

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 13th October, 2009 at 7.30 p.m.**

Present: Councillor John Ryan, Cathaoirleach
Councillor John Byrne
Councillor Eugene Finnegan
Councillor Mick Glynn
Councillor David Grant
Councillor Ronan McManus
Councillor Rossa Murray
Councillor Ciaran O'Brien
Councillor Tracy O'Brien
Councillor Pat Vance
Councillor Sarah Wray

Also present: Mr. Des O'Brien, Director of Services
Ms. Christine Flood, Town Clerk
Mr. Sean O'Neill, Town Engineer
Mr. Peter Brennan, Bray Area Partnership
Ms. Olwyn Dixon, Little Bray Family Resource & Development Centre
Mr. Jim O'Brien of Bray Travellers Community Development Group
Ms. Anita Carroll of the St. Fergal's Resource Centre
Ms. Niamh Wogan, Little Bray Family Resource & Development Centre

Not In Attendance: Councillor John Brady

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Monthly Meeting dated 8th September, 2009

Councillor John Byrne proposed confirmation of the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of 8th September, 2009 and Councillor Rossa Murray seconded the proposal.

2. To Consider Adoption of the Draft Litter Management Bye-Laws 2009

The Town Clerk informed the members that clarification was requested regarding premises providing litter receptacles. This matter was raised at the Litter Task Force. She stated that in the near future, Bray Town Council will write to the owners of premises to request that they provide receptacles for cigarettes etc, which is one of the biggest littering issues, subject to the Bye-Laws being adopted. The fast food premises are co-operating with Bray Town Council in addressing the issue of littering. There has been a change in Section 3; Section 3.5 states: *'The occupier of a premises where any defacement by writing or other marks (graffiti) has been carried out shall if required by an authorised person, arrange for the removal of any defacement or writing of any marks at the occupier's own cost.'* There is no provision for appeal, however any person aggrieved can of course appeal as they do currently where litter fines etc are issued. In relation to the query regarding weeds on footpaths etc. this is not covered under the Litter Acts.

The members raised the following points:

- Does Section 3.5 relate to private houses? Are people liable to clean them?
- I am concerned that an appeals process is not in the Bye-Laws. For Bray Town Council to be judge and jury cannot be constitutionally correct. A member of An Garda Síochána can be an Authorised Officer. This will give them power to instruct persons to remove graffiti. These people are victims of vandalism. There has to be an appeals procedure. They should be able to appeal to a higher authority.
- These people are being targeted by vandalism. An Garda Síochána can demand that you paint over it. If you do not, you are committing an offence. Persons could be brought to court over this.
- I got an email from a resident who videoed youths graffitiing, he will give it to me. How will these people be prosecuted? Will the parents pay to paint over this? There is other graffiti in the area that has the same type of paint used also.

- I would ask people to report these matters to An Garda Síochána. There have been convictions in Dun Laoghaire.
- [Cathaoirleach John Ryan] We are introducing a monthly walk around the town, where myself, the Town Clerk and the Town Engineer will highlight issues that need to be addressed.

The Town Clerk informed the members of the following:

- Domestic dwellings are not subject to the tenets of Section 3.5.
- All fines by Local Authorities can be appealed at court to the judge.
- An Garda Síochána have powers within the Litter Act. They are considered Authorised Persons under this Act. They have more powers than the Litter Wardens do. I would also like to draw your attention to Section 3.11, which states: *'Nothing in these Bye-Laws shall be construed as diminishing person's statutory responsibilities under other statutes.'*
- An Garda Síochána spend very little time enforcing Bye-Laws. They would not normally become involved in matters, unless asked by Bray Town Council. The only exception to this is if the graffiti refers to a particular member of An Garda Síochána.
- The video of persons graffitiing is a case for An Garda Síochána. They have been very proactive regarding this and have built up a database of taglines. It is sometimes difficult to prosecute if the persons involved are very young. In cases like this, they usually refer to a Juvenile Liaison Officer (JLO) and deal with offenders in this manner.
- Bray Town Council has powers under the Litter Act. The effects of these bye-laws is to refine those powers for the town of Bray and to help make people aware of their responsibilities.

