

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 11th March 2008 at 7.30 p.m.**

Present: Councillor Brid Collins, Cathaoirleach
Councillor John Brady
Councillor Caroline Burrell
Councillor Anne Egan
Councillor John McManus
Councillor Steve Matthews
Councillor Ciaran O'Brien
Councillor Pat Vance

Also present: Mr. Des O'Brien, Director of Services
Ms. Triona Irving, Acting Town Clerk
Mr. Sean O'Neill, Town Engineer
Mr. Stephen Fox, Executive Engineer

Apologies: Councillor John Byrne
Councillor Anne Ferris
Councillor Michael Lawlor
Ms. Christine Flood, Town Clerk

Not In Attendance: Councillor David Grant

The Cathaoirleach Bríd Collins stated that before the meeting officially started, she would accept a petition from the Concerned Traders & Business People of Bray. She added that it was her decision to accept the petition and asked that the members bear with her. She again stated that the meeting had not started. Once the petitions were accepted, she thanked the members for their understanding.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting dated 12th February 2008

Councillor Caroline Burrell proposed confirmation of the minutes of 12th February 2008 and Councillor Steve Matthews seconded the proposal.

2. To Discuss Variation No. 2 of the Town Development Plan – Section 7.4.12 (LUAS/Metro, Dedicated Bus Routes) & Section 14.4 (Transport)

The members raised the following points:

- This is a very important piece of infrastructure for Bray. When this is in place Bray will be the best served town regarding public transport.
- The RPA have suggested that we extend the line to the forecourt at the DART station. This does not necessarily mean that the extension will happen, but we are putting building blocks in for the future.
- [Councillor Ciaran O'Brien] I ask the members to consider extending the line to include the forecourt at the DART station.
- [Councillor Pat Vance] I am happy enough with that, unless there is a good reason not to do so.
- This is the most positive development for the town for a number of years.
- This is a tremendous opportunity for the town. We are not talking it up enough.
- This is a good day for the town. We should move on this. It will probably create problems regarding the circulating of traffic around the town, with the LUAS and DART in one area. These problems can be solved.
- I welcome this and hope it happens quickly.
- This will put Bray on the map as the most integrated transport hub in Ireland. I hope we also have an integrated ticketing system.
- I hope Iarnród Éireann do up Bray DART station.

- I welcome this as a massive step forward.
- I welcome this proposal. I am however, concerned about the residents of Palermo. How are they going to exit St. Peter's Road? This whole aspect needs to be looked at.
- This is fantastic for Bray. The Town Clerk has written to Iarnród Éireann regarding parking, but no response has been received yet. We have to get them on board regarding repairing the private road at the station.
- This will attract new businesses to the town.
- We need them to replace the road.
- We want them to refurbish the area and resurface the road.
- We should request a representative from Iarnród Éireann in to talk to the members.
- [Cathaoirleach Brid Collins] Yes, that request is in the letter.
- With regard to faster bus services, can we put in frequent and efficient instead?

Mr. Stephen Fox, Executive Engineer responded:

- Councillor O'Brien's suggestion to extend the route to the Cash & Carry is a good one. While it is not on the map, its absence does not preclude it extending to the Cash & Carry.

Councillor Ciaran O'Brien then suggested that the line be extended to that area.

The Town Manager, Des O'Brien informed the members that the Department of Transport had contacted him in relation to setting up a meeting.

The Department of Transport, the Dublin Transportation Office, Iarnród Éireann, Dublin Bus, Bray Town Council and the Railway Procurement Agency met and discussed the various options.

The Department of Transport are not confident that funding will be made available to purchase the land. The Dublin Transportation Office said that they can possibly get funding to appoint consultants and will investigate the matter further.

Councillor Ciaran O'Brien proposed that Variation No. 2 of the Town Development Plan – Section 7.4.12 (LUAS/Metro, Dedicated Bus Routes) & Section 14.4 (Transport) with the following amendment: *that the LUAS route be extended to the front of Bray DART Station on Station Road* be adopted. Councillor John McManus seconded the proposal.

