

Taxi Fares Increase

Minimum Fare (For distance not exceeding 1 Kilometer or time 2 minutes 28 seconds or part thereof)

	<u>Current</u>	<u>New</u>
Daytime 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.	€2.75	€3.40
Night-time 10 p.m. to 8 a.m.	€3.00	€3.70
Sunday, Public Holidays etc.	€3.00	€3.70

Journey Length Charge (For each additional 1/6th of a kilometer or 28 seconds or part thereof)

8a.m.to 10p.m.	€0.15	€0.15
10 p.m. to 8 a.m.	€0.20	€0.20
Sundays & Public Holidays	€0.20	€0.20
Christmas Eve and New Years Eve	€0.20	€0.20

Extra Charges

Additional passengers: Each extra passenger	€0.50	€0.50
Luggage (Per item)	€0.50	€0.50
Animals- Per animal (other than guide dog)	€0.50	€0.50
Telephone/Radio pick up	€1.50	€1.50
Dublin Airport (charge for hiring at rank)	€1.50	€1.50
Soiling Charge	€75.00	€75.00

The above information was circulated to the members and the above increases were proposed by Councillor John Byrne and seconded by Councillor John McManus.

Councillor John Brady asked the officials has the taxi issue reached a conclusion as yet.

The Town Clerk replied to Councillor John Brady that a letter went out to the taxi drivers in Bray and surrounding areas but the negotiations were ongoing with the Taxi Drivers, the Gardai and the Council regarding location and this issue has not reached a conclusion yet.

8607 – Programme 3 – Water Supply and Sewerage

The 2005 budget meeting was resumed beginning with programme group 3.

The Finance Officer stated that the estimated expenditure for this year is expected to be €231,446 more than last years adopted figure of €1,000,200 and the estimated income for this year is expected to be €793,150 more than last year.

Estimated Expenditure - €1,231,646

Estimated Income - €1,180,446

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

- *There has been a major increase in wastewater charges and Wicklow County Council is levying these on this Council - would like a detailed breakdown of the costs.*
- *Secondary Treatment – Carbon Filters – what is this fund for?*
- *The charge for wastewater is hitting new small businesses. Is €90,000 going in from capital?*
- *Wicklow County Council owes Bray Town Council in excess of three-quarters of a million Euro over the last few years. Should contact Minister to inform him of what is happening in regard to the County Demand.*
- *Bray Town Council is anti-business because they are giving nothing back to the business community in return for what they collect even after the waste water charges have increased three hundred percent.*

The Director of Services stated that Bray Town Council and Wicklow County Council have an agreement (Section 85) where Bray Town Council collects the wastewater charges and retains it and then uses it as revenue for Bray. He stated that the increase is quite high but Bray Town Council does not have a choice that they must charge for wastewater. He then stated that in the budget for 2004, €25,000 has been allocated for business related activities and this fund has built up to over €100,000. Bray Town Council asked the Chamber of Commerce to submit ideas for using this money and we are awaiting feedback from the Chamber. He then proceeded to state that Bray Town Council is definitely not anti-business. The rates increase is reasonable compared to rates around the rest of the country.

Mr David Forde informed the members that the carbon filters have to be upgraded every three years. These were replaced last year at a cost of €20,000. He also informed the members that there is a fund for the Secondary - Treatment plant.

The Town Engineer informed the members that plans for a Water Scheme for North Bray were originally drawn up 10 years ago. This scheme has now been reactivated and work will commence soon. He also stated that a contribution is to be made by the Sanitary Authority for the improvement of the water scheme and that fencing for Giltspur reservoir would be examined.

The following points were raised:

- *The charge Bray Town Council levy onto Wicklow County Council of €34,650 for sewerage did not increase. Assured last year that this would not happen.*
- *Fees for leak detection were taken out of capital funds and now are being taken out of revenue.*
- *The Chamber of Commerce does not represent all businesses in the town. Bray Town Council should invite the business community to a meeting regarding the development of the town centre.*
- *The Waste Water charge is just being used as a revenue collecting scheme*
- *It is only a matter of time before water charges are introduced again*
- *Originally €90,000 was charged to capital funding. Why is there no funding now?*
- *Some businesses in the town should be highlighted regarding the condition of their disgraceful shop fronts*

- *How many toilet facilities are in the town?*

The Town Engineer informed the members that the Council were committed to pay for Leak Detection because of the Leak Detection Programme. In programme three he stated that the Local Government Fund will fund only the cost of water and wastewater for domestic purposes. Non-domestic water supply and treatment is to be levied locally. This is a more direct form of treatment.

Mr. Des O'Brien informed the members that the wastewater charge is not going to be put onto domestic users. From next year every commercial premises must have a meter and everyone will be charged proportionally to what they use. He informed the members that secondary treatment costs a lot of money and huge extra costs will be placed on Bray Town Council if we are to take on our responsibility not to pollute the sea and rivers.

