

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

Present: Councillor Ciaran O'Brien, Cathaoirleach
Councillor Caroline Burrell
Councillor John Byrne
Councillor Brid Collins
Councillor Michael Lawlor
Councillor John McManus
Councillor Steve Matthews

Also present: Mr. Des O'Brien, Director of Services
Ms. Christine Flood, Town Clerk
Mr. Sean O'Neill, Town Engineer

Apologies: Councillor John Brady
Councillor Anne Egan
Councillor Anne Ferris
Councillor Pat Vance

Not In Attendance: Councillor David Grant

The Cathaoirleach Ciaran O'Brien welcomed Councillor Bríd Collins back and remarked that she was looking well. He added that he was delighted to hear that Councillor Anne Egan is also recovering well wished her a speedy return to good health. Councillor Collins thanked the Cathaoirleach and everyone who had passed on their good wishes.

The Cathaoirleach raised the request for suspension of Standing Orders at the Special Housing and Planning Meeting of 4th November. Standing Orders state that a request for suspension of Standing Orders has to have the support of three quarters of the members, before it can take effect. He stated that he had not been requested for a response to an article that was run in the Wicklow Times of 11th November and that he would be requesting that the editor provide him with the opportunity to respond. He then added that all members are governed by Standing Orders.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Monthly Meeting dated 14th October, 2008

Councillor Bríd Collins proposed confirmation of the minutes of 14th October 2008 and Councillor Caroline Burrell seconded the proposal.

2. To Discuss The Bray Town Council Nomination to Wicklow Heritage Forum

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that the nominations to the Wicklow Heritage Forum refer to non-councillors only. Councillor Caroline Burrell's term will expire when her current term of office ends as a result of the Local Elections in 2009.

3. Reports and Recommendations

Update on Flash Flooding In Bray on 16th August 2008

The Town Clerk had circulated a report on the above to the members prior to the meeting.

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

- We are concentrating on Mountainview Drive and Boghall Road and looking at the best method of alleviating problems.
- The problems arose due to a combining of the surface water, sewers, drains and foul water systems.
- The rainwater drains were not big enough and there were overflows into the sewers.

- The Oldcourt system is a single pipe combined system.
- Water flowed from the Boghall Road into Oldcourt and there was evidence of water coming up through the sewers in Mountainview Drive. We think that this was caused by the speed of the water travelling through the system.
- We have done some work in Seacrest/Loreto Grange. We have put a relief pipe in.
- There are some problems with the storm system in Mountainview Drive – a solution is to lay a new pipe. We would need an outfall to the river. We may need to deepen the river.
- We have to look at other areas e.g. Briarwood – we are not sure if the problem is with the pipes or an overland flow problem, as the people who were affected were not in residence on the day. There is work in progress and a lot of work to be done.
- The National Water Services Investment Programme will look at problems regarding sewers in the Bray area in conjunction with the Shanganagh Sewerage Scheme.
- We will give a report on individual solutions when we have them, rather than at a fixed point in time.

The members thanked the Town Engineer for his report and raised the following points:

- This raises as many issues as it clarifies. We should, as elected representatives be identifying areas where historically flooding has happened and find solutions. We need to get schemes prepared and into the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for funding.
- We can't allow the situation on the Boghall Road on 16th August to happen again.
- A lot of problems in Briarwood, Newcourt Road, Headlands and Cuala Road were experienced. Water was running off Bray Head – can this be diverted in any way before it reaches homes?
- We need to get schemes prepared, costed and into the Department. If we need to make contributions to these, we will make them.
- We should do these works on a priority basis.
- Residents in Mountainview are of the view that flooding came from industrial units near their homes.
- Is it new businesses on the Southern Cross Road that is causing this flooding?
- The staff on the day of the flooding did a great job.
- Is there the possibility of installing attenuation tanks on Bray Head and along the Swan River?
- The Minister recently visited Wicklow – has any money been allocated to Bray?
- Unless we know what funding we have, we are limited in what we can do.
- We have to develop schemes and then submit it to the Department for funding – this is the way the system works.
- [Cathaoirleach Ciaran O'Brien] The Town Clerk and I visited the Minister. We have had positive indications regarding funding for Capital Schemes such as this. The engineers and OPW will look at solutions and this will be passed onto the Department. I am confident it will be supported by the Department.

4. Notices of Motion

320. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell & Steve Matthews (07/10/2008)

“That Bray Town Council take measures to deal with flash flooding that is occurring on a more frequent basis due to heavy rainfall, such as some type of engineering solution – to widen the watercourses and the culverts so there is somewhere for the water to go rather than drains being overloaded, and secondly to ensure that all drains are kept free and unblocked in the town. That BTC take measures to roll out the Flood Evacuation Plan urgently to the public. That this motion, if passed, be circulated to all other Local Authorities by email.”