The Town Clerk called for a vote on the motion and the Councillors voted in the following manner:

To Adopt the Draft Bye-Laws For The Prevention & Control of Litter Management

	For	Against
Councillor John Brady	Absent	Absent
Councillor John Byrne	✓	
Councillor Eugene Finnegan	✓	
Councillor Mick Glynn	✓	
Councillor David Grant	✓	
Councillor Ronan McManus	✓	
Councillor Rossa Murray	✓	
Councillor Ciaran O'Brien	✓	
Councillor Tracy O'Brien	✓	
Councillor John Ryan	✓	
Councillor Pat Vance	*	*
Councillor Sarah Wray	✓	
Total	10	0

* Councillor Pat Vance was not present when the vote was called.

The Town Clerk deemed the motion to be carried.

3. To Receive A Deputation from Bray Partnership Limited

Mr. Peter Brennan of Bray Area Partnership (BAP) thanked the Cathaoirleach and members for the opportunity to present to them.

He informed the members of the following:

- The purpose of this presentation is to provide details of how we bring value to the area and the work we do.
- Four companies are engaged in work at different levels – state, area and local level.

Ms. Olwyn Dixon of the Little Bray Family Resource & Development Centre informed the members of the following:

- Little Bray Family Resource & Development Centre was established in 1986 and is based in Fassaroe estate. We work at a neighbourhood level and target the Little Bray area with specific focus on local authority estates.
- We report to a range of funding authorities, including the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and FÁS.
- We work with local education providers to ensure access to further educational opportunities. We have had persons interested in Special Needs Assisting and Youth Work Studies, who had not completed their Junior Cert, which is a requirement for employment opportunities with the Department of Education. We arranged for these people to sit their Junior Certs and they then progressed onto the Special Needs Assisting and Youth Work Studies courses.
- Local people can access further education opportunities and enhance their employment opportunities.
- In 2008 over 5,000 people accessed our services.
- We secured funding for the refurbishment of the Little Bray Community Centre.
- We have a CE scheme operating, which 40 people have availed of.
- We work closely with young people also, such as the Fassaroe Junior Estate Management Committee. We also have a 'Copping On' programme, which educates people of the consequences of their behaviour.
- We also work closely with the HSE, RAPID, the Drugs Task Force and the local Community Development Programmes.

Mr. Jim O'Brien of Bray Travellers Community Development Group informed the members of the following:

- Bray Travellers Community Development Group was established in 1993 in response to the needs of Local Travellers. Our target group live mainly between Shankill and Kilcoole.
- We are responsible to a number of funders and agencies including FÁS, the HSE, Pobal and the Companies Office.
- We have a traveller specific drug initiative. Substance misuse was silent in the Traveller community until recently, but with the provision of services and accurate information, these issues are being addressed.
- One of our key areas of work is the Traveller Women's Training Programme called 'Beoirs', a traveller word meaning women.
- It is often noted in development work that you don't just educate a woman you educate the whole family. 140 individual FETAC Certs have been achieved.
- We have 6 members of the travelling community on our Board of Management.

Mr. Peter Brennan of Bray Area Partnership informed the members of the following:

- Bray Area Partnership has been 14 years in existence. We were established in 1995 under a Government initiative whereby different companies operating through the country were merged.
- Bray is one of the only areas where an urban company exists outside Dublin and the main cities.
- We have representatives from the community and voluntary sector, from statutory bodies and elected members of the local authorities. We have over 50 members in total.
- We run a number of support programmes, for example, Community Development, Education, Employment and Enterprise Services.
- One of our functions is to look at local needs and try to address these needs. We are answerable to a similar set of bodies as the others with regard to our budget and results achieved.
- There are a number of internal and external procedures followed with regard to how we do our work.
- Bray is one of 20 areas in the country that has a local employment service. We provide information to people and work with a number of local contact points in the area. In 2008, we registered 300 job seekers and 100 of these progressed into employment.
- We also run an education and progression fund in addition to the normal employment service work. We are working with FÁS and the Department of Social Welfare and expect to support 1,200 people in a year. We try to have a comprehensive approach in supporting people into employment.

