
- Bray cinema closure – this will be a major loss. We need more car parking in the town.

### Florentine Centre

Des O'Brien, Town Manager also stated that negotiations are ongoing and that Ballymore Properties Limited hope to start work on the Florentine Centre this year.

Councillor John Brady stated that he was disappointed to hear that work on the Florentine Centre *might* start this year.

### Closure of the N11 To Facilitate Footbridge Works

- It was agreed by the Councillors that the closure of the N11 to facilitate the footbridge works was very well handled by the contractor and the Gardaí, as it was well publicised.
- The Local Authority was to be commended on arranging to have the grass cut and the area tidied up, while the road was closed.

### **3. Disposal of Fee Simple Interest in land at Ballywaltrim, Bray to Bray Swimming Pool, Sports and Leisure Centre Ltd, in accordance with Statutory Notice**

The above was proposed by Councillor David Grant and seconded by Councillor Anne Ferris.

**4. Disposal of Fee Simple Interest in Apartment 123, Block 3, Riversdale, Upper Dargle Road, Bray, in Accordance With Statutory Notice**

The above was proposed by Councillor John McManus and seconded by Councillor Anne Egan.

**5. To Consider The Report On Access To The Seafront By The Rowing Club**

Councillor John McManus thanked the Town Engineer for his report and proposed that it be implemented. Councillor Anne Ferris seconded the proposal.

The members raised the following points -

- This will be a massive asset to the Rowing Club.
- Anxious to get this up and running as soon as possible.
- Are there any Health & Safety issues?
- Is there a locking mechanism?

Sean O'Neill, Town Engineer replied to these questions that the main implication in terms of safety was to ensure that water doesn't get into the area. The mechanism is non-removable and is locked into place. He also stated that this was the best arrangement other than the current, from a flood defence point of view.

**6. To Consider The Parks Plan**

Liam Bourke Senior Executive Engineer stated that minor additions had been made to the Draft Parks Plan, presented at a previous meeting in relation to looking at what resources are available to Bray Town Council for the year ahead.

The members thanked Liam Bourke for such a comprehensive plan and raised the following points -

- The plan did not mention the €250,000 allocated to the Seafront Enhancement Scheme – would be nice to see a playground and a skateboard park beside Barracuda.
- The town looks pretty drab at the moment; we need to look as pleasant as possible to attract people.
- We need lots of areas for people to walk safely.
- Put public lighting in along the river Dargle.
- We need to remove the silt in the river Dargle.
- The seafront looks fantastic but we could do with more flowerbeds.
- We need to replace playground equipment in the People's & Sidmonton Parks.
- We should lock the parks in the evenings to stop anti social behaviour.
- The hanging baskets in the town look very well.
- We should be looking at towns that make features out of their landmarks.
- A lot of dog fouling in the People's Park but no 'doggy bins' to place waste into.
- Tree trimming needs to be looked at, in estates and cycle lanes also - Fairyhill residents pay a contractor to trim their trees.
- For the limited amount of staff the Parks Department have, they do a decent job.
- We need to maintain existing staffing levels.
- Missing seat backs on seafront need to be replaced and paint the ones that are in place.
- Need more bins on the seafront between the Boathouse Café and Bray Head.

- Wheelchair access to Bray Head from seafront not possible – needs to be addressed.
- People with mobility difficulties can't access the beach. Suggest putting railway sleepers down in order to address this problem.
- Residents of Bray Head are unhappy with people quad biking there.
- The whole town needs an overhaul.
- Playing pitches and green spaces in Fassaroe – these need attention also.
- Residents should take responsibility for maintaining areas outside their own homes.
- We should look at all possible sources of funding e.g. Neighbourwood.
- A great clean-up of the Riverwalk was done by the Lions Club.
- There is no playground in the Peoples Park at present.
- We should put in a Boules area in the Peoples Park, similar to the park in Begles.

Liam Bourke informed the members of the following:

- The bulk of the Parks Budget goes towards staff costs, about 25% is spent on contractors, grass cutting etc, and the remainder goes on tree surveys and miscellaneous items.
- The public toilet on the Main Street will be moved to the seafront as it will have higher usage than in its present location.
- Tree trimming is seasonal and in hand.
- Elgin Heights, the right of way will be closed
- Glen na Smol, the hedges will be removed and replaced by a fence.
- The grass cutting contractor has skipped areas, possibly as he may not yet be fully familiar with the area, but has been asked to go back over these areas again.

It was agreed that the Parks Plan would be put on the agenda of a future Municipal Policy Committee. The Chairs of the two committees to meet and decide which MPC would take this project on.

## **7. Notices Of Motion**

Councillor John Brady thanked Councillor Pat Vance for requesting that his Notices of Motion be placed back on the Agenda for this meeting.

### **249. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor John Brady (06/03/07)**

“That Bray Town Council install speed ramps in Ballymorris”.

REPORT:

The problem here is not so much an issue of speed but traffic volume to the schools. Ramps will not solve the problem. It may be possible to provide a solution funded by RAPID.

### **250. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor John Brady (06/03/07)**

“That Bray Town Council install speed ramps in Wolfe Tone Square middle between Centra and the Grotto”.

REPORT:

It has been difficult to find an appropriate location for ramps that will not interfere with gateways and property access points. However a location has now been identified . The Roads Technician is to meet with the immediate property owners to establish if this location is acceptable.

### **251. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor John Brady (06/03/07)**

“That Bray Town Council start the process for securing a boundary extension for the town, so we can deal adequately with the housing crisis that exists in the town”.

REPORT:

The question of a boundary extension was raised at a Bray Electoral Area meeting. We can present a proposal for consideration by the Members. This option does not include additional land that may be suitable for housing.

Councillor Brady proposed that Bray Town Council initiates the process for a boundary extension, this was seconded by Councillor Anne Egan. There may be land available at Old Conna.

## **8. Correspondence**

It was noted that it had been proposed at a previous meeting that Councillor Caroline Burrell would represent Bray Town Council on the County Partnership Board in response to a letter received from the Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland (AMAI).

Councillor John Brady re-proposed and Councillor Deirdre de Burca seconded the motion.

**9. Any Other Business**

Councillor John Brady raised the issue of parking in Fr. Colohan Terrace at school pick up times.

He presented a petition from the residents of this area to the Town Clerk, who accepted it.

\* \* \* \*

This concluded the meeting.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOWN CLERK**

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_