A vote on the above was called for and the members voted in the following manner:

	For	Against
Councillor John Brady	✓	
Councillor Caroline Burrell	✓	
Councillor John Byrne	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Cathaoirleach Brid Collins	✓	
Councillor Anne Egan	✓	
Councillor Anne Ferris	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Councillor David Grant	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Councillor Michael Lawlor	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Councillor John McManus	✓	
Councillor Steve Matthews	✓	
Councillor Ciaran O'Brien	✓	
Councillor Pat Vance	✓	
Total	8	0

The amendment was then deemed to be carried unanimously.

3. To Discuss Variation No. 3 of the Town Development Plan – Section 12.2.4.2 (Guidelines for the Core Retail Area)

Councillor Ciaran O'Brien proposed that Variation No. 3 of the Town Development Plan – Section 12.2.4.2 (Guidelines for the Core Retail Area) be adopted and Councillor Steve Matthews seconded the proposal.

The members raised the following points:

- I have a query regarding the heights of the buildings. Is it possible to have something whereby the heights can be increased in exceptional circumstances? This would only be the case if the development benefits the town. We could avoid a Material Contravention this way.
- A lot of work has gone into this. We should accept it as it is. The heights are sufficient for the width of the street.
- I support this. We need to be careful not to have the buildings too high – particularly at the south end of the Main Street. Would not agree with submission, no problem with higher buildings on Northern end of Main St, don't want buildings dwarfing the Town Hall.
- This will regenerate the town. I hope it will bring in new shops to the area.
- I thought that when this was discussed initially, there was scope for flexibility. Can the officials confirm this? I am opposed to adding extra height.
- This came from the Development Plan. We have to allow for extra heights so that services can be installed. On balance it is a good plan. This is a reasonable compromise.
- Point of Information – extra heights in exceptional circumstances only. If it can't be incorporated, that is fine.
- I welcome this. This will bring new businesses to Bray.

Mr. Stephen Fox, Executive Engineer informed the members that the variation being considered by the members is to accommodate shops and stores that wanted extra height on the ground floor level. A submission was received from Colum O'Brien arguing for greater heights at corner sites in order to improve the legibility of Main Street.

Mr. Fox stated that the inclusion of the word 'average' was intended to allow some variation in building heights, that in itself is considered sufficient to accommodate diversity in roof forms.

A vote on the above was called for and the members voted in the following manner:

	For	Against
Councillor John Brady	✓	
Councillor Caroline Burrell	✓	
Councillor John Byrne	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Cathaoirleach Brid Collins	✓	
Councillor Anne Egan	✓	
Councillor Anne Ferris	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Councillor David Grant	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Councillor Michael Lawlor	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Councillor John McManus	✓	
Councillor Steve Matthews	✓	
Councillor Ciaran O'Brien	✓	
Councillor Pat Vance	✓	
Total	8	0

The amendment was then deemed to be carried unanimously.

4. Reports and Recommendations

Draft Proposals – Local Roads Expenditure Programme 2008

The members had been circulated with a report on the above before the meeting.

The members raised the following points:

- I request clarification. A ramp was installed on Seapoint Road at the junction with Galtrim Park. A further ramp is needed at the Seymour Road junction, which I support.
- I agree regarding the Seapoint Road. We need to look at the footpaths along here also. Sections of it are non-existent and at some sections, the footpaths are barely above the level of the road.
- The footpaths in Mountainview on the Boghall Road need to be looked at also.
- The ramps on the Boghall Road need to be repaired also.
- Has money been set aside for the Wolfe Tone Square/O'Byrne Road traffic calming?
- There was a very serious accident on the O'Byrne Road and it needs a ramp.
- I welcome this report. It is good to see an increase in the number of traffic calming measures around the town. This has saved lives.
- We need to revisit the ramps on the Lower Dargle Road. Some ramps are not quite appropriate – they might damage cars. Are better designed ramps possible?
- With regard to the controversy regarding the road resurfacing last year – it has actually worked quite well.
- I don't agree with that statement at all. I'm still getting complaints from people regarding it. It was bad PR for the council. I request that the Town Engineer take note. This caused major problems. I don't want to see this material used again.
- I agree. I ask the engineers if the material used is to be changed that we are notified. The timing was very bad also. I request that these works are done outside of the summer holidays.
- Is there a standard for ramps? The ramps on Davitt Road are not great.
- Can we have more information on the footpath planned for the Herbert Road? Is this a footpath to connect to the bridge?
- Nothing has been mentioned regarding the Green Tree Shop and a pedestrian crossing – is this included?
- At the corner of the Church Road and Killarney Road there is no footpath – it is a very dangerous corner.
- There is no footpath opposite Fairyhill. We need to find out who owns this land.
- We need to look at cycle lanes in the town, the surfaces are very dangerous. We need to put notices up to stop summer students using cycle lanes as footpaths.
- I welcome the provision of parking opposite the Green Tree shop. There is space for one and a half cars only. I ask the Engineer to revisit this.