- Regarding Enterprise Development, we provide support to individuals who want to become self-employed. In 2008, 90 people availed of this support. We also run a pre-enterprise training programme. Greater than 30 people engaged in the programme.
- Community business – we have Easi Cab and also Homelink, who provide services to older people in their homes. There is also a childcare service, which 30 children are availing of. We will also be involved in the Warmer Homes initiative.

Ms. Anita Carroll of the St. Fergal's Resource Centre informed the members of the following:

- We are not a Partnership Group, but a limited company. We are 21 years old and were established by the St. Vincent de Paul.
- We are accountable to the local community and various bodies and employ 32 people, 25 of whom are CE participants. Our target group are unemployed, lone parents, women, men early school leavers, children and young people
- We are represented at a National, Regional and local level i.e. JPC's, RAPID Programme, County Development Board, Childcare Committees.
- The young people who avail of our life skills programmes make positive choices and are directed away from the drugs culture, which surrounds them. They learn the consequences of involvement in crime and anti social activities
- The children who attend our Crèche develop better social skills and are more able to adjust to pre school
- The children who avail of our homework club are more confident in presenting homework to class. They have a better chance to participate equally with other children in a school setting.
- Women's Issues & Welfare Rights Services deals with persons affected by domestic abuse. It affects 1 in 5 women in Ireland. Our service provides support to those experiencing physical, emotional, sexual and financial abuse. In the first 9 months of this year 37 women have sought our support.
- Working together with local community groups, we lobbied to have Bray designated a Drugs Task Force and Young Persons Facilities and Services Fund area. The Drugs Task Force educates people regarding the consequences of drug use. The Young People Facilities & Services Fund raised funding for the Loreto School sports hall.
- 20% of the calls under the Dial to Stop Dealing initiative resulted in concrete evidence of drug dealing in estates.
- We have a 'Headlamps' initiative in the National Schools, which provides social and emotional support to children who have addicts in the family.
- I would like to take this opportunity to invite you all to an open day on 22nd October from 12-2pm in Seomra in Carlisle House.

Ms. Olwyn Dixon thanked the members for the opportunity to present and added that she hoped there would be continued support from Bray Town Council as most of the target groups are living in local authority estates.

The members thanked Ms. Dixon, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Brennan and Ms. Carroll for their presentations and raised the following points:

- I know of the work the deputation are doing. They help with disadvantaged and marginalised groups. I would like to pay tribute to them in providing employment and helping find employment. We have representatives on this Council to monitor the work of Bray Area Partnership. You have an impressive list of achievements and a lot of community and voluntary groups have benefited from your work.
- What progress has there been on the provision of an enterprise centre? Bray Town Council should work closely with you on this.
- Have things improved over the years? Can we do things better? Everyone will face a lower standard of living due to cuts and it won't be easy. Are you looking at doing things differently?
- There is a vast discrepancy in the groups before us and they are not equal. The three Community Development Programmes have put a lot of time and effort into this. These organisations are invaluable and are delivering core services to the community.
- Members were circulated with a letter by community activists containing allegations that Bray Area Partnership is replicating work already being done by others. I would like to put this to Bray Area Partnership. There is huge replication of services e.g. childcare services, youth services, and employment services. Many are feeding through Bray Area Partnership. The report mentions 'worked with', 'supported'. What has it delivered? It is proposed to merge the

CDPs with Partnership. What can Bray Town Council do to support the Community Development Programme? We have to support these delivery services in the town.

- St. Fergal's Resource Centre has been very successful, as has Bray Travellers Community Development Group and Little Bray Family Resource & Development Centre. We can see the work that they are all doing on the ground and the people who have benefited.
- This is not the case for Bray Area Partnership. There is huge duplication here. There seems to be significant funding for BAP, with mention of 50 people working for them. This is more than work for Bray Town Council. I'm not sure how much funding BAP get – I heard a figure of €7million over 3 years. Are the people working in BAP on contracts?
- FÁS provide people and education in the Community Resource Centres. There is a County Enterprise Board in Wicklow. It is not acceptable to have one organisation filtering funding to other groups. This funding should go to the people who are providing the service. I have reservations regarding the working of Partnership.
- I would like to complement the good work done by these organisations and the people in them. I accepted the nomination to Bray Area Partnership, even though I had served for four years previously, as no one else wanted to take the position. I am saddened that we have no Enterprise Centre. €920,000 was offered to this town for an Enterprise Centre and we lost it.
- I have not been invited to a single meeting as representative for this Council. We do not need to wait for the AGM. What is the total budget of Bray Area Partnership and how much is spent on administration costs?
- Can Peter give us two activities that BAP does and is successful at?

