

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting Of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 20th April, 2010 at 7.30 p.m.**

Present:

- Councillor John Ryan, Cathaoirleach**
- Councillor John Brady**
- 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**

Councillor Christopher Fox, Bray electoral area
Councillor Barry Nevin, Bray electoral area

Also present:

- Mr. Des O'Brien, Director of Services**
- Ms. Christine Flood, Town Clerk**
- Mr. Sean O'Neill, Town Engineer**
- Mr. Sean Quirke, Director of Services Transportation and Roads**
- Mr. Frank Clarke, Senior Engineer, Transportation and Roads**
- Mr. Nigel O'Neill, Senior Project Manager Strategic Planning,
National Roads Authority**
- Mr. Alan O'Brien, AKON Consulting**

As the meeting opened, the Cathaoirleach and members extended Votes of Sympathy to the families of the following:

- President Lech Kaczynsk and the victims of the air tragedy
- Mrs Mary Conway, mother of Chief Superintendent Thomas Conway
- Mr. Ukio Gotho father of Mrs Kazue O'Brien and father in law of Councillor Ciaran O'Brien
- Mrs Margaret Ivory
- Ms Maeve Dempsey

Councillor John Brady also proposed a vote of sympathy to Councillor Rossa Murray and family on the death of his grandmother Bridget Murray.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Strategic Meeting dated 9th February 2010

Councillor John Byrne proposed confirmation of the minutes of the Strategic Meeting of 9th February, 2010 and Councillor Ciaran O'Brien seconded the proposal.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting dated 2nd March 2010

Councillor Ciaran O'Brien proposed confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 2nd March, 2010 and Councillor John Brady seconded the proposal.

3. To Receive A Presentation from the National Roads Authority On The Proposed Changes To The N11 And Killarney Road Interchange

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Councillors Christopher Fox and Councillor Barry Nevin, Wicklow County Council members for the Bray Electoral Area.

Mr. Nigel O'Neill, NRA, outlined the problem thus: there are multiple factors between the M50 merge and Kilmacanogue. Due to congestion the N11 southbound is only capable of handling 3,500 vehicles per hour, a good road should carry 4,000+ vehicles. Congestion leads to weaving, which in turn disrupts the flow and leads to phantom queues. Traffic coming on to the N11 is competing with the mainline flow.

He stated that the allocation available had to be expended in the current year. It was proposed to go to design and tendering in parallel with the Part 8, public consultation process

The NRA had appointed consultants AKON and Roughan O'Donovan to examine the problem.

Mr. Alan O'Brien of AKON explained their approach:

- Their objective was to maximise capacity on the N11.
- Data analysis and data microsimulation was carried out.
- A number of options were considered including speed limits and junction improvements.
- For Killarney Road interchange it is proposed to replace the Hollybrook Roundabout with a 4 way signalised junction, 3 lanes coming off the N11 southbound, two turning towards the Southern Cross Road and one lane heading towards Killarney Road.
- At the Kilcrouney Roundabout there are delays for traffic heading north. For this reason it is proposed to signalise this roundabout.
- Pedestrian crossings at both roundabouts are proposed.
- It is proposed to widen the southbound carriageway at Fassaroe and to push the merge lane slightly to the East. A device to detect congestion will be installed and with traffic signals will disperse the flow of traffic.
- A similar arrangement is proposed for Wilford.
- The result will be a smoother safer traffic flow.

The members raised the following points:

- A bus company uses the Killarney Road Roundabout as a terminus. Buses need to turn around the roundabout.
- This is really a white line exercise, when a flyover and structural changes are needed.
- Pedestrian traffic will add to delays.
- The NRA want to clear traffic off the N11 and add problems to Bray.
- The study area does not include Kilmacanogue, this is where the real problem lies. The location of the Topaz garage is totally inappropriate, it causes shockwaves back as far as the M50 merge.
- What are the benefits to Bray?
- I have no confidence in the NRA.
- There are delays on the Southern Cross Road, it is often difficult to exit estates.
- A lot of people, including pedestrians use the Topaz garage as there are no other shops close to the Southern Cross Road.
- What is the sense of putting 2 lanes into one lane.
- Has the design taken account of the proposed development of Fassaroe?
- A third lane on the N11 would solve the problem.
- Many of residents of estates off the Herbert Road drive down the Herbert Road on to the N11 and around the Killarney Road Roundabout to head north.
- Did the NRA lodge an objection to the development at Fassaroe?
- We did not get a detailed report in advance of the meeting.
- Attempts to free up the N11 will cause chaos in Bray.
- NRA is anti jobs and only interested in protecting their road.
- No morning impacts have been examined.
- As a member of Wicklow County Council, I won't support this.
- There seems to be a conflict between local and national priorities.
- It would be better if the NRA were to withdraw their objection to the Luas at Wilford as this would take thousands of cars off the road.
- I welcome the acknowledgement that there is a problem.
- What is the role of Bray Town Council?
- Kilmacanogue needed a lower speed limit due to bad design, a slip road to the rear of the garage would solve the problem.
- I would ask you to revise the plans and to come back to us.

