

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber,  
Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present:**

**Councillor Brid Collins, Cathaoirleach  
Councillor Caroline Burrell  
Councillor John Byrne  
Councillor Anne Egan  
Councillor David Grant  
Councillor Michael Lawlor  
Councillor John McManus  
Councillor Steve Matthews  
Councillor Ciaran O'Brien  
Councillor Pat Vance**

**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 Ferris**

The Cathaoirleach Brid Collins opened the meeting by extending apologies for their absence from Councillor Anne Ferris and Councillor John Brady, stating that Councillor Brady was attending a meeting in Dáil Eireann.

She drew the attention of the members to plants donated by Mr. Fran Brennan of the Living Life Counselling Centre, the purpose of which is to highlight the work of the centre and symbolising the growth and personal development of people in therapy.

She congratulated Fassaroe on being first runner up in Category Five of the Pride of Place awards.

She extended her congratulations everyone involved in the effort, particularly the Fassaroe Estate Management Committee, Geraldine Fitzpatrick and the Little Bray Resource Centre, Estate Development Officer Richard Sheridan, Litter Warden Paul Wogan and his team, Clerk of Works Anthony Franey, Town Overseer Ralph Murray, everyone in Wicklow County Council who was involved and also to Wicklow Rose Lisa Marie Berry. She added that the ceremony will be televised and will inform the members when this is scheduled.

Councillor Anne Egan also extended her congratulations to Fassaroe and the committee members adding that it was the first year that they had entered, and the result is a credit to everyone involved. She also congratulated the staff of Bray Town Council. She added that a flowerbed had been planted at the entrance to Fassaroe and that unfortunately this had to be removed due to a repair on a burst pipe and requested that the flowerbed be reinstated as soon as possible. She requested that a letter be sent from Bray Town Council to the members of the committee congratulating them on their achievement.

Councillor John McManus added his congratulations, stating that it is a great achievement for the area and that when you have cooperation, great things can be done.

Councillor Steve Matthews as a Councillor representing the North Ward, congratulated Fassaroe on their win, stating that it is great news for the area and added that he was very proud of Anne, Geraldine and the rest of Fassaroe.

Councillor Caroline Burrell added her voice to the congratulations, stating that a lot of hard work was done by Richard Sheridan, Estate Development Officer and everyone involved.

## 1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting dated 9<sup>th</sup> October 2007

Councillor Anne Egan proposed confirmation of the minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2007 and Councillor John Byrne seconded the proposal.

Councillor Ciaran O'Brien offered some constructive criticism of the way the minutes of meetings are presented to the members, requesting that lengthy comments be attributed to the members making same. The Cathaoirleach Brid Collins informed Councillor Ciaran O'Brien that the decision to present the minutes to the members in the current way was a unanimous decision taken by the members. Councillor Ciaran O'Brien stated that he accepted this.

## 2. To Receive An Update on Bray Public Transport Plan

The members raised the following points:

- This is a comprehensive report but there is no mention of traffic movements or cycle use. It is important to incorporate this into the report .
- We need a loop bus service in the town, as very few shops do deliveries and the older people are suffering.
- The Vevay Road is used by 27% of school users, we need to look at getting traffic off this road and get people using public transport for short trips into the town.
- We need a more frequent bus service and more bus stops.
- We need to upgrade the quality and standard of the bus shelters.
- We should look at the provision of a bus corridor from the Southern Cross Road to the Killarney Road.
- I welcome this report – there are valuable things in it. There are practical things that we should try to implement.
- We need to address the congestion caused during school times for example there is a walking bus initiative in Shankill. We need to reduce the amount of people driving children to schools.
- Part of the Green Schools Programme focuses on travel.
- This report is dated prior to the announcement of the LUAS coming to Bray town centre. I'd like to see the DTO consulted on this as they might be willing to make contributions – they have done so in the past.
- We need a decent bus service to Palermo, at the moment if a driver on another route is ill the driver on the Palermo route is utilised. The whole of Little Bray suffers as a result of this.
- We need to revise the fares – people don't tend to use the bus if they don't have the exact change. Perhaps a flat fee for long journeys (as on the continent) of €1.
- There are quite a number of houses on the Southern Cross Road and very little public transport – we need a better service here.
- We need more bicycle racks around the town, to encourage people to cycle instead of driving – would the DTO be happy to finance?
- Fassaroe is very badly serviced by Dublin Bus.
- The report quotes the 2002 census – this is way out of date
- Eugene Finnegan does school runs – I'd encourage that we provide set down spaces for the buses at St. Cronan's/St. Patrick's schools.