Ms. Niamh Wogan Little Bray Family Resource & Development Centre informed the members of the following:

- The CDPs are here with BAP as four groups. The focus for us was what we are about.
- Things have improved and there is real evidence that it has improved. Every adult we've met wants to do the best for their children. We do grinds and also provide adult education.
- We are working closely with RAPID and FÁS to upskill people to create a culture of education.
- We are not merging with BAP we have been told this week that the CDPs will be disbanded in January. We have 40 FÁS CE schemes and 12 staff who will be out of work. We have not been told officially of this yet.
- The youth building and resource centre in Fassaroe will be no more. You will have local authority estates at the position they were 20 years ago.

Mr. Peter Brennan informed the members of the following:

- Partnership was involved with the provision of an Enterprise Centre and a committee was put together. We negotiated with Cosgraves and got the site. We also negotiated with Enterprise Ireland. Planning permission was not obtained and the project fell. Partnership is not to blame for the demise of this.
- Bray Chamber had mentioned plans to sell their building to provide an Enterprise Centre with an underground car park. We are working with Bray Town Council to develop an Enterprise Centre. As far as I know, no money is available to us. Enterprise Ireland was very generous and gave us a lot of time to get the project up and running. BAP did all it could to pursue the provision of an Enterprise Centre.
- 50 people are involved with Partnership in a different structure. The majority are voluntary.
- Our annual report states that 25 people are directly employed full and part-time. We also employ people on behalf of other organisations.
- Our annual budget tends to fluctuate, but in our 2008 Annual Report the budget is stated as €2.1million. Our budget comes from various funding bodies, and is strictly monitored.
- Our administration costs cover all overheads including rates, utility bills, furniture etc and is less than 15% of our budget.

The members responded:

- We have been told that the CDPs will be gone by 1st January next. It is remiss of this Council to walk out of here tonight and not help the CDPs. I suggest that they meet with Bray Town Council to discuss this and put a deputation to the Minister.
- Everyone wants to see this good work continuing. There are a lot of disadvantaged people in the town. It is our duty to support these people.
- If the CDPs will be finished in January, will BAP be wound up also?

- [Peter Brennan] No, we have had no communication from the Minister. All local groups are under threat however.

Ms. Anita Carroll thanked the members for the opportunity to present and informed the members that a position paper was contained in the information packs handed out. She added that unless the CDPs got support, they would be dissolved.

4. Reports and Recommendations

Seafront Playground Report

A comprehensive report and recommendation from the Senior Executive Engineer was circulated to the members with the Agenda.

The Town Clerk informed the members that no submissions were received during the public consultation on the proposed project and that the recommendation of the SEE was the approval of the project without amendment.

The members raised the following points:

- How much money will the traders raise?
- I welcome this playground, however there is no straight run in. I suggest that the entrance be moved to facilitate this.
- I am concerned regarding the automatic public convenience. Is this the best location for it? When it was on the Main Street, it was seldom used. It will be quite expensive to install and maintain. I am reluctant to get the council involved in funding like this.
- I am not a fan of the proposed location. This went on display in August; it should have been brought before us before it went to public consultation. This is not the best location. It should be placed further north.
- I disagree; it is best to have the playground in a busy area.
- I feel that the location is good, reserve the north end of the beach for the funfair.
- The age profile is from 2-6 year olds – other children won't be able to use this playground. Can we review the age profile and perhaps provide equipment for older children?
- That is a good point. Grade the equipment to a higher age. It is very significant that there have been no objections. We should support this in a wholehearted way. Ongoing maintenance has to be put in place also.
- What are the opening times? Will the playground be supervised? We need to cover ourselves regarding accidents etc.

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

- We can incorporate the request to have the path moved from the north side to have a straight run in from the road to the promenade.
- We have no problems considering an older age profile for the playground. I don't think each piece of equipment will need to go to public consultation.
- Bray Town Council will maintain the playground.
- We have the automated public convenience in storage and won't have to enter into a new contract for a few years.
- We have not discussed hours of operation. There will be a fence around the playground.