Mr. Alan O'Brien, AKON responded:

- Addressing the congestion on the N11 will benefit Bray as it will alleviate congestion on the regional roads also.
- At the moment the Wilford, Fassaroe and Killarney Road merges all cause disruption on the N11.
- Buses can use the roundabout at Woodies to turn.
- Funding is not available for a third lane on the N11.
- This is a short-term solution.

Mr. Nigel O'Neill, NRA responded as follows:

- Reducing delay on the national and local arms of the roundabout is a win-win situation.
- Kilmacanogue is not part of this project. The NRA has been in contact with the Wicklow and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Managers about a longer-term project, which will involve Kilmacanogue.
- The Kilmacanogue study is also looking at all access to the N11, there may be scope for a service road.
- Department of Transport priorities are the inter urban routes and the Atlantic corridor.
- The proposals here today are short-term proposals which will cost circa €2 million.
- If we wait for the bigger scheme, it could take up to 10 years.
- I am not here to discuss planning.
- The NRA have not objected to the Luas, we have a track record of working with the RPA, for example at the Red Cow and at Ballymun.

Councillor Fox as Chair of the Bray Electoral Area Committee, clarified that he and Councillor Nevin agreed to come to the Bray Town Council meeting to listen to the presentation, as the next Bray electoral area meeting is not scheduled until the end of May.

Mr. Des O'Brien Town Manager stated that the RPA did not go ahead with the Railway Order as the NRA had issues with the Luas on Old Connaught Avenue. He added that this is a pre Part 8 Meeting and will not be presented to the full meeting of Wicklow County Council until the after the public consultation. He finished by saying that the final decision on the Part 8 will be made by the members of Wicklow County Council.

4. To Discuss Date for Annual General Meeting of Bray Town Council

Councillor John Byrne proposed that as the Cathaoirleach did not take up his position as Cathaoirleach until 30th June, 2009, that the Annual General Meeting should be held on the last Tuesday in June. The Town Clerk advised that this would require a change to the standing orders, the members agreed to this.

5. To Consider the Housing Progress Report

The members raised the following points:

Sutton Villas

- The residents are fed up with the condition of the place, the anti social behaviour.
- Bray Town Council needs to start taking action.
- There is no reason why the bank should not be reinstated and the footpath put back.
- I expect the Manager to take this seriously.
- The fence states that the area is closed by Order of Bray Town Council.
- This two-line report is not acceptable.
- I am amused that the contractor has arrived back on site just before the council meeting.
- I get more queries about this than any other issue.
- There are health and safety issues on the site.
- Act now get rid of the contractors.

The Town Engineer, Sean O'Neill informed the members that a letter has been sent to the contractor to advise that the council are considering determination of the contract. The contractor has ten days to act on this and it is likely that Bray Town Council will finish the work on the bank.

Cedar Court

- I welcome the fact that the NBA has carried out inspections.
- It is not acceptable to have these problems in a new development.
- When can we expect the problems to be rectified?

The Town Engineer responded that a local contractor has been hired to carry out a physical examination of the property.

Social Leasing

- I have serious concerns about social leasing, people can never aspire to purchase their homes, this will lead to a decline in communities and a lack of pride in their surroundings. It removes a sense of ownership.
- Can we have a report on social leasing?
- The Labour Party has requested an all-party meeting with the Minister to discuss this issue.

Miscellaneous

- Can we get a report on the horses in Ballywaltrim?
- There are wandering horses around the Southern Cross Road it is unfair on residents
- Can we get a report on the vacant affordable units, the council are doing nothing to progress this matter.
- The residents of Deerpark and Ard na Greine have requested assistance from Richard Sheridan to help set up a residents committee.
- The residents of Silverbridge halting Site moved in on condition that it would be refurbished, what is the position?

At this point the Chairperson proposed a time extension until 10.15pm. Councillor Tracey O'Brien seconded this.