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

- The change in census figures for Bray would not be significant.
- This report is a strategy rather than a plan, we now have to develop a more detailed plan.
- There is a lot of congestion on the Main Street due to too much parking, loading.
- We need a basic strategy to achieve bus priority and have speedier travel times of buses.
- In other parts of County Wicklow, there are dedicated school buses and dedicated routes.
- The concentration of schools in the centre of the town has been identified by the consultants as a problem – particularly the Vevay Road. There are problems with parking at schools, bus spaces might be of benefit.
- This report is a bit light on detail but it gives us a way forward.

The Town Manager, Des O'Brien commented:

- Public transport is not inviting to people at the moment it can take up to half an hour to travel across Bray by bus.
- We need bus priority and to get public transport moving through Bray quicker, as a key inhibitor to using public transport is sitting on a bus in a traffic jam.
- Implementation of this report will require some hard decisions, there will be winners and losers.

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

- We looked at public transport in Europe over the summer. The only difference between LUAS and BRT is that the LUAS runs on wheels. The capacity of the carriages determines the type of vehicle.

The members asked:

- How is this going to be progressed?
- What happens next?

The Town Engineer, responded that if the members were agreeable to accepting the Transport Study as a way forward a plan to implement would be drawn up. A costing will then be obtained, funding applied for and consultation with the various bodies will take place.

The Town Manager informed the members:

- LUAS and BRT are more or less the same. The LUAS are drawing up more detailed plans especially around the DART.
- We have to show the members the implications of this strategy.
- I think we can get funding from the DTO – they want Quality Bus Corridors.
- Ticketing at bus shelters is the way forward (as in London).
- We need to get buses through the town to the DART station as fast as possible.
- There will be objections – particularly if parking is to be lost on the Main Street. We will go to public consultation.

The Cathaoirleach Brid Collins asked the members if they'd like to vote on the issue or had they agreed in principle?

Some councillors requested a vote, but others requested clarification on what they were in fact voting on. The Town Manager stated that the vote would relate to the general strategy in the Bray Public Transport Study document – to concentrate on public transport. He asked the members if a consensus was reached in relation to this. The councillors agreed to a consensus but stated that more detail was needed.

The Town Engineer informed the members that if the members accepted this report as the way forward, plans would be drawn up, adjustments made and more detailed proposals will be presented to the members in the future .

The Cathaoirleach Brid Collins asked the councillors if they agreed in principle – after a short discussion the members agreed to this.

### **3. To Discuss The AMAI Submission On Local Government Reform**

The Councillors raised the following points:

- This is a very interesting report with good recommendations. It shows that we don't have enough Local Authorities per head of population.
- I think we should be looking at upgrading Bray to Borough status.
- Recommendation 4.2 (*Town Councils should be given powers to directly employ their Town Clerks on a contract basis*) is a very good recommendation.

- Local Government reform is one of the key issues for the Green Party.
- In large cities in Ireland we should have directly elected mayors.
- There should be limits on what can be spent on Local Authority election campaigns.
- The report should go further for example we should have a National Fire Authority – as per the Farrell Grant Sparks report.
- In relation to Ethics Legislation if one Councillor has a complaint against another councillor the Cathaoirleach is required to mediate – however there are no guidelines or procedures as to how this should be done . Furthermore the complaineer doesn't have to co-operate if they don't want to.
- There should be an independent boundary commission for local authorities.
- We have an excellent Town Clerk but there is merit in the proposal to let members directly employ a Town Clerk who would be more answerable to Councillors and not the Manager.
- Lets hope the report is implemented.
- We are the most centralised state in the EU.
- We have lost a lot of power as a Council over the years e.g. there used to be local Health Boards who had accountability. The Health Service Executive is a law unto themselves. Water services have also been transferred towards centre. If Local Government is to have teeth, devolvement needs to happen.
- We need to devolve powers from central Government to Town Councils – the Greens have a policy of this in Government and I hope this happens.
- A directly elected mayor is a good idea as is the direct employment of a Town Clerk. We need to be sure who the Town Clerk is responsible to.
- Government reforms are needed.
- A directly elected mayor is a link to the local population.
- I await with baited breath the outcome of this, I think the Government will stifle this.
- Elected members of Local Government have to act responsibly, traditionally it is left to the Manager to take the Councillors out of a hole and to make the unpopular decisions,
- There is no point in talking of Local Government reform without Local Government finance reform – we have to be careful how finance is spent.