The Town Engineer, Sean O'Neill informed the members:

- There is no surface dressing proposed for this year. Repairs were made last year using bitumen.
- Ralumac was used last year for surface dressing and it was not as good a substance as thought.
- There will be an extension to the footpath on the Herbert Road. This will lead from Pemberton to the footbridge. Land acquisition may be required to further this and we are currently examining this.
- The Roads Technician and Senior Executive Engineer conduct a survey on the footpaths, the areas most in need are on the list for repair.
- The estimates may fluctuate up or down, depending on the tenders received.
- Wolfe Tone Square has a separate allocation.
- Yes, there are design standards for various ramps, various areas and various speeds. We tend to make them gentler on bus routes. The aim of them is to slow traffic, not stop it.
- The ramps on the Lower Dargle Road are still doing an effective job, but I will look at this.
- We will be repairing the ramps on the Boghall Road.
- We will look at the cycle lanes.
- We will investigate the possibility of a pedestrian crossing in the future at the Green Tree shop. We will look at the car parking spaces also.

Following further discussion regarding a footpath from Pemberton to the footbridge at Herbert Road, the Town Engineer responded that he had spoken to the Danish Ambassador in relation to this. The Ambassador is open to the provision of a footpath in the area, but the decision is not in his control. The request has to go to Copenhagen.

Councillor McManus then asked if trees would be felled to facilitate these works. Mr. O'Neill responded that it is likely that some trees will have to be removed.

The members raised the following points:

- Will plans come before the members in relation to the footpath on the Herbert Road?
- Are we applying to the DTO for funding for the footpath?
- These are Draft Proposals for 2008, but some of the work has already been done – how much of a say do we have?
- The safety barrier at the green area near the Green Tree shop was removed to facilitate works, can it be replaced?
- Point of Information – if it is planned to make changes to the speed ramps on the Lower Dargle Road, can we put a pedestrian crossing in also?

The Town Engineer, Sean O'Neill responded:

- We are not planning to make changes to the ramps on the Lower Dargle Road, this was suggested by a councillor. We will consider a pedestrian crossing in tandem with any changes to be made in the future.
- Any funding from the DTO is based on bus priority works at the moment. We are currently in discussions with the DTO. The provision of a footpath from Ashton Wood to the footbridge has very little impact on the DTO's priorities.
- Wicklow County Council did agree to put in a footbridge and all associated works. Associated works did not seem to include provision of a footpath.

Arts Grants Allocations 2007 & 2008

The members had been circulated with a report on the above before the meeting.

The members raised the following points:

- Who are Serendipity Theatre Group?
- They are a Bray Arts Group deserving of funding. I'll leave a copy of their application in the Town Clerk's office.
- Everybody that applied for a grant got something. There was one late application that did not get an allocation.
- This is a new method of allocating these grants. It is very important that it be properly advertised and a mail shot be dispatched to interested groups.
- [Cathaoirleach Brid Collins] We will take your views on board. A lot of groups submitted late applications and we did re-advertise.

Councillor Anne Egan proposed and Councillor John Brady seconded the recommended allocations of the Arts Grants 2007 & 2008.