Report

To deal with flash flooding as occurred in August 2008, Bray Town Council will be examining the various problems that arose at that time and evaluating remedies to limit damages in the event of re-occurrence of similar levels of rainfall. This will consider inter alia the increase in capacity of some watercourses of culverts.

The council do endeavour to keep drains in charge of Bray Town Council unblocked. There are sometimes problems with blocked gullies and the council did concentrate on cleaning gullies around the town over the summer months. However, this requires ongoing maintenance and the council are scheduling this into the range of operations carried out.

The Flood Evacuation Plan is being rolled out at this time, and the first meeting with volunteer wardens took place recently under the aegis of the Wicklow County Civil Defence.

The members raised the following points:

- I am happy with this answer, I think Bray Town Council are doing all they can.

321. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell & Steve Matthews (07/10/2008)

“That Bray Town Council would ask the public to voluntarily register their mobile numbers and email addresses via the Bray Town Council website so that the public may be more rapidly and comprehensively informed of emergencies. That Bray Town Council would investigate the hiring of Variable Message Signs that can be placed on the arterial routes of the Town to better inform the public as above. That this motion, if passed, be circulated to all other Local Authorities by email.”

Report

Bray Town Council is compiling a database of customers who would like to receive e-bulletins from the town council.

E-bulletins will be sent out by text and email and will provide customers with updates on council services. Typically, updates will relate to urgent situations where we need to contact large groups of people quickly as in the case of flooding or water contamination.

E-bulletins will also be used to alert customers to public meetings, heavy-duty goods collections etc.

322. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell & Steve Matthews (07/10/2008)

“That Bray Town Council provides Bicycle Racks at the Civic Offices and other suitable locations to allow the public to park their bikes and help to encourage the use of bicycles in the town. That this motion, if passed, be circulated to all other Local Authorities by email.”

Report

Cycle racks at the Civic Centre are a condition of the planning permission for the development. This matter will be pursued with the developer this week. The council will shortly be providing cycle racks at the Temple Vevay shops.

The members raised the following points:

- I support this, I would like to see this happen sooner rather than later.
- The Cathaoirleach is a great example to the town on his folding bike.
- The DTO will give funding for bike racks at the Temple Vevay shops.

323. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell & Steve Matthews (07/10/2008)

“That Bray Town Council would provide bicycles for their staff to use when at work which would help cut down on the time need to get from one area of Bray to another, cut down on the necessity to drive, find parking spaces and provide a healthy alternative and exercise. That this motion, if passed, be circulated to all other Local Authorities by email.”

Report

For insurance reasons, Bray Town Council does not provide personal transport for staff to use when at work. Staff use their own means of transport to travel around the town.

In the 2009 national budget a tax incentive was introduced to assist employees to purchase a bicycle every five years. Bray Town Council would be proposing to co-operate with this scheme, once the details become available.

The members raised the following points:

- I find it disappointing that there could be Health & Safety issues. If staff cycle to work, they should be allowed cycle around the town. It takes a lot of time to get around Bray if the traffic is heavy.
- It is a good idea to create consciousness of this.
- Councillors should set an example before asking staff to do so.
- I complement Councillor Burrell on this motion. Providing bikes is not the issue, the use of them is. Where necessary it will be encouraged.
- It is a good idea – how much would insurance cost if we were to provide bicycles?

324. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell & Steve Matthews (07/10/2008)

That Bray Town Council introduces (and calls on Wicklow Co. Co.) to introduce a low interest rate, fixed-loan Scheme to enable all those currently on the Social & Affordable Housing list to help raise finance for their homes. That this motion, if passed, be circulated to all other Local Authorities by email.

Report

The Minister of the Environment recently announced a new Home Choice Loan Scheme that will be administered by four local authorities for the entire country. This loan will be available to provide access to mortgage finance for prospective first time buyers.

The members raised the following points:

- We should look at creating awareness of this scheme.
- [Town Clerk, Christine Flood] The Department will publicise this on a national basis.

325. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell & Steve Matthews (07/10/2008)

“To promote the use of Electric Cars - that Bray establish an Electric Vehicle Recharging point which would be made available free-of-charge to users and that the charging point would offer free all-day parking to the user. That this motion, if passed, be circulated to all other Local Authorities by email.”

Report

There are operational difficulties foreseen in the provision of electrical supply points by the local authority. The aspect of free provision would further exacerbate supply and safety issues.