[At this point Councillor David Grant apologised for being late and missing the start of the discussion.]

- This document is disappointing. It is written by Councillors for Councillors it does not address the wider issue of Local Government Reform.
- It is limited in its scope.
- There is no mention of the County Demand.
- This document should look for new powers for Local Government – should be more accessible to citizens, should be able to issue passports, birth certs, dog licences etc. We should aim for this.
- We should be more courageous in relation to taking ownership of public transport.
- The role of Mayor needs to be re-defined – the Manager shouldn't have sole decision making responsibility.
- I agree that we should review boundaries – they should be administrative boundaries, this might help create a better planning system.
- I welcome this but it is not wide ranging enough, we could have done with some other issues.
- I support directly elected mayors – the term should possibly be for longer than a year.

The Cathaoirleach Brid Collins asked the members if they were in agreement to sign the statement to be sent back to the AMAI. The Town Clerk offered to submit the members' comments and Councillor David Grant requested that a copy of the minutes of the meeting be submitted also.

#### 4. Reports and Recommendations

##### 150 Years of Municipal Government In Bray

The Town Clerk reminded the members of the public lecture due to take place in the Town Hall on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm stating that the speakers will be giving an overview of Local Government in Bray.

##### Fire Safety Audit Report

The Town Clerk offered her apologies to the members for the delay in circulating the Fire Safety Audit Report. This delay was due to the fact that while the report was listed on the CD received from the consultants, it was not in fact on the disk. This oversight only became apparent shortly before the meeting convened. She endeavoured to request this report again and then circulate it to the members.

##### Wall At Glendale Drive

Councillor John Byrne requested an update on the second report due on the above and Sean O'Neill, Town Engineer responded that while he was aware the report was outstanding, discussions were still ongoing and that no decision has been reached yet.

#### 5. To Consider The Report On The Public Consultation Under Section 38 Of The Road Traffic Act, 1994 Regarding The Introduction And Construction Of Traffic Calming Measures At Herbert Park, Richmond Park, Killarney Heights, Ardmore Park, Hazelwood, Seapoint Road, Schools Road, Novara Road, Lower Dargle Road, Upper Dargle Road, Putland Road And Strand Road

The members raised the following points:

- I would like to clarify that these are not just traffic calming measures but also safety crossings. I welcome the provisions of safety crossings on Strand Road, Novara Avenue and also Putland Road and am happy to go along with the recommendations of the engineer.
- Councillor John Byrne seconded the proposal.
- I welcome this report and am delighted to see it.
- Well done to the Town Engineer.
- Herbert Road at the Green Tree Shop is not in the report, is this an oversight?

The Town Engineer responded that these works went out to public consultation and that he thought that the works at the Green Tree were listed under Herbert Park.

#### 6. To Discuss Changes to Car Parking Bye-Laws 1997 In Relation To Wyndham Park

The Town Clerk read out the following updated report from Liam Bourke, Senior Executive Engineer.

*Complaints from residents of Wyndham Park that there were inadequate opportunities for residents to park in the vicinity of their dwellings due to the facility for long term parking on one side of the street has been examined.*

*The 10 hour parking limit, imposed by the Wicklow Traffic and Parking Bye-Laws 1986 as amended, on the east side of Wyndham Park between Florence Road and Galtrim Road facilitates all day parking at this location. There is also a 2 hour parking limit imposed by the bye-Laws on the west side of Wyndham Park. Having regard to the lack of off-street parking and proximity to a busy commercial area, these restrictions afford few opportunities for residents to park in the area. The following review to the Bye-Laws is recommended in order to make parking by non-residents less attractive so as to provide more parking for residents.*

*It had been recommended at the council meeting in February that the 10 hour parking limit on the east side of Wyndham Park between Florence Road and Galtrim Road be amended to a one hour parking limit to provide more parking opportunities for residents. This was received with a mixed reaction. I recommend instead to proceed to public consultation with a proposed two hour parking limit on both sides of the Wyndham Park.*

*In order to order to introduce increased limitations on parking time, public consultation in accordance with Section 36(3) of the Road Act 1994 is required. This requires advertising and public display of review for one month and allows a further two weeks to receive submissions. A change to the Bye-Laws requires a resolution by the members following the consideration of observations or representations under Section 36 (3) of the Act.*

She stated that if the members were happy with the proposed changes to the car parking in Wyndham Park, it could go to public consultation and be actioned as quickly as possible.