The Town Engineer also informed the members that there are two public toilet buildings on the seafront and that they cost €18,000 in maintenance charges. There is also one Superloo on the Main Street, outside the Civic Offices.

8608 – Programme Group 4 – Development Incentives and Controls

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

Estimated Expenditure - €280,928 Estimated Income - €104,600

The Finance Officer provided the members with a detailed breakdown of the above amounts.

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

- *There is a lack of activity on 1.78 acres on Southern Cross*
- *Superquinn have been taken over by another group. The residents of that area deserve new facilities.*
- *Disappointed with the amount of money being put towards twinning.*
- *What does the Bray Jazz Festival do with the €6,000 it received? They should be able to finance themselves.*
- *Rehill's Land is down €8,300 compared to last year so what is this fund for.*
- *Review of tendering process for the Christmas lights contract. Would like to see a more open system of tendering for this contract.*
- *Disappointed with the number of planning applications received.*
- *Twinning with Wurzburg was best thing that happened to Bray. Would like to see larger fund put into this.*

- *The amount for twinning be reduced from €10,000 to €5,000. Public see Council as using twinning as junkets. Money should be given to the Order of Malta.*
- *Are we expecting more planning applications this year?*
- *Was there a fund built up previously for SSAO?*
- *Council should not get involved in a tendering process for the Christmas Lights. The Chamber is doing a good job.*
- *Do not agree with cutting back on funding for Voluntary Organisations.*
- *People in Bray do not see the benefits of twinning.*
- *The Junior Council idea was formed through the Begles Twinning Programme and refuted that members travelling be called junkets.*
- *A lot of sporting organisations and schools in the town involved in twinning*
- *Supports that money be included for St. Patrick's Day festival.*
- *Allocating funds in the Budget towards conferences is very beneficial for the members and also for Bray Town*
- *Member's who look to go to these conferences and then decide not to attend is money wasted.*

The Director of Services advised the members of the following:

- *We reached a settlement for the 1.78 acres last year with one of the parties involved. The Law Agent for Wicklow County Council has been given instructions to deal with this case and in the event that no resolution can be reached then a C.P.O. will be considered.*
- *Superquinn were given a letter to facilitate them making a planning application*
- *The funding for Rehill's land is to pay back for the land purchase. This is the last repayment.*
- *The Christmas Lights are put up each year by the Chamber and they do a good job.*
- *Revenue in planning – this is straight line for applications fees.*
- *Capital Accounts have not been very transparent in the past but each year they will be more transparent.*
- *Would be very embarrassed if we had to ask about tendering process because of the small amount involved.*

Fairyhill Residents Delegation

The Cathaoirleach then proceeded to introduce the delegation representing the Fairyhill Residents Association, Mr. Oliver Dooley, Mr. Pat Downes and Mr Arden Gantley (Architect).

Mr. Dooley then proceeded to read out the submission on behalf of the Residents of the Fairyhill site. He stated that in June 2004 the Creed family applied for planning permission to build a four bedroom, two storey residence on the North side of no. 37 Fairyhill, Bray, Co Wicklow. On inspection of the plans many of the residents of Fairyhill estate were unhappy with what they saw as the dwelling was not in keeping with the rest of the estate. Mr. Creed received a letter back from the Planning Department setting out a number of changes they wished to be made to the previously

submitted plans. Mr. Creed then re-submitted hand drawn sketches of the proposed changes to the house. It was not possible to judge from these sketches whether any real changes were made. On the 14th September 2004 the residents were notified that the Manager had, by order, granted permission for the building subject to eighteen conditions. In the week before Christmas the residents of Fairyhill were informed by the Board that their objection was late by one day as the Managers Order had been signed on the 10th September and not on the 13th September as set out in the Notification of Decision. Mr. Dooley told the meeting that this carelessness had deprived the residents of their right to appeal to An Bord Pleanala and would like to know what action the Council will take to amend this blunder.

Mr. Arden Gantley then told the members and officials that the Residents Association would be taking a judicial review. He informed the meeting that they intend writing to the Minister asking for a review of working practices of the Planning Department and a commissioner to look at the working of the Planning Department. He also mentioned that an anonymous letter was sent to some of the residents in the Fairyhill Estate only a few days ago. He stated that this was an extremely disturbing letter and he took it as an attack on his professional competency.