It is not agreed that free parking should also be provided. However, if an electrical supply is being considered, an additional charge for parking could be factored into the system.

The members raised the following points:

- I am disappointed with this reply. Fuel costs will continue to rise. We are all aware of the consequences of using these fuels.
- The take up on electric vehicles is slow – they have a top speed of 60km, which is sufficient for town use.
- If people don't have off-street parking, they can't charge their vehicle.
- It would demonstrate forward thinking by Bray Town Council – the cost of charging a vehicle is low, it wouldn't cost much to provide.

- I support this motion and I don't accept this report. The idea of having spaces where cars would be charged is a good idea.
- We could conduct a survey of the town to see ownership of electrical vehicles.
- This is a good idea and we should pursue it – the officials should come back to us with a practical report about how it can be done.
- I commend this motion, but I don't agree it should be free.

The Town Clerk informed the members that she would write to the Department of Transport and the Dublin Transportation Office in relation to this matter.

326. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, Anne Egan, Anne Ferris & John McManus (07/10/2008)

“That bollards be erected on the footpath on Parnell Road, adjacent to 'War on Want' to prevent cars and trucks parking on the footpaths.”

Report

A parking bay has been provided at the War on Want and double yellow lines have been replaced elsewhere in the vicinity. With the construction traffic largely gone and parking enforcement in place, parking on the footpaths may be largely resolved. However, the situation will be monitored, the matter can be re-examined in the context of available funding.

The members raised the following points:

- I think the situation has improved – but it is still a problem. I am prepared to monitor the situation. If it continues, I request that we install bollards.
- Are bollards the best solution? Is there a different engineering solution?
- [Town Engineer, Sean O'Neill] Clamping is another solution.

327. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, Anne Egan, Anne Ferris & John McManus (07/10/2008)

“That a ramp be erected at the junction of Seapoint Road and Seymour Road in view of the danger at this junction and cars entering/exiting the Bray Wanderers car park.”

Report

The proposal will be listed among traffic calming proposals to put out to public consultation next week. If approved under Part 8 of the Planning Acts, the work will be considered in the context of available funding and other dependant infrastructure.

The members raised the following points:

- This is a positive report, the area is more dangerous with cars accessing and egressing the car park. I look forward to seeing this done.
- Traffic calming is essential, this is a very busy junction. We should treat this as a priority.

328. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, Anne Egan, Anne Ferris & John McManus (07/10/2008)

“That a survey is carried out of trees and hedges around the town that are obstructing signage and action is taken to cut back these trees and hedges.”

Report

In the last few months the Parks Supervisor has already surveyed a significant portion of the town as tree and hedge pruning accounts for a major portion of the Parks Department work at this time of year. Obstruction of signage will be removed as a matter of course. When trees and hedges causing the obstruction are privately owned, the owners are contacted and notices served when required. Several notices have been served already since August.

The members raised the following points:

- I welcome this, I am glad to see Bray Town Council taking action regarding private hedges. There are problems in my area and in cul de sacs.
- I have submitted a list of signage obscured and I ask that some action be taken.
- There is also signage obstructed on the N11 and Bray by-pass. Who has responsibility in this case?
- [Town Clerk, Christine Flood] It would be the relevant local authority, Wicklow County Council or Dun Laoghaire Rathdown as the case may be.
- Can we contact them and ask them to survey the areas?
- Pedestrians can be obstructed on the dark nights, particularly along King Edward Road and Church Road.
- Trees can't be cut before the end of August – the Parks Department do a good job.
- Is there any update on my request regarding the protection of trees, as contained in the Town Development Plan?
- [Town Manager, Des O'Brien] We have advertised Tree Preservation Orders recently.

329. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell & Steve Matthews (07/10/2008)

“That Bray Town Council would take measures in demanding and recording the PPS numbers of Landlords on all Forms who provide accommodation in relation to rent supplement, RAS, accommodation or any other schemes which is required by law, and that BTC would call on the Dept. of Social & Family Affairs to ensure the same. That this motion, if passed, would be circulated to all other Local Authorities by email.”

Report

In effect this was discussed at the meeting of 7th October, 2008 the members agreed to forward letter to the HSE requesting that they change their form to include landlord's PPS numbers on rent allowance form. This letter has been dispatched. In relation to RAS this function is carried out by Wicklow County Council on behalf of Bray Town Council.

The Town Clerk informed the members that a response had been received and that she had responded seeking clarification.

330. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell & Steve Matthews (07/10/2008)

“That Bray Town Council would consider adding a section to their Website offering their services in different languages for non-nationals to read and that Bray Town Council would consider doing a welcome pack providing info on Services etc available in different languages to non-nationals (similar to what Louth Co. Co. presently provides). That this motion, if passed, would be circulated to all other Local Authorities by email.”