The members responded:

- I'm not happy with this report. This situation has been going on for far too long.
- I'm not happy to have to go to public consultation again. This matter should have been dealt with.
- I propose that we accept the changes that went to public consultation.
- [Town Engineer Sean O'Neill] There was no public consultation on the February recommendations.
- This was agreed to in February.
- We agreed to go out to public consultation – it was in the paper.
- The Town Clerk has said that it didn't go out to public consultation – it should have. There is two hour parking in Adelaide Road and Galtrim Road – people are parking for the whole day in two hour parking areas.
- If we introduce one hour parking in Wyndham Park, we'll have to do it elsewhere, it is impossible to police.
- Two hour parking in Wyndham Park will free up parking spaces if policed – we have to stop people putting parking discs on their cars every two hours.
- We should see how a two hour system goes.
- I agree, a two hour system is a good idea – we can't have a Residents Parking only area as this is apparently illegal. We need to send this out to public consultation.
- Why didn't this go to public consultation already?
- The residents will be happy with two hour parking, it's a common sense approach. If we have one hour parking, it will cause problems.
- We were never told it didn't go to public consultation – if it needs to go it's best to go for two hours not one hour parking.
- I'm 99.9% certain that it did go for public consultation.
- There are problems on that road – people can't access their gardens and it's frustrating for the residents not being able to park.
- I prefer Residents Parking over long term ten hour parking.
- We will lose public confidence if we can't say we went to public consultation.
- There is one hour parking in the town centre – if we introduce one hour parking here other areas will want it. No one will get their business done in one hour – I support two hour parking in this area but not one hour.
- Was there public consultation?

The Town Clerk informed the members that she had checked if this had gone to public consultation after last weeks' Special Housing & Planning meeting and that it she had been told it had not. She added that she stood to be corrected and endeavoured to double check.

She asked the members to vote on the issue, so that if in fact, the issue had gone to public consultation, it could be furthered. The Cathaoirleach Brid Collins responded that the members couldn't vote until the issue was clarified.

The councillors responded:

- In fairness to the Council officials, they always keep us informed – they didn't come to us in relation to this.
- If nothing has come back we need consensus as to what will go to public consultation.
- I agree that we can't vote on this. This whole situation is farcical – we made a decision to go to public consultation and no-one knows if we have. This should have been put to bed a long time ago – I'm very angry over this.
- This has never happened before – it's human error.

## 7. Notices of Motion

### 261. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, John McManus, Anne Egan and Anne Ferris (12/06/2007)

“That Bray Town Council erect a “No Dumping” sign at the Slang on the Lower Dargle Road, Bray.”

#### Report

The recreational area at the Slang on the Upper Dargle Road is not a noted dumping area. While dumped material has been found on the river bank at either end of the Slang, these do not appear to be associated with visitors to the recreational area. The erection of a "No Dumping Sign" would give a wrong message about the area to visitors. Experience elsewhere around the country has shown that signs erected in these situations have tended to become a focal point for dumping rather than solving a dumping problem. The erection of a sign is not recommended at this time. However if littering becomes more frequent and persistent, this will be reviewed.

The members responded:

- The dumping is not at the piece of recreational land – it’s further west at the wall near the houses. There might be other ways of addressing this. Perhaps we can have some surveillance and take action as a result.

The Town Clerk stated that should citizens see vehicles dumping, if they take a note of their registration and report it to Bray Town Council or Wicklow County Council, action can then be taken. She added that we should encourage people to report illegal dumping.

### 262. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, John McManus, Anne Egan and Anne Ferris (12/06/2007)

“That Bray Town Council provide ramps or raised tables at Ard Chualann in view of the problem with speeding cars.”

Councillor Anne Egan stated that this notice of motion was covered under the proposed traffic calming measures of Item 5 on the agenda.

### 263. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, John McManus, Anne Egan and Anne Ferris (12/06/2007)

“That Bray Town Council carry our urgent repair work on the road at the end of Roselawn Drive.”

Councillor John Byrne reported that this repair work had been completed.

### 264. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, John McManus, Anne Egan and Anne Ferris (12/06/2007)

“That Bray Town Council provide extra car parking spaces in Roselawn Drive.”

#### Report

This is being considered.

The members responded:

- I hope the Council consider this in the Roadworks programme 2008 – perhaps take a few feet from the green space at Roselawn Drive.