The Cathaoirleach then thanked the deputation and the members then expressed their views on this matter:

- Wanted to know about the anonymous letter and had many residents received same?*
- Future of existing green spaces because residents are concerned for the remaining open spaces in the estate.*
- Where did Councillors voices go with regards to this Planning application?*
- Is it normal practice for Bray Town Council to grant planning permission on hand drawn plans?*
- Has a final decision been made to grant the planning permission and are Bray Town Council willing to cover the costs of the judicial review?*
- Is there any intention of lobbying the Minister regarding this case*
- How many files were signed with the incorrect date?*
- In view of the anonymous letter that was circulated, it casts a doubt on the human error that Council say was involved.*
- Bray Town Council should fund legal case.*

The Director of Services advised the members that the reason five files were found with the same mistake, was because the one person on the same day dated all the files with the 13th September 2004 and that this was a genuine human error. The Director confirmed that there were five files involved. Two had been appealed to the Board as per the email sent from the Planning Department to the members on the 23rd December 2004. The Manager's Order is always on file and there is entitlement for every citizen to see planning files. He also stated that Bray Town Council does not have legal standing to fund a judicial review against An Bord Pleanala. Once a planning permission has been granted the builders can commence the construction of the proposed development. He also stated that if planning permission is granted and the applicant has not the legal interest in the site / property to carry out the development, then the development cannot proceed. The Director apologised to the residents of Fairyhill and the members for this error.

8609 – Programme Group 5 – Environmental Protection

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

Estimated Expenditure - €1,460,964 Estimated Income - €1,602,338

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

- *Is €63,000 enough for domestic refuse waivers because there will be more people applying this year. All last year's applicants should be sent a form for the current year's waivers.*
- *Heavy-duty collection - cutback is a bad idea and we should be expanding and improving this service. Not happy with using skips. MPC should examine policy for this service.*
- *In relation to the Heavy-duty collection – Is €45,000 what is needed for a door to door truck and will it cost €90,000 for a full collection of the Town?*
- *The figure of €63,000 for waivers is up 20% on last year. Will it go up again this year?*
- *The issue was raised about the recycling scheme and if there was sufficient money in the Draft Budget.*
- *Should be adding to the number of bins in Bray because litter in the town is worse than ever.*
- *Greenstar should be asked to provide more recycling facilities.*
- *School Environmental figure should be increased not decreased.*
- *The burial grounds need improvement works carried out. Graves need to be topped up. There is only one seat provided in the Burial Ground – two were promised.*
- *Would like an update on the progress of the swimming pool.*
- *Issue of getting street cleaning machines.*
- *The possibility of tenants paying for their refuse collections through their rent.*
- *Want contribution from Wicklow County Council for cleaning of streets.*
- *Will the amount of €20,000 be sufficient to clean up lanes etc. including O'Byrne Lane.*
- *Money for desilting the Dargle River – what is the carrying capacity of the river?*
- *Will there be a €6,500 building up fund for the River Dargle?*
- *Do the Council get the bags from Greenstar at a reduced rate?*
- *What is the update on the mobile CCTV camera?*
- *Misleading information around the town from Greenstar regarding refuse collection and recycling collection*
- *Public authorities should provide proper recycling service.*
- *What can the Manager do to ensure that we get paid amounts due from Wicklow County Council?*
- *The system is Pay-By-Use not Pay-By-Weight.*
- *Lifeguard Huts – two huts placed on the Seafront each summer.*

The Director of Services informed the members that there was only a modest increase in the waivers from last year and that Bray Town Council is still negotiating with Greenstar regarding this. He informed the members that to purchase a street-cleaning machine would cost a lot of money. A recycling centre is one of Bray Town Councils top priorities. The provision of a recycling centre is currently being negotiated with the owners of a site in the Boghall Road area and this would give an opportunity to lease the premises and go ahead with a land swap in Greystones with the owners of this property. The shredder is for Bray Town Council use only. In relation to Water and Sewerage services – Bray Town Council will charge Wicklow County Council on a pro-rata basis.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Anne Ferris then proposed an extension of time for the meeting to continue until the Budget had been dealt with and this was seconded by Councillor Anne Egan and this was agreed to by the members.

8610 – Programme Group 6, 7 and 8 – Recreation and Amenity, Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare, Miscellaneous

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

Recreation and Amenity

Estimated Expenditure - €1,761,200 Estimated Income - €468,000

Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare

Estimated Expenditure - €292,700

Miscellaneous

Estimated Expenditure - €1,243,302 Estimated Income - €170,100

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

- *What provisions have been made for an emergency call out service?*
- *Residents complaining about some of the grass cutting contractors engaged by the Council.*
- *Welcome the allocation towards the Cliff Walk, but is €5,000 sufficient?*
- *What criteria is used to allocate Arts Grants?*
- *Need a suitable site for a playground.*
- *The expenses of members attending conferences in Ireland were €29,000 in 2004. Is this appropriate expenditure? Two Councillors spent 45% of the Budget.*
- *Why is there no money for St Patrick’s Day Parade in this programme? Would welcome bringing back the parade but would want more stewards to look after running of it.*
- *Would like confirmation that funds will be set-aside for Ballywaltrim football pitches.*