The Town Clerk called for a vote on the matter and the Councillors voted in the following manner:

To Proceed With The Provision Of A New Playground At Bray Seafrost

	For	Against
Councillor John Brady	Absent	Absent
Councillor John Byrne	✓	
Councillor Eugene Finnegan	✓	
Councillor Mick Glynn	✓	
Councillor David Grant	✓	
Councillor Ronan McManus	✓	
Councillor Rossa Murray	✓	
Councillor Ciaran O'Brien	✓	
Councillor Tracy O'Brien	✓	
Councillor John Ryan	✓	
Councillor Pat Vance	*	*
Councillor Sarah Wray	✓	
Total	10	0

* Councillor Pat Vance was not present when the vote was called.

The Town Clerk deemed the motion to be carried.

Drainage Status Report

A comprehensive report from the Senior Executive Engineer was circulated to the members with the Agenda.

The Town Engineer informed the members of the following:

- We have carried out CCTV inspections of the sewers and pipes on the Boghall Road. We have no results back yet.
- We have made an application to the Office of Public Works for funding for drainage. I am not sure if we will be awarded any.
- The Wicklow County Assessment of Needs works under the aegis of the Environmental SPC will conduct works to the Bray sewerage catchment area. This has been identified as helping to alleviate some flooding.

The members raised the following points:

- A number of houses were flooded on the Boghall Road. I welcome the works at Glen na Smol and Wheatfield. I hope that we get ongoing reports regarding the progress on works undertaken to prevent flooding.
- Regarding the works that need to be carried out Schering Plough and SuperQuinn land to address the risk of flooding at the rear of Mountainview. Can we force them to do so, or will Bray Town Council carry out the works needed and recoup the costs? Residents of the area are of the view that the flooding was caused by works conducted on these lands.
- There was also flooding in Seacrest. Will the works at Loreto Grange stop future flooding?
- Oldcourt Avenue was also flooded, will this flood again?
- There was a threat of a flash flood in Oldcourt three weeks ago. The response of the Town Engineer and staff was very quick. I welcome the work done in the area. A number of drains are feeding into the foul sewers, not storm drains – is this part of the problem?
- Good work has been carried out on the Swan River. A bit more needs to be done beyond the bridge. Can the Town Engineer put a request or present a scheme to the OPW regarding drainage works for the run off from Bray Head?
- At the meeting with the residents of the area, concerns were raised that the works on the Swan River would move the problems down to Giltspur Brook. Can we follow up on this?
- With regard to the storm relief sewer at Sutton Villas, please do not let these works slow down the reinstatement of the bank and the building of the houses.

The Town Engineer informed the members of the following:

- Schering Plough conducted their works in accordance with the design criteria of the time. We determined that the floods in August 2008 were a 1 in 100 year event.
- One of the reasons Mountainview flooded was due to the fact that the manhole on Schering Plough lands was bolted down. The manhole on SuperQuinn lands was not. The manhole will be raised slightly and bolted down.
- The works on Loreto Grange are not sufficient to ensure that repeat flooding in Seacrest will not occur. We are still working on this.
- We got CCTV footage of the drains at Boghall Cottages. We have to do some more surveying and calculations regarding the width and height of the stream. There are problems at the entry point of not enough capacity.
- If we can ensure that water gets into the stream, we are better off. The CCTV footage on the pipes nearest the river is not back yet.
- The surface water at Oldcourt is designed to flow into the foul sewer. We could possibly put in an attenuation system. We have improved the outflow at Boghall Bridge.
- We have issue with gullies sometimes and sometimes the pipes are full. We have done a lot of work on cleaning the gullies.
- We have made an application to the OPW regarding the Bray Head run off.
- Regarding the worries of the residents that the problems will travel downstream to Giltspur Brook, the levels of the houses to the river are not as critical as in Glen na Smol. The water will flow away.
- We try to carry out a systematic approach. There are 3,000 gullies in the town and we try to make sure that those in strategic locations are attended to more often than those draining small areas.

The members raised the following points:

- There are gullies on the Main Street have grass growing out of them. We had a suction sweeper. Where is it now? We seem to be hiring one in. Do Wicklow have our old one and have they paid us for it?