The Town Clerk responded to the issues raised:

- We have had horses taken away to the pound on a number of occasions since the beginning of the year. It is an expensive process, we have expended our budget for control of horses but will continue to have horses taken away where there are safety issues.
- Bray Town Council has less than five affordable units. We are actively pursuing the sale of these units. I will request a report.
- I will ask the Estates Development Officer to progress the establishment of a committee for Deerpark/Ard na Greine.
- Our problem with Silverbridge is lack of resources. We do not have the personnel to assign to the job at present. We should have four engineers, we have had only three for over a year. Next week when the Town Engineer retires we will only have two. We will try to progress development of this site as soon as possible.
- The Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government has been in contact to advise that they are launching a major publicity drive to attract owners of properties for leasing. In spite of advertising, Wicklow County Council have had only 25 approaches. There are no vacant estates in Bray, I would not expect a major response to the advertising campaign for Bray.

6. To Consider Planning Matters

The Town Clerk reported that no planning files were requested.

The members raised the following points:

Planning File Reference 10/27

- The applicant has made an application for a third entrance on Putland Road. I object to this on safety grounds and the residents in the area are objecting.

Planning File Reference 10/16

- This is for a proposed development on empty site at Avondale Park. The existing residences in this area are bungalows. The residents favour development of the site but are objecting to the type of two storey house proposed.

Planning File Reference 10/02

- There is a request for further information. This house is boarded up, but there is a danger of children getting on to the site, it needs to be made secure.

Miscellaneous

- I want to raise the issue of an unauthorised development at Bray head where up to twenty stables are being constructed. Furthermore, people riding horses are using the Cliff Walk, this is very unsafe for other users.

The Town Clerk stated that she would follow up on these matters and informed the members that a letter had already issued regarding the use of horses on a footpath.

7. Nomination to the Eastern River Basin District Advisory Council

Councillor Ciaran O'Brien was nominated to this committee, this was proposed by Councillor Byrne and seconded by Councillor McManus.

8. To Discuss The Presentation Made By Bray Economic Think Tank

The members considered this issue to be too important to restrict to the time left. It was agreed that this should be the first item after confirmation of minutes on the next agenda. The Cathaoirleach requested that the Town Clerk do a report on what can be done in the short medium and long term.

The Town Manager advised that the members of the Think Tank made it clear that a Change Manager was considered to be very important, however there is a recruitment ban in place for Bray Town Council. Some of the members of the Think Tank have indicated willingness to contribute towards the employment of a Change Manager. He asked that the members give consideration to the make up of the steering committee.

It was agreed that discussion of this item would be the second item of the agenda of 11th May, 2010.

9. Reports and Recommendations

Litter Pickers

The Town Clerk made a recommendation that as Bray Town Council could not employ Litter Pickers due to the ban on recruitment, an allocation of €25,400 be made to Bray Tourism to allow Bray Tourism to engage Litter Pickers for the summer season.

The members approved the proposal.

Arts Grants Allocations

The Town Clerk read out the following report to the members:

At the Monthly meeting of Bray Town Council dated 9th October 2007, the members of Bray Town Council agreed to implement a new system for dealing with and allocating the Arts Grants Funding.

Following a recommendation by Ms Jenny Sherwin, Arts Officer, Wicklow County Council and approved by the Community Cultural Social & Environmental MPC that the money provided by Bray Town Council for grants under the Arts Act 1973 be allocated as follows:

- One Individual Artist Award
- One Arts Group/Organisation Award

*At the Budget Meeting of 12th January, 2010, the members agreed as a one off to allocate € 10,000 to Signal Arts to help with the acquisition of their building.
It was further agreed that €2,000 be allocated to Arts Act Grant Funding for 2010.*

The Arts Funding 2010 was advertised on the Councils website in February 2010.

One application was received under the Individual Artist Award for 2010. Three applications were received from Arts Groups/Organisations.

Ms. Jenny Sherwin, Arts Officer, Wicklow County Council and Ms. Christine Flood, Town Clerk assessed the applications under these headings.

As no individual artist met the criteria on this occasion, the total allocation of €2,000 was assigned to the Arts Groups/Organisations category.

Ms. Sherwin recommended that the funding for the Arts Groups/Organisations (value €2,000) be split as follows:

- Square One Theatre Group - € 1,500*
- Bray Arts - €500*

If the members of Bray Town Council are in agreement with Ms. Sherwin's recommendations, the awards will be distributed as recommended.

The members agreed with Ms. Sherwin's recommendations.

Town Development Plan

The Town Clerk confirmed that a report and timeline had been circulated to the members in advance of next week's workshop on the Town Development Plan.

Beechurst Drainage

The Town Clerk read out the following report from Liam Bourke, Senior Executive Engineer to the members:

A contractor has submitted a survey and quotation for the relining of sewers and reconstruction of manholes at Beechurst. The quotation for the works amounts to approximately €68,000. The works do not involve the construction of new sewers nor does it address all sewers where blockages have occurred. Access to manholes on the steep bank between two dwellings would continue to be a problem for normal maintenance.

