

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2005 at 7.00 p.m.**

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

**Also present:** Mr. Des O'Brien, Director of Services  
Ms. Catherine Halligan, Town Clerk  
Mr. Sean O'Neill, Town Engineer  
Mr. Liam Fitzpatrick, Head of I.S.  
Ms. Karen Boyle, Internet/Intranet Project Assistant

**Apologies** Councillor Pat Vance

**1. Presentation on the Members' I.T. Programme.**

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The Cathaoirleach formally welcomed Mr Liam Fitzpatrick and Ms. Karen Boyle to the meeting.

Mr Fitzpatrick introduced himself to the meeting and informed the members of the following:

The Members IT Programme is designed to assist Bray Town Council in meeting the needs of the eGovernment agenda. This is not just about enabling services to be made available over the Internet – it is about a total revolution as to how services are processed internally and how State Agencies interact with each other to provide citizen and business focused integrated services.

County Wicklow Local Authorities are taking a lead in seeking to develop broadband services in the county and have submitted proposals to the Department of Communications Marine and Natural Resources for development of broadband metropolitan networks in a number of towns. These networks will allow delivery of government services locally and improve access to local services for citizens.

A number of case studies were outlined. These included:

- Development of bray.ie website with publication of policy documents and access to online services such as planning information system, register of electors, library services on line etc.

- Development of extranet with secure access to planning information system with GIS and electronic files
- Development of Bray TC intranet with secure access to Document Library, eMail, Agendas etc.

The Members IT Programme together with other initiatives for service delivery will improve provision of services from Bray TC to the Elected Members and from the Elected Members to the people of Bray.

The members raised the following points:

- Would like to see the paper method of sending out the agendas gone.
- What date will the I.T programme be implemented?
- Sometimes there are problems receiving emails. We are not getting all emails so can this be amended.
- There is no live interactivity in the Council Chamber at present and it is quite difficult to use the laptops there also.
- Would not be confident with the system as yet.

**2. To discuss the suspended D.A.R.T. services and D.A.R.T upgrade works with representatives from Iarnrod Eireann.**

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The Cathaoirleach welcomed the deputation from Iarnrod Eireann and Dublin Bus of Mr. Barry Kenny, Mr. Gary Keegan, Mr. Derry O’Leary, Mr. Chris Rafferty, Mr. Joe Breardmore and Mr. Declan Murray.

Mr. Barry Kenny then proceeded to make the presentation to the members: -

- The €176,000,000 project will increase the capacity of the D.A.R.T station by 33%.
- The works will begin on the first weekend in June and finish on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> September 2005. The D.A.R.T service will operate on the weekend of the Air-show on the 21<sup>st</sup> August 2005.
- These works commenced in October 2003 and we hope to double the capacity in a five-year period.
- When works started on the North side it was made clear that works would be required on the South side because of planning and property issues.
- Accessibility along the D.A.R.T line is a major factor in the upgrading works, particularly improving Mobility Impaired Access.

- Our workers, who work around the clock, do a weeks work in the weekend.
- While works are being carried out, safety works will also be carried out between Bray and Greystones.
- We cannot work overnight during the week because it would take years to complete and would run up large time and money overruns if this were to happen.
- Dublin Bus will increase the number of buses when the D.A.R.T service ceases at the weekend.

The members raised the following points:

- The members welcomed the representatives from Iarnrod Eireann and Dublin Bus
- In context the D.A.R.T provides a valuable service to the town of Bray.
- Is it possible to reconsider the decision to suspend D.A.R.T services at this stage?
- Advanced consultation would have been desirable. Unfair to have to put up with closure again for the second summer in succession.
- Bray is a seaside town and we need the Tourism over the summer months.
- This is a very good example at how Iarnrod Eireann is producer driven and not customer driven.
- Very disappointed with how things have gone and this whole situation adds fuel to the fire regarding privatisation etc.
- Will you give the same answers if you are asked before a joint Oireachtas Committee?
- This would not happen in any other capital city or European city.
- Were the people of Bray informed that this closure was taking place?
- This is very incompetent. Second time in one year this has happened.
- Sinn Fein has collected hundreds of signatures on a petition. Feel very strongly about this.
- Is it true that it was a blunder in obtaining planning permission last year that delayed the works?
- Why does work have to be carried out during the summer months?
- What do you plan to do regarding the planning issues in Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown County Council area?
- Is this the final stage of the works and will Bray station benefit from these major works and also what works will be carried out on the station?
- Iarnrod Eireann owns the land outside the station, not Bray Town Council.
- What alternative transport service will be provided?
- Who made the decision to pick Bray?
- Disagree with the works and think the North side works should be done this summer.
- Bray Town Council should have been told by the previous deputation from Iarnrod Eireann.
- Is this the final phase of the work and how will it infringe on Lansdowne Road?