The Town Clerk informed the members that Bray Town Council were suffering continual mechanical problems with the suction sweeper and had to hire one in for reliability purposes. Our suction sweeper is with Wicklow County Council as a back up sweeper. They have a full maintenance crew, we don't.

Local Policing Fora

The Town Clerk circulated a copy of the guidelines for Local Policing Fora and informed the members of that Bray Town Council had been requested to set up a Local Policing Forum. These fora are very similar to the Joint Policing Committees. Other sectoral representatives can be invited onto the forum and the Town Clerk suggested asking the HSE to nominate a representative as Bray Town Council liaison with them on a regular basis. She then suggested that once the LPF is set up that it and the JPC combine and work as one unit.

She concluded by stating that all elected representatives of Bray Town Council are members of the JPC and asked for one nomination to the LPF.

The members raised the following points:

- Would it be possible to have the Cathaoirleach of the day on the LPF? What is the term of the LPF?
- If the Chairman is able to attend the meetings, that's fine, but if the Chair can't attend we should be able to send the Vice Chair or other members.

The members agreed to this.

The Town Clerk informed the members that the guidelines state that the term to be served on the LPF is no longer than two years. The term of the LPF is for the lifetime of the Council now sitting i.e. until the next Local Elections.

Public Consultation Re: Taxi Rank

The Town Clerk informed the members that Bray Town Council is proposing to go to public consultation on an evening taxi rank (outside the operating hours of the restricted parking scheme) on Strand Road. This will be advertised in the coming weeks.

The members raised the following points:

- Where is the proposed location?
- We should have it clearly marked that it is an evening taxi rank only. We don't want a situation whereby taxis are taking up parking spaces during the day. I suggest that the plan comes to us before going to public consultation.
- We should not go to public consultation without being informed of the location. If we don't agree on the location, we should not go to public consultation.
- Can we have documentation at the next meeting? We could also ask the traders, taxi drivers etc about the location.

The Town Clerk informed the members that details of the proposed location of the night time taxi rank would be circulated in advance of the public consultation process.

5. Notices of Motion

420. Notice of Motion In The Name of Councillors Sarah Wray, Mick Glynn & John Ryan (01/09/09)

That Bray Town Council would consider being the single local authority administration for the Southern Cross Road.

Report

Wicklow County Council is the main local authority with responsibilities for the Bray Southern Cross area.

It is the fire authority, building control authority, water services authority, and waste authority for the whole area. It is also the road authority for the Southern Cross Road (a regional road) and for those housing estates in its' functional area (ie Swanbrook, Earlscroft, Hollybrook Park, Oakglen, Belmont and Riddlesford).

In the Bray Town Council functional area for roads is the Bray Business Park, Deepdales, Giltspur Heights and Cois Sleibhe.

The planning authority functions are similarly divided.

Thus it would not be possible for Bray to be the sole local authority administering functions in the Bray Southern Cross area without a boundary extension.

The members raised the following points:

- Over the last decade the Southern Cross Road has been neglected by Bray Town Council and Wicklow County Council. There are no shops and no proper landscaping. Bray Town Council need to take a more proactive role regarding landscaping, traffic management etc.
- There was a wall on the Southern Cross Road that was graffitied and the complaint was bounced back and forth between Wicklow County Council and Bray Town Council.
- Another example is the road sweeping. The driver cleans Giltspur Heights, but not the Southern Cross Road.
- I believe that businesses along the road should contribute to the upkeep.
- I support this Motion. There are three planning authorities looking after Bray. We should expand the boundary. It is in the interests of the town to co-ordinate with the other local authorities. It is vital to expand the town boundary.
- The Southern Cross Road is one of the busiest roads in the town and it is getting poor service. People who have businesses up there are getting a bad return on their rates, which are coming into Bray Town Council. We should have dialogue with Wicklow County Council on this matter. We get very little return on the County Demand.

- There have been contractors working up there who have done the works in an appalling manner. This is an unacceptable situation.
- The management of works in the area has been dismal and the reinstatement has been dreadful. The whole road is neglected, we should take this in charge ourselves. If we are not going to do this, we should push Wicklow County Council to look after this road properly.

