

The following points were raised: -

- 1. The statutory rights of the residents had been taken away.*
- 2. Over-developments of the site.*
- 3. Some Councillors did not receive an email informing them about this matter even though one was sent. It was suggested that the current email system should be checked.*
- 4. Why the Town Manager and Town Clerk did not sign the Notification of Decision on the same day.*
- 5. The Council do not receive an abundance of applications but what was the delay in making a decision.*
- 6. Bad planning decisions can taint the public and the members.*
- 7. Out of 5 decisions only 2 were appealed to An Bórd Pleánala.*
- 8. What measures have been put into place now to prevent this happening again.*

The Director of Services then proceeded to answer by stating that a mistake had been made due to a misunderstanding and human error and that mistakes do not happen very often. An Bórd Pleánala had advised by telephone in late November 2004 that the appeal had been received and that the dates appeared to be incorrect. However it was stated that the appeal would be reviewed by the Board on the basis that a similar case had arisen in another Local Authority in that the applicant took High Court action, which directed the Board to accept the appeal. They felt that the Board would allow the appeal. However on the 23/12/04 written notification was received from An Bórd Pleánala stating that the appeal was invalid. He said that the practice used in Bray Town Council to deal with decisions being sent out was the same as Wicklow County Council and most other Local Authorities, however, Bray Town Council have now changed their system and hopefully no future errors would occur. He went on to say that this was a case of maladministration and incorrect judgement. He agreed that the statutory rights had been taken away from the residents in relation to this particular decision and apologised to the members and the residents of Fairyhill.

Councillor Joe Behan proposed that a deputation of residents of Fairyhill be invited to attend the next meeting and it was agreed that fifteen minutes would be allowed during the Budget Meeting for this deputation to commence at 7.15 p.m.

8604- Consider Budget for Bray Town Council for 2005

Mr David Forde then proceeded to make a presentation to the members on the proposed expenditure and proposed income of Bray Town Council for 2005. He stated that the County Demand had increased €327,394 from €3,446,254 to €3,773,648 since 2004 and the Local Government Fund had increased €271,655 from €3,872,222 to €4,143,877. He also informed the members that the Annual Rate of Valuation was proposed at €58.11 which was a 7.14% increase on 2004.

8605– Programme Group 1 – Housing and Building

The members were advised of the following estimated expenditure and income under this programme group.

Estimated Expenditure - €2,577,423

Estimated Income - €2,810,460

A general discussion took place where the following points were made and views expressed:

- *How much money will be allocated towards the Outreach Officer?*
- *Would like a hostel to be built in Bray for the homeless.*
- *Over how many years will €2,000,000 be spent in relation to James Everett Park?*
- *Maintenance and repair – amounts are less than 2004.*
- *Provision of extensions onto council houses – what heading does this fall under?*
- *Would like to welcome the Bray Town Council Disabled Persons Grant scheme and expressed satisfaction at how it was dealt with previously. Will Bray Town Council be administering this scheme? Is there a Central Management Charge for the administration?*
- *What money has been allocated for the RAPID scheme in the Oldcourt and Fassaroe estates?*
- *Now that work for Kilbride Lane has been approved by An Bórd Pléanala, when will it commence and what role will the members have with this?*
- *It was acknowledged that with housing repairs there has been an improvement.*
- *What selection system will be used for the installation of a central heating system?*
- *In relation to pre-lettings – do tenants get another house / transfer or do they just leave the house? This needs to be reviewed regarding the amount spent to make houses habitable.*
- *Can we have some indication of the system we are going to use with regards to James Everett Park refurbishment scheme?*
- *Disappointed with the way houses are being allocated. This current system is not working. Would like a review.*
- *In relation to Silver Bridge Halting Site - members expressed concern at how the caretaker carries out his duties. Would feel that residents of Halting site could do just as good a job if not better and would not need a salary.*
- *Would like more information on extensions to Local Authority Housing - is money provided?*
- *Can Bray Town Council take charge of Kilbride Grove and Ballywaltrim Heights? Wicklow County Council seems to have forgotten about them.*
- *Are Council satisfied that works have been completed on all open spaces in Fassaroe?*
- *Management have made some very prudent decisions regarding the RAPID scheme and would like to acknowledge this.*
- *Clarification of the number of units to be built in the Richmond Hill scheme.*
- *A question was asked as to how someone could be given a house and they are not on the housing short list.*

Ms. Triona Irving, Administrative Officer, responded as follows:

- *The salary for the Outreach Officer is 90% funded from the Department, 5% from Wicklow County Council and 5% Bray Town Council. The overall net cost of this to Bray Town Council is less than last year.*
- *We are gradually aiming to stop moving homeless people into Bed & Breakfast accommodation and to start putting them in sheltered accommodation where they can provide their own meals and look after themselves.*
- *James Everett Park – there is funding to commence this scheme. The NBA have to examine the tender and hopefully will respond soon. We cannot say when this will be ready until the report is back.*
- *We are also waiting to hear back from the Department in relation to Fassaroe.*
- *Maintenance and Repair – The budget has been divided up this year. There is an increase of €72,000 on last year in the funding for this.*
- *Extensions to Local Authority houses – These extensions should go under Capital Works and are 100% funded from the Department and are carried out on the recommendation of the East Coast Area Health Board.*
- *Disabled Persons Grants, will be administered through Bray Town Council.*
- *RAPID funding – a preliminary list from the Minister has been received but no monetary funding as yet. An amount has been put in the Budget in order to match money from the Department.*
- *An advertisement for Kilbride Lane CPO was reprinted in the paper on 9th Dec 2004, due to a previous error on the papers part. There is an eight-week period for submissions from 9th Dec 2004.*
- *Any problems with housing repairs can be discussed with the officers in charge in the housing office. If a tenant is in arrears repair work is not carried out in that house unless the specific repair is a hazard to the tenants.*
- *Two houses account for most of the money spent on pre-letting. An elderly tenant died and there was major refurbishment required on first house and another tenant abandoned the second house over one weekend.*
- *All houses are inspected before being allocated. This includes tenants looking for transfers.*
- *The central heating scheme will be reviewed and elderly tenant's houses will be done first.*
- *There will be a further list of allocations for 3 bedroom houses going out to the members in the near future.*
- *A letter will be sent to the Department seeking approval for the halting site in Bray and in North Wicklow to be dealt with jointly.*
- *The Rental Allowance Scheme has been piloted in four Local Authorities. By 2008 it will be in place in all Local Authorities. The Department will be funding this scheme.*
- *The Estate Management Officer deals with the budget for this code. It is up to the Committee to put the proposals to the EMO for work that they wish to get carried out in their estates. He deals with Bray Town Council's area, while Wicklow County Council has their own EMO, which includes Kilbride and Ballywaltrim.*
- *James Everett Park - it was suggested that the councillors meet with the Housing Officer in the near future to point out which houses need repair and which houses need to be prioritised.*

This concluded Programme 1 of the 2005 Estimates Budget.

8606 – Programme 2 –Road, Transportation and Safety

The members were advised of the following expenditure and income under this heading.

Estimated Expenditure - €1,493,740

Estimated Income - €644,600

In the discussion that followed these points were raised:

- *There is no public lighting on O'Byrne Road. Can lighting be installed in back lane to prevent illegal dumping etc?*
- *Church Road in Bray needs to be resurfaced.*
- *Would like to have input into Regional Roads fund.*
- *The parking scheme was over estimated in advertisement.*
- *Would like a new gritter for Bray.*
- *€300,000 of Bray Town Council's money is to be spent on Wicklow County Council roads. Wicklow County Council has not paid money outstanding to this Council. We were assured this would be sorted.*
- *Is Town Engineer aware of the risk that dangerous footpaths pose in Bray? What can Town Engineer do to prevent this from happening?*
- *People walking in the cycle lanes - what can be done and what level of liability do we have with these. Cycle lanes are especially dangerous outside Centra on the Boghall Road because buses and lorries are parking in the cycle lanes.*
- *Would like to know why Killarney Lane is being resurfaced.*
- *The junction at Sidminton Park needs to be reviewed. It is extremely dangerous.*
- *The tree planting on the Southern Cross Road is not finished.*
- *There are no road markings left on roads because of construction vehicles exiting sites etc. What can be done?*
- *Councillors should be kept informed of all advertisements that go into papers*
- *Old parking discs should be honoured.*
- *Would like to propose that a meeting be held with the residents of Vevay Crescent regarding parking problems in their estate.*
- *Vevay Village scheme - attractive lighting was never completed.*
- *Wolfe Tone Square Traffic Calming will money for all remaining works be provided this year and will the bus travel into the Square?*
- *All name plate signs have to be replaced. Will there be enough money for this?*
- *Would like to state that the footpath on Killarney Lane is unsatisfactory.*
- *Would like an update on the Killarney Road and the Wolfe Tone Square schemes.*
- *There are concerns for the footpath and the resurfacing of the new road on Quinsboro Road. There were no provisions for preventing car - parking in this area so can bollards be put in place to stop people parking?*
- *Will there be funding from the Dublin Transportation Office for works in Bray?*
- *Can Council Officials keep members informed of parking charges updates and what will we be using money for?*
- *Does Bray Town Council have its own shredder?*
- *Can public lighting be put in at Ardmore Park laneway?*
- *Surface used in the cycle lanes is dangerous - what material is being used?*
- *Why are the footpaths in the town so unreliable? Is a different material being used?*
- *Chewing gum on the Main Street needs to be cleaned up.*