- Feeder buses are not waiting if the D.A.R.T is late.
- Should put on special buses to go directly to Dublin.
- What new works will be done at Bray and Greystones for disabled members of the public?
- Whatever happened to plans for a multi-storey car - park because there was plans for this a few years ago.
- Is it true that Iarnrod Eireann used to pay a subsidy to Dublin Bus to service the stations?
- A lot of people in Bray work in the city at weekends so this will leave them stranded.
- Iarnrod Eireann and Dublin Bus seem to be rivals rather than working in harmony.
- We should look at other European cities and see how they run things. e.g 80% of people in Finland use public transport.
- When will the works on the North-side commence?
- A lot of people complain about the D.A.R.T service and the reduction of the bus service so can this be restored?
- Has there been any progress with regards to an integrated ticket system between the D.A.R.T and the bus service?
- Would like to compliment Mr. Chris Rafferty on the work he has done in Bray Station and the members know you have put a lot into this.
- The '100 years of Dargan' was a great celebration for Bray.

Mr. Barry Kenny informed the members of the following: -

- Planning permission that has been appealed refers to Blackrock, Killiney and Salthill & Monkstown stations. We hope the appeals will be dropped but this is unlikely. We cannot say when works will commence but it will not be in run up to Christmas.
- We will look at doing the work at the quietest time of the year i.e. between Christmas Day and New Year's day.
- There is likely to be an impact on services but we will try our best to minimise this.
- A lot of preparation went into this project before the works commenced.
- We did liaise with An Taisce and their needs were addressed regarding Protected Structures, views of the sea etc in so far as was possible.
- Mobility Access in other stations mainly on Southside consists of lifts and in some locations ramps

Mr. Gary Keegan informed the members of the following: -

- Numerous attempts were made to meet with An Taisce to discuss the relevant issues but they never showed up for meetings so the application went in. Once the application went in they got in contact which by then was too late.
- We have had a lot of consultation with disabled community groups etc and they wanted these works be carried out urgently.
- We have tried to meet with every group we can think of.

- A lot of the works are not seen. Overhead wires (over 80 km) have been replaced, new bridges in Blackrock etc.
- Working on 25 to 30 stations all the time which is a mammoth task. Our workers do work as much as possible during the night.
- Other European countries do have to close down their lines every now and again. You have to remember that there are only two railway lines in Dublin compared to a lot more in London and other cities.
- The D.A.R.T upgrade is all about the customer needs not the needs of the organisation.
- Delivering this project on target is value for money.
- We are not in a position to move the works forward. This would leave us open to multi-million euro claims if the work did not proceed.
- If we are asked to attend a joint Oireachtas committee we will attend.
- When work commences on Lansdowne Road in the future our service will not be affected.
- We did not endeavour to conceal these works from the public or the Council and we did say in previous briefings that further works will be carried out on the South side.

Mr. Derry O’Leary informed the members of the following: -

- We are very keen on upgrading the outside of Bray station and it is something we will look at.
- Happy to entertain a service from Dublin City to Bray and will also review the 145 service.
- Dublin Bus did not receive any kind of subsidy from Iarnrod Eireann. That is just a rumour.
- There is no competition between the D.A.R.T service and Dublin Bus. Co-ordination not competition.

Mr. Declan Murray informed the members of the following: -

- Dublin Bus did make a decision to double services on the 84, 45, 7, 59 and 46A the last time works were carried out and a similar system will work this time with an average of 42 buses on the route.
- We have no problem in trying new direct services.
- There is 180% increase in the number of bus passengers. Buses are now going directly from Bray to the city. Buses from Ballywaltrim to D.A.R.T station – only about six buses less than previously.
- The largest group of underperformers was the local services in Bray.

