

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 21st April 2009 at 7.30 p.m.**

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

Also present: Mr. Des O'Brien, Director of Services
Ms. Christine Flood, Town Clerk
Mr. Sean O'Neill, Town Engineer
Ms. Mary Mooty, Comhairle na nÓg Coordinator
Ms. Megan Jackson, Chair of Comhairle na nÓg
Mr. Sean Gilmore, Vice Chair of Comhairle na nÓg

Not In Attendance: Councillor John Brady

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Monthly Meeting dated 10th March, 2009

Councillor Bríd Collins proposed confirmation of the minutes of 10th March, 2009 and Councillor John Byrne seconded the proposal.

2. To Receive A Presentation from Bray Junior Council On Their Progress & Plans To Date

Ms. Mary Mooty, Comhairle na nÓg Co-ordinator for Co. Wicklow thanked the members for giving the Junior Council (Comhairle na nÓg) the opportunity to present to the full council. She stated that she had previously given a presentation to the members on Comhairle na nÓg and how it will feed into Dáil na nÓg.

She then introduced Ms. Megan Jackson, Chair and Mr. Sean Gilmore, Vice Chair of Comhairle na nÓg.

Ms. Jackson informed the members of the following:

- Comhairle na nÓg was set up in September/October of 2008 and consists of 20 young people from schools and training centres in Bray.
- The age range of members is from 13 – 17 years.
- The Junior Council meets monthly in Bray Town Council offices and is linked to four other councils in the county.
- We give a voice to young people in the town, it helps get children and teens interested in politics. We want to get more people interested.

Mr. Gilmore added the following:

- The first aim of the Youth Council was to try and increase the opening hours for the Bray Youth Centre – we had success with this.
- We have met with the Bray Information Centre and have gotten advice on their services.
- I personally went to Dáil na nÓg.
- Megan and the PRO met with the Mermaid Arts Centre to ensure the views of teenagers are taken into account when planning the programme.
- We have also met with the Cathaoirleach, Town Clerk and A/Town Engineer regarding various projects.

- We went to the recent County Wicklow Comhairle and are now representatives of the County Comhairle. We have also set up a manifesto for the Wicklow County Comhairle.

The members welcomed Ms. Mooty, Ms. Jackson and Mr. Gilmore, remarking that the last time Ms. Mooty had presented to the Council, it was not an easy meeting for her. They then thanked & commended Ms. Jackson and Mr. Gilmore and raised the following points:

- The Junior Council has progressed a lot. It is good that it has taken direction. Having an involvement in a process like this shows a good civic spirit.
- I am very pleased to see that contact has been made with Bray Youth Services. There are two Youth Centres in the town centre and also and centres in Ballywaltrim and Fassaroe that run great programmes. It is important that the Youth Council feeds into these.
- What would you do to make the Junior Council better? What barriers are there?
- Is there anything that we, as a Council, can do to help you? Perhaps you could have an open day to show what you do. If we can facilitate you, I'm sure we will.
- The Bray Junior Council was the first in the country and set up in 1995. I'm glad that it is all-Ireland now. There has been a lot of youth development in recent years. I hope you go from strength to strength.
- Is there good competition for seats on the Junior Council?
- I met with the Junior Council and they asked about a skateboarding park. I think the work you are doing is fabulous. Did you get any enquiries about a skateboarding park?

Ms. Jackson responded:

- We don't have a lot of funding. We have also found that a lot of adults don't have respect for teenagers.
- We need to advertise ourselves more. The more people who are aware of us, the more barriers we can break down.
- We need to get more youth activities set up around the town. The Art Director of the Mermaid Arts Centre told us they'll try to get more youth programmes up and running.
- At the moment, there is not much competition, but we want to advertise more and get more people involved. We don't have equal representation yet.
- [Mary Mooty] Young people came to the speed-lobbying event. The term of the Youth Council is two years and we hope to have democratic elections in the future.
- We will change the committee every two years and have representatives up to a certain age, in order to represent the youth of the town.
- [Sean Gilmore] No, we had no enquiries regarding a skateboarding park.

The members raised the following further points:

- We are twinned with Begles in France and they have their own Junior Council. This was the basis of our Junior Council.
- Perhaps the Junior Council should contact the Junior Council in Begles, as a twinned town.
- I ask the Junior Council to keep in touch with the full Council and if they have any issues they wish us to raise, to approach us.
- The Bray Junior Council was the first in the country, I ask you to think about how we can help you to develop your potential.