5. Notices of Motion

278. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell, Ciaran O'Brien & Steve Matthews (05/02/2008)

"That this Town Council would consider becoming a 'Transition Town' which helps the town make the transition from a dependency on fossil fuel to a low carbon future as has been adopted by Kinsale Town Council and is currently being carried out in Bandon & Clonakilty."

Report

The object of a Transition Town is to help make the transition from a dependency on fossil fuel to a low carbon future.

'Transition Town' designation appears to be a community based voluntary initiative and is not a matter for the local authority to initiate.

Information in relation to 'Transition Town Kinsale' would indicate that the local community initiative is being financially supported by the Town Council.

Bray Town Council is in its' own way promoting sustainable development and fossil fuel dependency reduction measures. For instance, our development standards have requirements for energy reduction.

Policies in relation to reducing the dependency on the private car in favour of a use of public transport, cycling and pedestrian movement are in place.

Strategies to make Bray a public transport mode are in the process of adoption. Initiatives in relation to walking routes to schools have been promoted in the town.

The adoption of the designation as a 'Transition Town' without drawing up a plan to reduce energy dependency would be premature.

It is recommended that adoption of Bray as a 'Transition Town' be reconsidered if there is sufficient local community based initiative for the process and in the light of available funding from future budgets to fund both the locally based initiatives and the staff time that any scheme will inevitably take up.

The members raised the following points:

- I am not happy with this answer. I agree that this has to come from the community. There are a lot of councillors in Bantry, Clonakilty etc that are involved in this.
- One initiative was called the 50 mile meal, whereby a dish was created using purely local ingredients.
- I would like this to go to the Infrastructure, Planning & Development Municipal Policy Committee as well as the Community, Cultural, Social & Environmental Municipal Policy Committee to see if we could do something regarding this. I don't expect to get it up and running quickly, but would like to create awareness.
- In the recent past, Bray Town Council have changed to a different energy supplier. We should investigate changing the Bray Town Council vehicles to environmentally friendly fuels.
- Point of Information – Cultivate in Dublin are running a lecture on Friday 4th April.

279. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell, Ciaran O'Brien & Steve Matthews (05/02/2008)

"That this Town Council would consider and make provision for Allotments for the townspeople of Bray as outlined in Section 8 & 39, Acquisition of Land (Allotments) Acts, 1926 & 1934 and the Local Government Act 2001 - Section 67 Schedule 13."

Report

The council has no record of requests from residents of Bray in recent years for allotments and accordingly the provision of allotments has not been considered. There is currently no suitable land of significant area available in the town that is not required for housing or other development or is of a high amenity value.

The members raised the following points:

- I want to start the ball rolling. We need to look at community groups and finding land for this.
- Fingal County Council are doing this, as are other councils in Dublin. I request that Bray Town Council have a look at this for the future.
- The availability of land argument does not stand up.
- We need to make provision for community gardens. It is a good way to have communities working together.

- We can use waste land for this.
- Greystones have a very good scheme.
- I request that Bray Town Council set this up and make provision for.
- In my twenty plus years as an elected member of Bray Town Council, I have never been asked for an allotment.
- If we had land – we should be building on it. There are 1,000 plus people on the housing list. We need to be serious about this. We don't have the land. We should forget this Notice of Motion.
- I disagree. I was approached by a member of the public regarding this.
- Yes, there is a gross shortage of land in the town, but we have to be realistic. Yes, the priority is to build houses. We can't build on every bit of green land.
- Community gardens are a great and positive thing.
- I agree with the community gardens. The Pride of Place is a good example of this. People in Fassaroe took great pride in this. We have a lovely park and should have some flowers in it.
- We need land for housing but community gardens is a great idea.
- I think that there is something in this proposal. If proposals come from the community and the land can't be built upon, I welcome it. The council should not take a lead role in this – it must come from the community. We should encourage this.
- I agree. The Green Party are not suggesting we put in allotments on housing lands. Community gardens are the way to go.
- Bray Town Council has a lot of green spaces. If building apartments we need green spaces. We are trying to build communities.
- I support the motion, perhaps land would be available at the 23 acres.
- I ask the council to support this. Demand must come from the community.
- [Councillor Caroline Burrell] May be allotment is not the best word to use. I suggest that at the next Community, Cultural, Social & Environmental MPC that Councillor McManus has, we have someone in to talk about how to set this up.
- [Councillor John McManus] I agree to have this on the MPC.

280. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell, Ciaran O'Brien & Steve Matthews (05/02/2008)

"That this Council would adopt the Sustainability Checklist (produced by Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency) for use in conjunction with the planning application process, to evaluate applications from an energy/climate change/sustainability viewpoint, that has been adopted by Carlow planning authorities."

Report

The recent change to the Town Development Plan, unanimously adopted by the members of Bray Town Council at the Special Housing & Planning Meeting of 6th November 2007, is deemed sufficient to deal with the issue of sustainability of developments coming on board during the lifetime of the Plan.

The members raised the following points:

- Are you saying we have already got everything on that checklist? The idea is for the planners to use it as a guideline. It is a very comprehensive list.
- Our standards are higher than any other council at the moment.
- Bray Town Council is very forward in this area.
- The checklist is very very detailed I don't know how they are keeping to it.
- I am happy that we have very high standards already.
- I contacted the council in relation to solar panels and was given a copy of the section of the Act relating to them.
- I ask that Bray Town Council have guidelines available – perhaps a brochure can be produced? We need to ensure that there are no unnecessary planning obstructions.
- I agree. It's a good idea to have a look at energy levels and solar panels. This should go to the Planning MPC to have a look at. [Councillor Ciaran O'Brien agreed to this suggestion.]

281. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell, Ciaran O'Brien & Steve Matthews (05/02/2008)

"That Bray Town Council would reconsider carrying out a Neighbourhood Scheme for Bray Head to replace trees etc. that have been destroyed by fire and other means as there is a new scheme with funding now available."

Report

The council has made contact with the Forestry Service who administer the scheme and the consultant who prepared the previous application two years ago that was unsuccessful. A new guidance document is to be shortly produced on the scheme and increased funding has been sought by the Forestry Service from the Department of Finance for the scheme. One of the difficulties encountered with the previous application related to disability access. It may be possible to modify the scheme by the provision of viewing area, signage etc to provide partial access and for disabled. Further consultation will take place with local residents and Disabled Ireland with a view to making a new application in the near future.

The members raised the following points:

- It would be great if we could look at this again. I met with residents and we had an application ready to put in.
- We need to get Aenus Higgins on board.
- There is no outlay required from Bray Town Council initially. There will be maintenance outlay required.
- Trees have been lost due to fires. We need to replace deciduous trees and provide a nice amenity for people.
- This refers to Bray Head. When we receive confirmation of the Special Area Amenity Order, we can move on this then.
- It's essential to get community groups involved in this.
- I would like this to be expanded into urban Bray also.
- Please act on the tree preservation orders regarding the Development Plan.
- I welcome this, but it is a bit premature without a proper management plan in place. There is no point in replacing trees before a management plan is in place.
- Pathways need to be clearly defined on Bray Head.
- There is massive soil erosion on Bray Head – we need to act on this.
- We need to discuss the management of Bray Head.
- I welcome this. I had a similar resolution myself seven or eight years ago. I hope it happens this time.
- The path from the Southern Cross Road is fine but when you get to the top of the hill, there is only a track that has been beaten by members of the public. We need to get the community involved.
- There are problems of private ownership on Bray Head. Bray Town Council and Wicklow County Council don't control all of it.
- Bray Golf Club have done great work planting trees and have made a tremendous contribution to Bray Head.
- It is a good idea. We need to set it up and get funding. We need the cooperation of the landowners.
- The general gist of this Notice of Motion is good. Trees are missing in the area.
- Visitors need to keep this area clean.
- I'd like to complement the residents on the area. Wicklow County Council need to play a big part also.
- I'd like to ask the Town Clerk do we have ongoing funding for this or is it sporadic?

The Acting Town Clerk, Triona Irving responded that the issue of funding is a decision for the members at the Annual Budget meeting. She added that provision of monies by Bray Town Council for a period of five years must be committed before application can proceed.