The members raised the following points:

- Is Iarnrod Eireann happy with the bus service from the D.A.R.T.?
- Was the extra bus service to cover the weekends advertised to inform the public?
- Is there any way you could do the improvement works for disabled persons but postpone the other works?

- If planning permission does not come through can all works be postponed?
- E.I.A. not carried out in accordance with European Law. There is no point in blaming An Taisce.

Mr. Barry Kenny informed the members of the following: -

- We cannot postpone works because of contract commitments with certain companies.
- The work will be significantly shorter than 12 –14 weeks.
- We would not disrupt the service if we didn't have to.
- The Public Project team decided the work has to be done.
- Had advertised the last time but will improve on advertising this time.
- Integrated ticketing already in place – there is quite a range of integrated ticketing available, but it does not include the Luas as yet.
- We will contact the Property Division regarding the car-parking.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the deputation for attending the meeting but stated that it is regrettable that the members heard about the closure of the D.A.R.T Service through the media and not from Iarnrod Eireann.

### **Councillor Daphne McDonald**

Before the members moved onto the next item on the agenda the Cathaoirleach welcomed Councillor Daphne McDonald from Queensland, Australia to the meeting.

### **3. Presentation from Bray Lions Club**

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Attending the deputation was Mr. Jerry Teehan, Mr. Danny Bohan, Mr. John Nolan (Greenstar), Mr. Joe Codyre and Mr. John McEvoy.

Mr. Jerry Teehan then proceeded to make the presentation to the members: -

- The Bray Lions Club plan to hold a sponsored litter collection on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2005 and the club has registered with An Taisce.
- Our aims are to have a cleaner Bray, to develop an anti-litter culture in Bray, to build on the work being done by others.
- Would like to involve businesses, industry, residents and to co-ordinate with Bray Town Council.
- We need the active support of the Town Council and all of the Councillors to help with publicity, sponsorship and collection points for bags of litter.
- Would like this to become an annual event.
- There is a lot of graffiti about and there is a scarcity of litter bins.

Mr. Teehan then informed the meeting that there is a sample application form on the back of the handouts for the members to have a look at.

The members raised the following points:

- Would like to thank the Lions Club for attending the meeting and for such a positive initiative.
- Hope this would be an annual event. This should be an educating exercise because people can learn. Have you picked out any specific areas?
- The worst areas are in the local authority estates.
- Are the Lions Club covered by the necessary insurance etc and are they looking for any extra funding?
- This is a very good opportunity to pay tribute to the Lions Club for the huge amount of effort they have put into this town over the years.
- There is an epidemic of litter in the town. We need a permanent plan to eradicate this problem.
- What can the litter wardens do to help? The rubbish in Ballywaltrim Park has only been there since September. This is very disheartening because a big clean up was done and then people dump all of that rubbish.
- Delighted to see Greenstar involved.
- Education is the only solution to dumping and littering.
- The Estate Management Committee should liaise with the Lions Club on this matter.
- Changing the culture is like changing the direction of an oil tanker in the middle of the ocean – takes long time to turn around – but it is very worthwhile.
- Recommend that feedback from the Lions Club go through the Municipal Policy Committee in June.

Mr. Jerry Teehan then thanked the members for all of their support and stated that a lot of the work will depend on how many volunteers the Lions Club get on the day. He stated that so far there is only one area that has been identified for clean up, which is the River Dargle but many more areas hopefully will be identified. He also stated that the Lions Club has their own insurance but would welcome any kind of funding to help with promoting this idea etc.

The Director of Services said that the Council were delighted with the offer and that the staff would give their full co-operation.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the deputation for attending the meeting and apologised for the delay in keeping them.

**4. Confirmation of Minutes of the Special Housing and Planning Meeting dated 5<sup>th</sup> April 2005 and the Monthly Meeting dated 12<sup>th</sup> April 2005.**

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The Town Clerk apologised to the members that some wording had to be amended in the minutes of both meetings. She stated that we were under a time constraint to get the minutes completed and confirmed as we were anxious to have this done before the Development Plan went to the printers. She informed the members that they had now been amended.

The change was to delete –

*‘The members unanimously agreed to include the amendment / modified amendment in the Bray Draft Development Plan 2005 – 2011, and to include under each amendment that the above amendment / modified amendment is included in the Bray Draft Development Plan 2005 – 2011.’*

She then stated that she had received some correspondence from Councillor Ciaran O’Brien regarding some amendments in the Development Plan.

The members agreed to insert before the final sentence on page 24 of the minutes **‘and that’** before **‘the plan for development is appropriate in SAAO area’**.

The second amendment to the minutes, which was requested by the Green Party was not agreed to: -

*‘Green Party Councillors stated that we could not support the plan on the basis of the zoning adjacent to the flood plain.’*

Councillor David Grant proposed and Councillor John Byrne seconded the minutes of the Special Housing and planning meeting of the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2005 and of the Monthly Meeting of the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2005 with the inclusion listed: *above sentence on page 24.*

After some discussion Councillor Deirdre De Burca proposed that the minutes of the monthly meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> April 2005 would be adopted but with the inclusion of the Green Party amendment: -

*‘Green party Councillors stated that we could not support the plan on the basis of zoning adjacent to the flood plain.’ This was seconded by Councillor Ciaran O’Brien.*

After some further debate a vote was taken on Councillor David Grants proposal.

<b>That the minutes of the Special Housing and Planning meeting and the Monthly meeting of the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2005 and the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2005 be adopted.</b>		
	<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>
Councillor Joe Behan	✓	
Councillor John Brady	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
Councillor Caroline Burrell		✓
Councillor John Byrne	✓	
Councillor Bríd Collins	✓	
Councillor Déirdre De Búrca		✓
Councillor Anne Egan	✓	
Councillor Anne Ferris	✓	
Councillor David Grant	✓	
Councillor John McManus	✓	
Councillor Ciaran O'Brien		✓
Councillor Pat Vance	<b>ABSENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>

The above proposal was carried. Seven voted in favour of the proposal.

## **5. Reports and Recommendations**

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### **Emergency Call out Service**

The Town Clerk gave the following report on the Emergency Call Out Service for Bray.

The Emergency Call Out Service will be operational from 1st May 2005. The current landline telephone number for Bray Town Council will be diverted to a company who will answer out of hours calls.

The caller's details will be taken and if necessary contact will be made with Council staff. All calls are logged, documented and given to Bray Town Council.

This system will be reviewed in August and put on the agenda for the September meeting.

The members raised the following points:

- What is considered as an emergency?

- Does this call out service cover all weekends and bank holidays?

At this stage of the meeting the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Anne Ferris proposed and Councillor David Grant seconded that the meeting be extended until the reports and recommendations, Casual trading and the Correspondence issues have been addressed.

The members continued with the following points:

- Would like clarity on what the emergency service is going to be.
- Compliment the Town Engineer on moving swiftly to deal with this matter.
- Will this service be manned by an outside contractor?
- If the Council own the house, then the Council is the Landlord and will have to respond to a call out, even if it is only one house without water.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Anne Ferris informed the members that she had to leave the meeting and that the Leas Cathaoirleach, Councillor Deirdre De Burca will continue to chair the meeting.

The Town Engineer then informed the members of the following:

- This service will be manned 24 hours.
- Some calls will not be responded to immediately.
- It is not envisaged that Bray Town Council call out to every situation. Some detail still needs to be addressed because it will be trial and error to start off with.
- There is no responsibility on the staff of Bray Town Council to respond but we are looking into training a bigger range of staff to help and our staff have not been found wanting in the past.
- No problem in giving a list of emergency situations

Councillor Joe Behan proposed that the members be given a list as soon as possible and that the advertisement be put into the local papers and on the radio.

### **Dump close to Bray Harbour**

The Town Clerk stated that in relation to the report in the Irish Times regarding the dump at the harbour, that only a very small amount of this area is within the jurisdiction of Bray Town Council. She told the members that Bray Town Council intend to ask the Environmental Services Section of Wicklow County Council to access the level of Environmental risk and that we are aware that there is also a visual impact there.

She also said that Bray Town Council intends to discuss this matter further with officials in Dun Laoghaire – Rathdown County Council and subject to the level of risk

Bray Town Council will make a submission to the relevant authorities to fund any necessary remedial works.

The members raised the following points:

- It is not true that most of the area in question is in Dun Laoghaire's jurisdiction. Bray Town Council created this dump so we have responsibility.
- Something needs to be done about the leaching into the sea.
- Find out who owns this land.
- The buildings beside the dump probably had something to do with it also.
- Would hope there would not be any hazardous waste. Wicklow County Council and the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government should also get involved.
- Would like a report on this matter for the first meeting in May.
- Have the officials been in touch with other Local Authorities as yet?
- The Local Authority has a responsibility in this matter.
- The recent decision of the European Courts regarding dumps both legal and illegal will have a heavy effect on Local Authority.

The Town Engineer informed the members of the following:

- We have not been in touch with Dun Laoghaire as yet but we are in the process of checking the ownership of the land.
- The only input that Bray has had is putting the waste there in the first place.

It was agreed that a comprehensive report be done up for the next meeting and this was agreed.

#### **10. To discuss the location(s) for the Casual Trading on the Seafront**

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The Town Clerk stated that a map was circulated to the members regarding the Casual Trading on the Seafront. She advised the members that under the Casual Trading Act 1995 that the exact locations would have to be specified and also dates and times for the licence holders. She advised the members that under the current Bye-Laws motorised vehicles were not allowed in a Casual Trading Area and that a current licence fee is €12.70. An advertisement was placed in the local paper regarding the Renting of the Kiosks, the closing date is Friday 29<sup>th</sup> 2005 and that there was a good response to the advertisement

The members raised the following points:

- Do not want burger stalls etc using the kiosks.
- Is it possible for the Bye - Laws to be tailored for the Seafront?

Councillor David Grant proposed and Councillor Joe Behan seconded the proposal “that Bray Town Council proceed to only allow the sale of ice-cream at the Northern end of the seafront between the Aquarium and the Northern Carpark and that two car-parking spaces should be reserved for this purpose.”

The members decided to vote on the above proposal:

<b>That Bray Town Council proceed to only allow the sale of ice-cream at the Northern end of the seafront between the Aquarium and the Northern Carpark and that two car parking spaces should be reserved for this purpose.</b>		
	<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>
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	<b>ABSENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Councillor David Grant	✓	
Councillor John McManus		✓
Councillor Ciaran O’Brien		✓
Councillor Pat Vance	<b>ABSENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>

With only three votes in favour and seven votes against, the proposal fell.

## **16. Correspondence**

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### **Meeting with Minister Dick Roche TD**

The Town Clerk read a response from the Minister Dick Roche TD, which was in reply to a letter from Councillor Caroline Burrell requesting a meeting with the Minister for members of the Green Party.

Councillor David Grant stated that Minister Dick Roche TD would be willing to meet with all of the members of the council to discuss any important matters.

Councillor Joe Behan proposed and Councillor Caroline Burrell seconded that the members do meet with the Minister to discuss important issues in Bray.

Councillor John McManus suggested that the Protocol Committee identify four or five items that should be discussed with the Minister and that was agreed.

### **Car Parking in the Carlisle Grounds**

The Town Clerk informed the members that correspondence had been received from Bray Wanderers Football Club enquiring if it would be possible for them to use the area at the back of the training pitch for paid per use car parking on an ongoing basis to raise funds for the club.

The members raised the following points:

- Suggest to Iarnrod Eireann that they use the car park and pay Bray Wanderers.
- Reservations on this. What implications does this have for Bray Town Council?
- Would like confirmation from Bray Wanderers that existing teams will also be accommodated. Land should be maximised for playing and training purposes.
- If we can facilitate Bray Wanderers then we should.
- Revenue is why they are requesting this. Bray Wanderers badly need support.
- If the issue is financial then we should take a look at sponsorship etc.
- Entrance on the corner of the site on the two roads – may be dangerous.
- Bray Town Council look at the perimeter of Bray Wanderers ground and see if something could be done with this.
- A lot more cars parked on surrounding roads because the team is now in the Eircom Premier League.

The Director of Services said that Bray Wanderers had a Sporting Lease from Bray Town Council and that public services were taken out of the Bray Development Plan 2005-2011. He suggested that there might be other ways of going about this issue. After some discussion it was agreed that Bray Wanderers should make a presentation to the next Municipal Policy Committee of the C.C.S.& E Group.

**Signed:**

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**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**Signed:**

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**TOWN CLERK**

**Dated:**

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