3. To Discuss The Bray Flood Emergency Plan Flood Model By HR Wallingford

The Town Clerk had circulated a copy of the summary on the Flood Model produced by HR Wallingford with the Agenda. The Town Engineer circulated a two page synopsis to the members and remarked that 2 DVD's had been produced showing the various simulations.

The Town Manager, Des O'Brien added that Bray Town Council is in possession of one set of disks only and that as the data contained on them is very large, it will need to be split in order for it to be placed on the Bray Town Council website. They will be placed on the website as soon as possible.

The Town Engineer informed the members of the following:

- The scale of the model is 30 metres and the 10 scenarios were tested. Various combinations of weather events were tested. They were:

- (1) 1 year max river flows and 200 year max tide
- (2) 5 year max river flow and 50 year tide
- (3) 50 year max river flow and 5 year tide
- (4) 100 year max river flow and MHWS (Mean High Water Spring) tide
- (5) 300 year max river flow and MHWS tide

- Hurricane Charlie doesn't fit in with the simulations.
- Simulation 2 was run to gauge the effects of the regrading of the bed of River Dargle on a flood event.
- One and a half times the quantity of water of a 100 year flood was tested.

The Town Manager, Des O'Brien added the following:

- The simulations stress tested the river.
- During a 200 year flood, it is indicated that Dwyer Park and the Golf Club lands will flood.
- It is estimated that one sixth of the flow of the river went through Little Bray during Hurricane Charlie.
- There will be a release culvert to drain a flood in the Little Bray area.
- Upon completion, the Scheme as designed will give a 300 year return storm flood protection.
- The 3D model was built as the Office of Public Works are concerned about the danger to life.
- The Scheme was tested to destruction.
- This Scheme has come through with flying colours.

The members raised the following points:

- This Scheme protects against another Hurricane Charlie and actually way above Hurricane Charlie. This protects against a 300 year return storm.
- I attended Wallingford along with Councillors Byrne, Brady, O'Brien, the Town Engineer and the Senior Executive Engineer. There was also a representative of SWAP invited. This is one of the best trips I was invited on, in terms of education. You can get reports, but when you see it in action, it works brilliantly. This was a very valuable exercise.
- I would have thought Seapoint Court would be very vulnerable, but the design worked a treat. You couldn't help but be impressed.
- There is an urgency in getting this Scheme up and running. Anyone who opposes this scheme is crazy. It is vital that this Scheme is implemented.
- I also went to Wallingford. Our duty is to protect peoples' homes and property. The flood protection scheme on the seafront has been very successful.
- We will be doing a great service to the people of Bray if this Scheme is put in place.
- I am delighted to see this. What does this protect against? We were told of a storm every 300 years with a Mean High Water Spring Tide. What if there is a 200 year storm and a 200 year tide? What if there is a Spring tide also?
- [Town Manager, Des O'Brien] A 200 year tide and a 200 year storm happening on one day only – it is very unlikely.
- I agree that we need to get the Scheme up and running. The Labour Party always pushed for this. I am glad that OPW are on board with this.
- I am concerned regarding Section 5.3.12 of the Summary. It reads: '*HRW understand that the development consent by Bray Town Council to development on the Golf Course Lands requires that the Flood Defence Scheme be in place before any surface development commences on the site. However, in the event that the Bray Development Plan is implemented without a full implementation of the Flood Defence Scheme, it is recommended that the re-grading/re-alignment of the channel between Bray Bridge and the Bray Harbour bridges is undertaken as a necessary requirement to ensure that, in the event of a natural failure of flood defences, the flood relief channel performs satisfactorily and that flooding within Little Bray is not made worse when compared with existing conditions.*' Nothing can go on the Golf Club Lands until the Scheme is implemented. This Summary suggests that the development of the Golf Club Lands could go ahead without the Scheme being in place. I don't want that section of the report used as an 'out' by the developers. I ask that those that come onto the Council after me ensure that the Scheme is put in place before any development takes place.
- The Labour Party proposed this Scheme. I am delighted that it works. The new Council must make sure that no development on the Golf Club Lands takes place until the Scheme is put in place.