The Town Clerk informed the members that she had conducted some research on a boundary extension for the MPC in the past year. She agreed that a boundary extension seemed to be the route to take. She stated that it might be possible to extend the boundary in other areas of Bray also. She remarked that she will give the details regarding a boundary extension to the members and will issue a report on the matter also.

6. Correspondence

The Cathaoirleach John Ryan welcomed the decision by An Bord Pleanála regarding the Dublin Road Widening Scheme. This scheme will involve the removal of the Wilford Roundabout and will have 1km of dual carriageway to Ravenswell School. This should help improve traffic flow. He added that this is a key strategic element of the design and hoped that An Bord Pleanála will grant permission to Pizarro for the development on the Golf Club Lands.

Letter From Bray Chamber Regarding Luas B2 Line

Town Clerk read out a letter received from Mr. John Nolan, President of Bray & District Chamber. The letter stated 'Bray Chamber has been very active in the process whereby in 2007 the RPA selected a route into the town of Bray as its preferred route for the Luas B2 Extension. Recent media reports suggest that, although Transport 21 is still within the Programme for Government, the Department of Transport has shelved its plan to bring the Luas into the town. Bray Chamber contacted the RPA who have confirmed the reports. It seems that the perception within the RPA and the Department of Transport is that the extension to Bray, in their eyes, is still tied in with the development of the Fassaroe lands, which is still a greenfield site and offers no immediate prospect of demand or footfall. They seem to feel that this project can be put on the shelf because there is no immediate prospect of development of the Fassaroe site....

...Bray Chamber feels that all pressure should be brought to bear upon the RPA and Department of Transport to give a definite commitment to the project to bring the Luas into the town of Bray...If we can succeed in decoupling the Fassaroe part of the project from the immediate requirement for Bray town, then we feel there is a definite prospect that, with a reduced capital cost, the extension to Bray can proceed....

....We would ask Bray Town Council to also write into the RPA and to make similar representations that all possible efforts be made to move forward with the planned extension to Bray at the present time.'

The Town Manager informed the members of the following:

- Myself, the Town Clerk and County Manager met with the RPA about two weeks ago. The scheme is delayed. It is not taken off the list.
- Initially the timeframe for delivery of Luas was 2015. When we were at the design stage, Cosgraves and Fassaroe and Pizarro felt the scheme could be put ahead of other schemes. Due to the economy, capital schemes have been delayed.
- The RPA have assured us that this is still on the cards. They are committed to the Luas extension.
- There have been delays at Cherrywood, but the scheme design is still going ahead.
- For the Luas to come to Bray, it would need to travel down the Old Connaught Avenue. This is dependent on the Wilford Junction taking traffic from both sides, there is only access from one side at present. We can't have traffic and the Luas coming down Old Connaught Avenue. The NRA are holding this aspect of the scheme up.
- The RPA are getting development levies and these are helping to fund the Luas.
- The County Manager from Wicklow and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown intend meeting with the RPA.
- The developers of the land at Fassaroe are still working on the design. We should be optimistic, the Luas may be a few years late, but it will come to Bray.

The members raised the following points:

- The Luas is coming to Bray. Under the Programme for Government, a site valuation tax will be introduced. This will encourage developers to develop what they have been given planning permission for.

- We will have the best transport system in the country. I hope the Luas will go as far as the DART station. It might take longer but it will be here. I am fully behind this.
- What is the best way to lobby for this?

The Town Manager stated that the main thing is to remove blockages to the design process. We need to implement a plan for the Wilford Junction. The County Managers will negotiate with the RPA. By improving the junction, Old Connaught Avenue will become a local road and the Luas will be able to travel down it. There is no date yet for the meeting between the County Managers and the RPA. It will possibly be in the next 2 – 3 weeks.

The Cathaoirleach asked for a report on the matter, once the meeting has been convened.

7. Any Other Business

The Cathaoirleach informed the members of a discussion held during the Protocol meeting, whereby it was agreed that the second meeting of Bray Town Council in November (10th November) will, in fact, be a workshop and held in Civic Offices from 7.30pm. The second meeting of Bray Town Council in December (8th December) will be a Strategic Meeting.

* * * *

This concluded the meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
TOWN CLERK

Dated: _____