As an alternative it is proposed to investigate the possibility of laying a new sewer along an alternative route in the public road and public open space. This would substantially improve access for future maintenance. However, due to the unusual house construction, site investigation work will have to be carried out to ensure that sewer connections can be provided to the new sewer. Subject to a satisfactory investigation and quotation, a new sewer would be the preferred option.

For the completion of investigations and carrying out works, a provision of €70,000 is required.

It is recommended that provision be made in the 2011 budget for these works.

Boghall Road Pedestrian Crossing

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

A short duration pedestrian count was carried out on the Boghall Road at the Wolfe Tone Road junction on the 19/04/10. The only pedestrian movement occurred west of the junction with just five pedestrians over a 30 minute period. No pedestrian was delayed for 30 seconds or more. This low volume is consistent with observations on other occasions. The pedestrian volume is well below the warrant figure of ninety pedestrians per hour, which is required to ensure efficient and safe operation of a signalised crossing. It is recommended that no crossing be provided at this location.

A short duration count was also carried out on the Boghall Road at the Boghall Stores on the 19/04/10. Pedestrian movements occurred on both sides of the Deerpark Road with a peak volume of 17 pedestrians counted on the west side of the junction with 5 pedestrians on the east side during a 20 minute period. It is recommended that a further count be conducted over a longer period at

peak times to determine if there is minimum volume of 90 pedestrian per hour to justify a signalised crossing.

Block Grant Allocations

The Town Clerk circulated details of the proposed block grants for the current year and read out the following report:

Grants 2008 €624,000 2009 €385,000 2010 €425,000

Quinsborough Road

This road between Main Street and Eglinton Road incurred substantial damage over a year ago when heavy loads of material were being delivered for the construction of the Florence Road car park. It is intended to repair this road using funding from the Florence Road car park income rather than the block grant. The closure of the Quinsborough Road will be necessary for about two days to facilitate the works. A proposed road closure had been advertised last August but had not been proceeded with. It is currently proposed to carry out the work this June.

Herbert Road Footpath to N11

The road is of inadequate width and alignment for the provision of a footpath alongside a moderately busy two way road. Land acquisition is required and tentative approaches were made last year to the land owner. An outline map has been prepared indicating the proposed route of the path and the extent of land required. This will aid the negotiations for the acquisition of the land required. A site survey, a road safety audit and more comprehensive design drawings will be required before the construction of the footpath. The block grant is not the proper funding source for works involving land acquisition and new construction. It is likely that capital funding from our own resources will be necessary.

It was agreed to postpone the discussion on this matter until the next meeting.

Block Grant for 2010

Location	Works	Estimate
Palermo	Concrete roads joint repairs	22,400
Avondale	Footpaths DBM	4,000
Ashfield Court	Footpath reconstruction	21,600
Dwyer Park	DBM road overlay	8,700
Station Road	Asphalt and localised road reconstruction	8,952
Galtrim Road	Patchwork DBM	6,000
Davitt Road	Concrete road repairs.	12,000
Clover Hill	2 no cul de sac resurface	23,100
Richmond Park	2 no. cul de sacs asphalt.	19,900
Kennedy Park	Drives, drainage, path & cycle track	39,850
Newcourt Road	Concrete road repairs.	5,000
Convent Ave	Concrete road repairs.	25,000
Loreto Grove	Concrete road repairs.	15,000
Elgin Heights	DBM road overlay	55,840
Church Road	DBM road overlay	9,930
Duncairn Ave	New DBM.	9,216
Silverpines	New DBM.	18,750
Oldcourt Scheme	Reconstruct Road & footpath	77,168
Ballywaltrim	Footpath	16,794
Promenade	Concrete repairs	15,000
Hazelwood	Footpaths	10,800
		425,000

Minor Flood Mitigation Works

The Town Clerk confirmed that details of a grant for Minor Flood Mitigation works had been circulated to the elected members. The grants awarded were as follows:

- Boghall Road - Upgrade pipe and channel €135,000
- Mountainview - Install Pipe €67,500

The members welcomed the news but regretted that there was not more time to discuss this important issue.

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

The Cathaoirleach reminded the members that the next meeting would be a workshop and that it would be held in the Civic Offices on Tuesday 27th April, 2010 at 7.00 pm.

Time did not allow for any other business except for a brief discussion on the need to fill the Town Engineer position following the retirement of Sean O'Neill.

The Cathaoirleach noted that this would be Sean O'Neill's last formal council meeting, and wished him well in his retirement. The members echoed these sentiments.

* * * *

This concluded the meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
TOWN CLERK

Dated: _____