Councillor Caroline Burrell stated that the path leading to the top of Bray Head, which was provided by Bray Golf Club as part of their planning permission, is not being maintained by them. The Cathaoirleach Bríd Collins informed Councillor Burrell that it is the responsibility of

Wicklow County Council to follow up on this and requested that Councillor Pat Vance raise the matter in Wicklow County Council. Councillor Vance remarked that he would be delighted to do so. The Town Manager, Des O'Brien added that he will raise the issue with the Chair of the Planning SPC.

6. Correspondence

Community & Heritage Awards Scheme 2008

The Acting Town Clerk informed the members of the Community & Heritage Awards Scheme 2008. She stated that there are four categories of grants available: Community Activity Award; Social Inclusion Award; Heritage Award and Merit Award. She stated that application forms and copies of the scheme are available from The Office of Community & Enterprise, based in County Buildings, Wicklow or on Wicklow County Council's website under 'latest news'. She added that completed applications should be lodged no later than 12 noon on Wednesday 30th April 2008.

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Councillor John Brady stated that a letter was to be sent to the Director of Environmental Services in Wicklow County Council and Mr. Jim Dunphy, Chief Fire Officer of Wicklow County Fire Service regarding fire control in the town. He requested an update on this. The Cathaoirleach Bríd Collins stated that she was sure this had been sent but requested the Acting Town Clerk to check this.

7. Any Other Business

Killarney Road Flooding

Councillor John Brady raised the issue of the Killarney Road flooding in bad weather. He remarked that this is a bad situation which leads to the road being closed off. He asked if the water could be directed towards the river.

The members raised the following points:

- I'd like to complement the officials regarding the flooding warnings that were issued. They had staff on standby in case of flooding.
- It's a pity the Killarney Road flooded – can the Town Engineer advise of a solution?
- I'm very proud that we put flooding protection in along the seafront and that the businesses and residential areas did not flood.

Mountainview Drive Right of Way

Councillor Brady stated that the Right of Way at Mountainview Drive is still open. He remarked that the residents were anxious to have an update on the situation.

Glen na Smol

Councillor Brady stated that funding for the erection of a fence at Glen na Smol had been made available and asked when the work would be carried out. He paid tribute to Mark O'Neill RAPID coordinator and the work he does in the RAPID estates and included Ralph Murray, Tom Bailey and Liam Bourke in his praise also.

Parking Meters

Councillor John McManus stated that some Parking Meters have not been working since the end of September and that people have been putting money into meters but are not being issued with tickets.

People's Park Playground

Councillor John McManus asked what planning process will be undertaken in relation to the relocation of the playground in the People's Park. He also asked if public consultation will take

place on this. Councillor Anne Egan asked if plans for the People's Park will be placed before the members.

Draft Report for Area Flooding Plan

Councillor John McManus requested that the Community, Cultural, Social & Environmental MPC be allowed discuss the above Plan before it is finalised.

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The Town Engineer, Sean O'Neill responded:

- The People's Park Playground will be the subject of a Part 8 process. It will be advertised and members of the public will be able to make submissions.
- Plans will be published. Providing the members with the plans before advertising the scheme can be investigated, but it could delay the process.
- We have had incidences of people interfering with the Parking Meters. I am very surprised to hear that some have been out of order since last September. I will investigate this matter.
- I am not looking after the Mountainview Right of Way or the fencing in Glen na Smol and therefore cannot give you a response now. I will follow up on both matters.
- Wicklow County Council have a Major Emergency Plan for the County. A subset of this plan is a plan for flooding in Little Bray. This was drawn up by Bray Town Council and a constituent part was drawn up by the Civil Defence. This is at the draft stage. It is not at publication stage.

Councillor John McManus stated that the MPC should see this plan before it is published. The Cathaoirleach Bríd Collins remarked that the Town Clerk intends that the Plan be made available for the next MPC meeting and stated that this is the Bray Emergency Plan.

The Cathaoirleach then wished everyone present Lá Fhéile Pádraig and a Happy Easter.

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This concluded the meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
TOWN CLERK

Dated: _____