- It is mandatory that no development takes place on the Golf Club Lands until the Scheme is in place. It is in the Town Development Plan. I ask that the new Council maintain this in the Town Development Plan in 2011.
- I think it's safe to say that we are all in agreement regarding the Scheme and that no development should take place on the Golf Club Lands before it is in place. The OPW are happy that it works and I'll go with their recommendations.
- Bray is top of the OPW list for flood works – we are a priority.
- If we're offered funding, we should not turn it down as happened in Clonmel. When this is done, it will be a tremendous Scheme. Wallingford have a proven track record – they were involved in the flood protection on the seafront.
- Yes it was a good scheme, but we are not maintaining the seafront.
- If the developers are funding in conjunction with the Government, and there is no money – what will happen? Where will the funding come from? Is this Scheme dependent on the development of the Golf Club Lands? When will it be put in place?
- Hopefully we will get funding for this. I understand that there were no reductions in funding for prevention of flooding. We need to get clarification on this.
- We must put fierce pressure on the Government for funding – I think there was something in the Budget regarding emergency services. Surely this qualifies?
- Anything to do with water, sewerage and flooding was not cut back, it was increased.
- The video makes everything very clear. I see that simulations were based on a maximum of 20% climate change. Maintenance is essential. It is interesting to note that re-alignment had no effect on the flow of the river.
- What is the maintenance schedule? Is it a matter of the better the maintenance programme, the better the Scheme? Are we able to do the maintenance ourselves, is it an outside contractor or will the OPW do it?
- What are the costings for the simulations? Have we picked one to go with? Where do we go now? What measures can we put in place to protect Little Bray?
- We have done a lot of work. The technicality of what has been done will be hard to communicate to people. We will have to invest in consultation and discussion with the residents of the town to explain the workings. We don't see a before and after scenario in the simulations. People need to be confident and comfortable with this.
- It cost €300,000 to build the model, which the OPW funded. I am confident that they will fund the Scheme.
- We should proceed in a phased manner. Regardless of the Golf Club lands development, we should go ahead. When we work together as a Council we get things done.

The Town Manager, Des O'Brien informed the members of the following:

- Regarding paragraph 5.3.12, we don't want development on the Golf Club Lands until the Scheme is in place. The only way the development will go ahead if is An Bord Pleanála give permission for the development to go ahead without the Scheme. I don't think that this will be the case.
- Dominic Gillan clears out the river every 2 years, so we are currently maintaining it.
- The Department of the Marine/OPW have investigated the flood protection at the seafront and have informed us that we don't need to maintain it currently.
- The OPW are very happy that the Scheme will work and feel that the works recommended for Bray Bridge are necessary.
- We have never been told that funding is guaranteed for the Scheme, but we know that Bray is high on the list for the OPW. Public money is short and I believe that the OPW will want to exploit private funding if it is available to them.
- An Bord Pleanála have asked us for copies of the Wallingford report and have posted it to people who have objected to the scheme.
- We got approval for Client Representation. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government have since instructed us to seek an 8% reduction in consultants' fees. We are negotiating with the consultant on the price.
- I am confident that the OPW will fund the Scheme and that it will happen in the short term. All we are awaiting is approval by An Bord Pleanála.

It was then decided to take Item 7 on the Agenda next, (To Discuss The Bray Recycling Centre) as due to the Civic Reception being held from 9.00pm, the meeting would be shorter than is usual. For ease of reading, these minutes follow the layout of the Agenda as circulated.

4. To Discuss The Recent Announcement by Schering Plough Regarding the Planned Closure of the Bray Facility

Due to time constraints, this Agenda Item was not addressed.

5. To Discuss The Draft Litter Bye Laws

Due to time constraints, this Agenda Item was not addressed.

6. To Discuss Amendments to the Byelaws for Placing of Skips on Public Roads (Copy Previously Circulated)

Due to time constraints, this Agenda Item was not addressed.

7. To Discuss The Bray Recycling Centre

The members raised the following points:

- [Councillor John Byrne] I propose that this item be put on the Agenda for the May meetings.
- On 27th March, the Government made the decision regarding staff in the public sector and the renewal of fixed term contracts. We want to reverse this decision and make the people in the Recycling Centre full time.
- This is a political decision, it is up to the Minister of Finance to reverse it. I will raise this matter at the Wicklow County Council meeting next week. I hope that Bray Town Council and Wicklow County Council along with Eddie Sheehy [the County Manager] will make a strong case to the Minister of Finance.
- It is a fabulous facility and has a great team of workers. We need to secure their jobs and their futures.
- [Councillor John Byrne] I propose that we ask the Minister to reverse this and make a special case.
- [Councillor Anne Ferris] I second Councillor Byrne.
- I would like to congratulate the workers in the Recycling Centre. They provide a great service. They won an award for the service they provide. I know the centre won't close but we need to keep the jobs. The staff have a good rapport with the community.
- I proposed the Recycling Centre and Joe Behan seconded it. It was passed by two votes. It is a great service and a big success. The Minister for the Environment at the time Dick Roche put a lot of money into this Centre. The success of it is down to the type of staff we have. As a member of Wicklow County Council I also support it. We need to keep the staff up there.
- I opened the Recycling Centre as Leas Cathaoirleach. We will never have workers like those that work in the Centre. The Centre won't close – that is not the issue. Jobs are the issue. This came from the cutbacks the Government has made. I support Councillor Byrne's resolution. Let's use our influence. What are we going to do, will we send a letter?
- This Circular went to all Councils. Councils are making a case to the Minister – are Wicklow County Council doing so?
- This directive from the Minister of Finance is for the whole country not just Bray.
- A large part of the funding for the Centre comes from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. €1million in funding has been drawn down from a figure of €1.1million. Surely the €100,000 can go someway topaying staffing costs?
- The Minister of the Environment is working on concessions from the Minister of Finance regarding contract staff. It is not up to the Ministers to tell the County Manager how to manage staff. This is a front line service. It is not up to the Minister to micro-manage Local Government.
- A Local Authority should manage themselves – not the Minister of Finance. The Government view Local Authorities as a problem.
- Local Government means governing locally.
- I ask that we do all that we can, particularly the Wicklow County Council Councillors. As far as I know, the County Manager has not met with the staff of the Recycling Centre. It is important that he do so.
- The Public Service is getting a hard time lately. An example of how well it works is the Recycling Centre. The staff are enthusiastic, dedicated and innovative. This can not be said of all public servants. The people of Bray love the Recycling Centre.

- I urge the County Manager and the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council and Bray Town Council to make representations to keep these people in their jobs. If they are made redundant, the cost will be €100,000, €20,000 per person. There is also the social cost.
- The rent on the Centre is €1,000 per day and has been set for the next three years. Who made the decision to pay this? The rent is too high. I want a response on this.
- The County Council has provided money in their Budget to pay for this service, it is essential that the County Manager makes a case. The staff are important and are trained.
- We have a top notch centre evidenced by the award received. We need to maintain front line services. The County Demand provides services in this town such as the Recycling Centre. Wicklow County Council have an obligation to the people of the town to ensure that the service doesn't change. The Temporary Contracts indicate Wicklow County Council view the Centre as temporary.
- I voted against the Centre at the time, because it was only a three year lease. I have always wanted a permanent premises. I am glad that we are not losing the Centre but am sad that jobs will be lost. I urge people to do what they can to keep these jobs safe.
- This Council is fully supportive of the staff. It is not just a Recycling Centre, it is also a community centre. I've written to the Minister of the Environment as Cathaoirleach and a Green Party Councillor on this matter.
- The next Council will have to be more proactive in creating jobs for people. I believe recycling is a growth industry. It is a green collar job.

Mr. Des O'Brien, Town Manager, informed the members of the following:

- Waste is a function of Wicklow County Council. I don't have any answers regarding the lease.
- I am aware of the Circular from the Department of Finance, it is on their website. It states clearly that any exceptions have to be sanctioned by the Minister of Finance. Wicklow County Council are constrained by this.
- These are difficult times. The Local Government Fund is down by 3%, Road Grants have been reduced by €5million. We are obliged to adhere to diktats from Central Government.

Councillor John Byrne then asked the Town Clerk to write to the County Manager on behalf of the elected representatives asking him to do everything possible to save the jobs of the Recycling Centre workers. He then requested that this item is kept on the Agenda for the May meetings.

8. To Discuss The Schedule of Council Meetings for June 2009

Due to time constraints, this Agenda Item was not addressed.

9. Reports and Recommendations

Due to time constraints, this Agenda Item was not addressed.

10. Notices of Motion

Due to time constraints, this Agenda Item was not addressed.

11. Correspondence

Due to time constraints, this Agenda Item was not addressed.

12. Any Other Business

Due to time constraints, this Agenda Item was not addressed.

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This concluded the meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
TOWN CLERK

Dated: _____