Report

As we will have to make provision in the 2009 budget for translation under Section 11 of the Official Languages Act, 2003 for the translation of certain documents, notices, etc into Irish, our resources available for translation and management of the website are limited. Bray Town Council is currently investigating the possibility of using a telephone translation service to assist the limited number of callers to the council offices who cannot conduct their business through English.

The members raised the following points:

- Thank you – this is a step in the right direction. We should look at implementing this.
- Louth County Council have a scheme whereby a sheet of flags/languages is provided and a person can point to their language to indicate that they want to converse in their own tongue. This is a starting point.

Councillor John Byrne proposed that as Councillor Brady was not in attendance at the meeting that the responses to his notices of motion (numbers 331 – 333) be forwarded to him. Councillor Caroline Burrell seconded the proposal.

334. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, Anne Egan, Anne Ferris & John McManus (07/10/2008)

"That a Traffic Plan be drawn up for the Little Bray area."

Report

It is considered premature to consider drawing up a traffic plan for the Little Bray area at this time.

Some proposed changes to the traffic situation in Little Bray are proposed in the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council proposals for the Dublin Road Improvement Scheme, which are in the process of being lodged with An Bord Pleanála.

In the light of any approvals/alterations to the Dublin Road EIS and the then budgetary situation, consideration can be given to whether or not any new traffic management proposals may be necessary.

The members raised the following points:

- I don't accept this response. There is a major problem coming down the tracks with the Pizarro development.
- We should address this now. The residents of the Upper and Lower Dargle Roads will be affected by this.
- The quality of life and safety of people in Little Bray should be preserved.
- Traffic will increase when the development goes ahead. We need to be proactive.
- If An Bord Pleanála give permission for this development, we should have a traffic management plan in place.

335. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, Anne Egan, Anne Ferris & John McManus (07/10/2008)

"That an overall 5 year plan be drawn up for the maintenance and future improvements in the People's Park."

Report

A longer-term plan was recommended in the Parks Plan 2007 for the open spaces in Bray. This plan identified and prioritised the provision of a new playground at the Peoples Park. However, this and other works proposed for the park have largely been curtailed by considerations of the requirements for the Flood Defence Scheme. It is agreed that a five year plan be prepared and presented to the members. As the River Dargle Flood Defence Scheme has yet to commence, it would be too early to dedicate resources to advancing a plan at this time.

The members raised the following points:

- This response is good in parts. People in the area don't want major change, they want the park maintained.
- We should have an on-going plan regarding the upgrade and we should work on this to see if there is any money available under the Flood Protection Scheme.
- I support this motion, I would like to see the bandstand upgraded.
- Only a small part of the park is affected by the Flood Protection Scheme works.
- I agree with this resolution, Councillor Anne Egan brought this up many times. The park is neglected, I want to see it and the bandstand upgraded.
- I support this motion, the park is widely used by people in the area.
- It wouldn't take vast sums of money to upgrade e.g. flowerbeds, seating etc. It is a great amenity and we should look after it.

The Town Clerk informed the members that tenders had been received with regard to the playground. She advised the members that residents will be consulted with regard to the choice of equipment.

336. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, Anne Egan, Anne Ferris & John McManus (07/10/2008)

"That we review the bye-laws for the People's Park with a view to assessing the problem of uncontrolled dogs."

Report

This is a matter to be considered by the elected members.

The members raised the following points:

- The residents of the area are concerned. What is the situation regarding the bye-laws? Can they be strengthened or enforced?
- [Cathaoirleach Ciaran O'Brien] Can your committee look at this Councillor McManus?
- [Councillor John McManus] Yes, that's a good idea.
- We should ask the dog warden to get involved also.

The Town Manager, Des O'Brien informed the members that the Control of Dogs Act states that a dog must be under control, but that is it hard to define what under control means – this makes enforcement very difficult.

337. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, Anne Egan, Anne Ferris & John McManus (07/10/2008)

"That a review and audit of shores and drains in Little Bray be carried out and blocked shores made operative."

Report

The sewers in Little Bray are largely in good order. A major portion of the sewers were vacuoured out early this year and last month it was decided to again clean out sewers at Dwyer Park due to accumulations that occurred due to the weather conditions. During the year there was a period that the area did not have a regular road sweeper to tackle road gullies. Localised pondings occurred that necessitated cleaning of road gullies. Cleaning of road gullies is progressing at present.