**265. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, John McManus, Anne Egan and Anne Ferris (12/06/2007)**

“That Bray Town Council replace the finger point name plate sign on the Boghall Road for Bentley Road.”

Report

The original pole and fingerpost sign for Bentley, which was located on the opposite side of the Boghall Road, was removed to accommodate the construction of the cycle path. The junction will be examined to find an alternative location for a suitable sign.

The members responded:

- Recently an ambulance spent half an hour driving up and down the Boghall Road looking for this estate, this sign is badly needed – a matter of life or death.

**266. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, John McManus, Anne Egan and Anne Ferris (12/06/2007)**

“That Bray Town Council construct a Boules Terrain in the People’s Park where the old playground was as this is the right size for two pistes.”

Report

The Parks Plan 2007 includes a proposal for a Boules Terrain in the Peoples Park this year. However, while the old playground appears to be a suitable location, this area is a proposed location for temporary accommodation works described in the EIS for the Dargle Flood Defence Scheme. An alternative location in the Park that is not likely to be affected by the Dargle Flood Defence Scheme is recommended.

The members responded:

- I welcome this report – we are twinned with Begles and there is an interest in boules in the town – there is an Irish boules team.

**267. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, John McManus, Anne Egan and Anne Ferris (12/06/2007)**

“That Bray Town Council look at an overall plan of the Palermo Area taking into consideration that in ten years time the overall age of the residents there and with no school with a solution to finding alternative route for traffic.”

Report

This is being considered in the Dublin road proposals.

The members responded:

- This is also our area apart from the Dublin Road proposals. There will be more traffic in the area in the future and it is important that we take this seriously and have a look at it.

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Other points the members raised:

- In relation to the age of houses in Ledwidge Crescent, can we put solar panels in the area as a pilot scheme? This might be taken on board in the future.
- Bord Gais are doing a lot of work on the Boghall Road, this is causing a lot of problems. Can the Town Engineer or Town Clerk let us know the timeframe involved?

The Town Engineer, stated that Bord Gais were doing a considerable amount of pipe replacing in the town and that he was unsure of their timetable but endeavoured to give a update to the members.

## 8. Correspondence

### Full Time Fire Service

The Town Clerk read a letter received from Minister Gormley's Private Secretary at the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government acknowledging her letter requesting funding for the provision of a full time fire service in Bray. This letter also stated that a further letter will be issued as soon as possible.

The Cathaoirleach Brid Collins stated that this letter was only an acknowledgement and that at the Pride of Place Awards Minister Tony Killeen - Minister of State with special responsibility for Environment and Energy at the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and at the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources – asked her to inform the councillors that he had a meeting in Bray this week in relation to the fire tragedy.

### St. Patrick's Carnival

The Town Clerk reminded the councillors that St. Patrick's Day and Easter fall on subsequent weekends in 2008.

She informed the members that the Carnival is booked to appear from Thursday 13th March to 17th March inclusive and that should the members wish to extend the length of time the Carnival visits Bray, there is the option for the Carnival to set up from Saturday 15th March and continue until Monday 24th March.

The members responded:

- I welcome the fact that the committee have given us plenty of advance notice on this issue.
- The 17<sup>th</sup> of March is at the beginning of Holy Week – in fact the Church has moved the Holy Day – I wouldn't welcome the extension because of this.
- This keeps coming up. We have a policy for use of the seafront which we seem to be changing wily nilly. We need to stick to the plan. I won't support this until the space to be used is rented out.
- I welcome this advance notice – it is right that it has been flagged and shouldn't be criticised.
- My view is that this is not appropriate for Holy Week and I wouldn't support this.
- Some councillors are not here – they might want to speak on this.
- That is a very valid point, none of the councillors representing that area are here.
- It's a good idea to have a quiet week without all that on the seafront.
- I agree that it's not appropriate for Holy Week.

## 9. Any Other Business

Councillor Anne Egan remarked that the section of railing at the pedestrian crossing at Sunnybank is still missing and asked for it to be re-instated.

She also asked if the Council had received the Register of Electors yet, remarking that one family in her area had been left off the list. The Cathaoirleach Brid Collins informed her that if no-one is present when the representatives collecting information for inclusion in the Register call to the door, a form is left in the letter box which must be completed in order to ensure the members of the household are included on the Register as this cuts down on individual names appearing more than once.

\* \* \* \*

This concluded the meeting.

**Signed:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**Signed:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**TOWN CLERK**

**Dated:**

\_\_\_\_\_