- *Would like to compliment Bray Town Council and Wicklow County Council on the Mermaid Arts Centre.*
- *Is any money being put towards the maintenance of Town Hall?*
- *Hope more money is allocated to promote tourism in the town.*
- *Do not want to cut Esplanade funds out of budget because we have worked hard enough to get the standard that we have at this location. Money should definitely be put towards this area.*
- *Is money being used to improve derelict sites?*
- *Would like to see a report on what maintenance needs to be done to Town Hall.*
- *Would like to cut back on the amount of Civic receptions.*
- *There is €90,000 allocated for grass cutting. Have the Council encouraged estates to become more efficient themselves regarding grass cutting?*
- *Would like to state that some Councillors do not travel to conferences etc. because of business commitments and work issues.*
- *An amount of €1,200 was allocated towards the M.P.C last year but there is no money this year.*
- *Councillors represent Bray when they travel abroad etc. for conferences and they are mostly beneficial. Recommend all Councillors do the same.*
- *Regarding school meals - was a meeting held recently?*
- *Would like to know how could the Council afford to send The Cathaoirleach to San Francisco on a conference when Bray couldn't afford to have a St Patrick's Day Parade?*
- *Would like to see more tree-planting on Bray Head. It was suggested that the Urban Forestry schemes etc. fund these.*
- *What is the position regarding the Victorian Seat Backs on the Esplanade?*
- *What happened to the replenishment of the Seafront? This was supposed to be done every three years.*
- *The Council should be building up funds for the improvements of Fassaroe Community Centre.*
- *What is the position regarding the playground's in East Ward and the Peoples Park – Have we money to clear these fund's?*

The Director of Services informed the members Bray Town Council would have to interface with consultants regarding the swimming pool and the maintenance of the Town Hall is usually dealt with by Noonan's Developments Ltd. Improvement works for the Esplanade and the burial ground would be examined.

The Cathaoirleach then stated that allocating funds in the Budget towards conferences is very beneficial for the members and refuted any comments from members that they only used this as junkets. She stated that this is money very well spent and the member's who look to go to these conferences and then decide not to attend is money wasted. She informed the members that each Cathaoirleach has represented the Council and the people of the Town outside of the state and stated that this has been a very proud tradition.

There were a number of proposals put forward however the final proposal was as follows: -

That the rate be reduced by 1% and re allocated as follows:

- 1. €8,000 be allocated to Fassaroe Community Development fund*
- 2. €5,000 be allocated to St. Patrick's Day Festival Committee.*
- 3. €5,000 be allocated to the Order of Malta.*
- 4. Increase the waiver allocation by €2,000 to €65,000*
- 5. Increase the Self help scheme by €5,000 to €25,000*
- 6. Increase the Heavy Duty service by €9,000 to €54,000*
- 7. €25,000 to go towards Bray Town Centre Business related activities fund – taken from parking charges funds*

These amendments to the Draft Budget for 2004 to be funded as follows: -

1. Funding loans to be reduced

<i>Van</i>	<i>-€2,000</i>
<i>Gritter</i>	<i>-€2,000</i>
<i>Treatment Plant</i>	<i>-€5,000</i>
<i>Bray Outfall Marker Buoy</i>	<i>-€3,000</i>
<i>Dargle Flood Programme</i>	<i>-€1,500</i>
<i>Rehill's Land</i>	<i>-€4,000</i>
<i>Development Plan</i>	<i>-€1,000</i>
<i>Bray Head Golf Club</i>	<i>-€5,000</i>
<i>Shredder 2004</i>	<i>-€1,500</i>
<i>Eastward Playground</i>	<i>-€3,000</i>
<i>Temple Vevay Sports Fund</i>	<i>-€1,500</i>
<i>Playing Pitches/Changing Rooms Ballywaltrim</i>	<i>-€2,000</i>
<i>Heritage Centre and Tourist Office</i>	<i>-€3,000</i>
<i>Suction Sweeper</i>	<i>-€1,500</i>
<i>Boghall Road Depot</i>	<i>-€1,500</i>
<i>Office Equipment</i>	<i>-€2,000</i>
<i>Legal Settlements</i>	<i>-€2,000</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>€41,500</i>

The above proposal was voted upon as follows:		
	FOR	AGAINST
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	✓	
Councillor David Grant	✓	
Councillor John McManus	✓	
Councillor Ciaran O'Brien	✓	
Councillor Pat Vance	✓	
Total	12	0

It was also agreed that the Budget for the year ending 31st December 2004 as set out in tables A and B as amended above be adopted and in accordance with the said Budget that a rate of valuation of €57.47 as set out in Table B be the rate of valuation to be levied for the purposes set out in that table.

The meeting concluded with the adoption of the Budget for 2005.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
Town Clerk

Dated: _____