The members raised the following points:

- Some portions of the roads in Little Bray have been cleaned, but the residents of the area are concerned that some side roads have not been cleaned. They are concerned regarding flooding.
- Some gullies have been tarred over as a result of road works, St. Laurence's Terrace is a case in point.
- We should conduct an audit of what should be present and what is actually present.
- Bray Town Council used to provide extra resources at this time of year for gully cleaning. Is this still the case?
- Some shores have visible water present – does this mean that the shore is blocked, or is it a water trap?
- [Town Engineer, Sean O'Neill] It depends on what type of sewer it is. Foul sewers have water traps.
- [Town Manager, Des O'Brien] This is to prevent the gases rising from the foul sewers.

338. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, Anne Egan, Anne Ferris & John McManus (07/10/2008)

"That this Council investigate the noise pollution at night being caused by all-night working at SuperQuinn."

Report

Noise pollution is dealt with by the Environment Section of Wicklow County Council. We will refer this issue to Wicklow County Council.

The members raised the following points:

- I am glad that this will be done, is there anything in the planning permission granted relating to noise?
- The store is opening longer hours – the situation has changed since it was built. What powers are available to us?
- [Town Clerk, Christine Flood] Wicklow County Council will carry out an investigation regarding the noise levels. If it is found to be over a certain level, they can ask SuperQuinn to take measures. We [BTC] will examine the planning permission regarding the working hours.
- I ask that the Town Clerk bring this back to us when Wicklow County Council issue their report.
- The Noise Bill will come before the Oireachtas shortly – I hope this will be supported.

339. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell & Steve Matthews (07/10/2008)

“That this Council install a zebra type pedestrian crossing on Lower Dargle Road to improve safety for access and egress for park users.

Possibly conversion of an existing speed ramp and the installation of amber flashing lights may suffice.

The amber flashes should be of a directional nature so as to mitigate the negative impact of flashing lights on residents living nearby.

The location of the crossing should also take into account adequate sighting conditions for motorists and pedestrians and may necessitate the stepping in of a section of park railings and associated works to allow full access for all users.”

Report

An assessment of traffic and pedestrian movements will be carried out and a recommendation on a location and type of crossing having regard to site conditions will be submitted with costings for consideration.

The members raised the following points:

- I am happy with this response. Will we be looking at the same timescale as the playground?
- [Town Clerk, Christine Flood] It will take longer, as there is public consultation involved and the public consultation on the playground has been completed. We will also look at the cost issue.

5. Correspondence

There was no correspondence arising at the meeting.

6. Any Other Business

Spotlights Over Stained Glass Windows

Councillor John Byrne brought the members attention to the fact that the spotlights, which highlight the stained glass windows of the Town Hall, are not working.

Draft Register of Electors

Councillor John Byrne informed the members that the Draft Register of Electors has been published and will be in force from February 2009 to February 2010. This Register will be used for the Local, European and Wicklow County Council elections in 2009.

The Ward Boundaries have changed, but the Draft Register is based on the old boundaries. The Boundary Commission has issued maps showing the new Wards, but there is still confusion as to the new areas. It is unfair on candidates running in the Local Elections, as they can't define the areas that they will be canvassing in. Some estates are split between boundaries, which means that neighbours will be voting in different Wards.

The Town Engineer, Sean O'Neill informed the members that the Boundary Commission have produced a map and that the Department are currently working on a description of the areas. There are still points of clarification required, but the map as is stands.

The members raised the following points:

- The Department are sitting on this. The streets need to be named. We've got to consider the people.
- I know Sean O'Neill will bring our views to the Department.
- The map that was sent out wasn't even correct – the Southern Cross Road was not included on it.

Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards

The Cathaoirleach Ciaran O'Brien informed the members that Bray Town Council was the recipient of the "Partnership In Business" award for the Bray Town Rejuvenation Implementation Committee.

Bray's Town Rejuvenation Implementation Committee has given the retail core of the town a facelift by painting the facades, installing an irrigation system for the 500 flower baskets, providing Shopfront Grants, funding Christmas lights and making Bray a more attractive place to visit, shop and do business.

He added that Councillor Bríd Collins, Councillor Anne Egan, Councillor Pat Vance and Mr. Dermot Dwyer had all worked on the committee. He expressed his thanks to the Town Clerk, Town Engineer and Town Manager and particularly Ms. Georgina Franey, who does a lot of work behind the scenes. He stated that everyone involved worked together for the good of the town and not self promotion or political agenda.

The members praised the efforts of the Rejuvenation Committee and thanked the efforts of all involved.

Free Car Parking

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that free car parking will be provided in the run up to Christmas in the Herbert Road and Florence Road car parks.

* * * *

This concluded the meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
TOWN CLERK

Dated: _____