- *There was no reference to Florence Road in the manager's report. This road needs to be reviewed also.*
- *A traffic study needs to be done on Quinsboro Road and a review of the funding. Is the €3,700,000 affected by the €1,000,000 from Dublin Transportation Office?*
- *Are there plans for the works on Upper Dargle Road?*
- *It is not a good idea having seats on Quinsboro Road. At nighttime these seats may be the cause of anti social behaviour.*
- *Would like to compliment the school wardens for their hard work.*
- *Would like to compliment the previous Town Engineer and also the current Town Engineer on completing works on the Quinsboro Road before due date?*
- *Can we have a review of road signs on the N11?*

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Anne Ferris proposed that an extension of time for the meeting but this was rejected. She then proposed to start the next meeting at 6pm and break at 7.15pm for the deputation of residents from Fairyhill. Councillor Brid Collins seconded this proposal and this was agreed by the members.

Councillor John Byrne proposed that the members finish programme two tonight and start at programme 3 at next meeting.

Councillor Pat Vance seconded this proposal and this was agreed by the members.

The Town Engineer, responded as follows:

- *Stated he will have to defer some of these queries to other officials.*
- *The lighting on O'Byrne Road comes under the environmental section. Not public lighting.*
- *Cannot comment on Church Road as yet. Will look into this.*
- *We are starting to gradually get money from Wicklow County Council for Regional Roads.*
- *A gritter has not been purchased. We have a gritter but it is not fully functional.*
- *No over estimation in parking scheme.*
- *A survey of the footpaths will be carried out.*
- *Cycle lanes will also be looked at and it was agreed that some may be dangerous.*
- *Killarney Lane is not finished yet. Some more construction work will be carried out.*
- *Cannot comment on the junction at Sidminton Park as yet.*
- *The ESB have a schedule where they will look at lights around the area on a rotating basis. Then another team will come and repair any damaged or faulty lights.*
- *Cannot comment on Vevay Crescent.*
- *Cannot comment on Vevay Village Scheme.*
- *Cannot comment on name plates as yet.*
- *CPO has been confirmed for Killarney Road Scheme.*
- *The Quinsboro Road was completed on the 9th December. Bollards to prevent people parking were erected and more are needed.*
- *The road surfacing works are now finished from Galtrim Park to Bray Wanderers Football Club. Lights are to be put in here also.*
- *With regards to the Traffic study - €3,700,000 is the overall cost.*
- *We have a new shredder in the Boghall Road Depot.*
- *Wicklow County Council organise and run the Christmas Tree Removal Scheme.*
- *Cannot comment on public lighting at Ardmore Park laneway.*

- *To remove chewing gum from footpaths in Main Street would cost a great deal of money.*
- *It costs circa €5000 to install Pay and Display machines and approximately €1000 per year to maintain them.*
- *Cannot comment on the Strand Road cycling facility.*
- *Cannot comment on the Road signs for Motorway.*
- *Will have to look at Upper Dargle Road in context of future works.*
- *Road markings will be looked at in near future.*

Parking Discs

The councillors then enquired about parking discs and the Director of Services informed them that we would be honouring old discs. The advert said that the old discs would be honoured up to the 28th February 2005. However if a person has discs with the old rate after that then they will be honoured.

International Funfairs

At the end of the meeting the Cathaoirleach informed the members that the letter from International Funfairs would be discussed at next weeks protocol meeting.

Carrick-On-Suir - Notice of Motion

The members were circulated with a notice of motion form Carrick-On-Suir Town Council which read ‘that each Council would request a report from the recycling company that processes the recycling materials collected within their administrative areas, detailing the recycling process, usage at the end product and/or eventual destinations of such materials.’

This meeting was adjourned until 18th January 2005.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Signed:

Town Clerk

Dated:
