

**Minutes of the Special Housing and Planning / Monthly Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 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. Triona Irving, Administrative Officer  
Mr. David Forde, Administrative Officer  
Mr. Stephen Fox, Executive Engineer

**Not In Attendance:** Councillor John Brady

1. **Confirmation of Minutes of the Special Housing and Planning Meeting Dated 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2009**  
Councillor Bríd Collins proposed confirmation of the minutes of the Special Housing & Planning Meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> April 2009 and Councillor Caroline Burrell seconded the proposal.
2. **Confirmation of Minutes of the Monthly Meeting dated 21st April 2009**  
Councillor John Byrne proposed confirmation of the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2009 and Councillor Steve Matthews seconded the proposal.
3. **To Consider The Housing Progress Report**  
The members raised the following points:

Ashlawn Court

- It is good to see that houses are being allocated
- What is the position with this? A lot of people are on the housing list. People have approached me and said that they are prepared to do the refurbishment themselves.
- I feel sorry for the Housing Officer, when houses become vacant there is too much work to be done. The Clerk of Works does great work as does Richard Sheridan [Estate Development Officer].

Housing Adaptation Grant

- I request that pressure be put on the HSE with regard to the information that was sent to them in September 2008. I request that a letter be sent to them.

Richmond Hill

- The green verges and paths were to be done here – what is happening?
- The contractor on this was due to fix the path that subsided and also plaster the wall of number 49 James Everett Park. This has not been done.
- Can the fact that that lights are on in Richmond Park be added to the snag list? There is also a light that was damaged in James Everett when the works were being done on Richmond Hill. Can this be added also?

### Miscellaneous

- Well done to the Estate Development Officer, his is a great report.
- Can we have an update on Sutton Villas please? It shouldn't cost too much to install palisade fencing, there are serious issues with anti social behaviour.
- I know from the Town Clerk that works are commencing on Sutton Villas tomorrow. Let's get in and do something – I ask that the officials make sure the work goes speedily.
- I've had complaints from the residents of Roger Casement Park regarding Sutton Villas. The bank is very unsightly. We've asked for palisade fencing and it hasn't happened. This is very disheartening.
- Are there any quotes on the palisade fencing regarding Sutton Villas?
- I welcome the fact that the Junior Estate Management Committee and the football teams did a clean up on Fassaroe.
- It is heartening to see a lot of voluntary work going on.
- The volunteers in Fassaroe did a great job on the clean up. The Memorial Garden is opening tomorrow, to remind members. Can we reinstate the flowerbed that we dug up due to the leak?
- I've received a number of complaints about horses in housing estates e.g. Deerpark, Glenthorn, Fassaroe. This is a dangerous situation. We've had problems in the past and introduced byelaws. The horses were rounded up and sent to the pound in West Wicklow. If these people are tenants of ours they should be dealt with.
- There is a cruelty issue also with the horses. They are being tied up and have no water. They are also being ridden and one is only a foal. I ask that this be followed up on.
- We spoke of the Estate Management Committee at the recent Local Area Committee meeting. Nothing is happening with this. People want to help themselves. We reported back to these people that an Estate Management Committee would happen. I know there are problems with regard to RAPID funding.
- We agreed last year that a number of road works were to go to public consultation. This has not happened. I'm very disappointed in this.
- With regard to Kilbride Lane, it is not fair what happened to that family. We went to the CPO process. These people are not being treated fairly. This is a long drawn out process. There has to be a quicker way to do business with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Ms. Joan Kavanagh, Senior Staff Officer informed the members of the following:

- A number of houses in Ashlawn Court are being refurbished and will be allocated shortly. We are still awaiting the go ahead from the Department on the Refurbishment Scheme.
- The Housing Engineer and Clerk of Works are currently inspecting the houses.
- We have been dealing with the issue of horses. I have spoken to a particular family in one estate and the horses were removed, but they are back again. I will follow up on this under the Byelaws.
- The people who conducted the clean up in Fassaroe did great work, a letter of congratulations will be issued to them.
- I ask that the Housing Engineer give a response on Sutton Road.
- I will ask the Town Engineer to respond regarding James Everett Park and the footpath. I will come back to you personally before 5<sup>th</sup> June on this matter.
- The matter of the lights in Richmond Hill is being followed up by the Clerk of Works.
- I will talk to the Councillor regarding the flowerbed after the meeting.
- With regard to the Estate Management Committee in Glenthorn/Ballywaltrim Heights, as you know this is in the administrative area of Wicklow County Council. One of our tenants has resigned from the Committee, so there are only private householders on the Committee now.
- Our Estate Development Officer spoke to the Committee members and informed them that he is happy to attend meetings, but that Bray Town Council can't issue Notice to Quit. This has to come from Wicklow County Council. The Committee want someone who can issue these.
- The RAPID Coordinator has been asked to arrange a meeting between Wicklow County Council and the Committee. He has been on leave, I will follow up with him on this matter tomorrow.
- We are awaiting Departmental approval on the raising of the loan for the Kilbride Lane site. The owners are protected under the CPO. The Department are aware of this matter and have been speaking to the owner. We are expecting to hear from the Department soon.

#### 4. To Consider Planning Matters

The members raised the following points:

##### Planning File Reference 09/34

- I have been approached by residents of Avondale Park. This land on Killarney Lane is somewhat derelict.
- The residents have no objections to an appropriate development, but this is out of character with the area. The building is too high – the houses there are single storey – and the density of the development is too high also. The road is very narrow as well. I am opposed to this development.
- I agree, this application needs to be looked at.
- The site notice for the development became unreadable after a few days due to the weather.
- This came to us before. We have served a derelict site notice. I welcome a clean up of the site.
- Have we established ownership of the site? Bray Town Council have cleaned it out a number of times.
- If this goes ahead we will have to look closely at the infrastructure and traffic.

##### Planning File Reference 09/50

- I am in favour of this. It is for a doctor's surgery at Putland Villas. This is an essential service and a lot of people would use it. There is a history of a surgery here – I recommend this.
- I support this. The residents of the area want it.

##### Planning File Reference 08/247

- This is for premises on the Quinsborough Road and mentions subsidiary alcohol sales. I am disappointed with this. We have enough off-licences in the town. There is already an off-licence on the Quinsborough Road.

##### Planning File Reference 09/09

- This was refused, was the access to the site the reason for refusal? This person bought some land from us in good faith to allow for access. I hope that they look to alternative access and get permission in the future.
- I'm very disappointed this was refused, but I know a fresh application is being facilitated.

##### Planning File Reference 09/45

- This is for Retention Permission for the mast at the Garda Station. The residents are very concerned about this mast. It is unsightly and doesn't seem to be for use by An Garda Síochána. It's for use by mobile phone companies.
- I seldom object to planning permissions sought, but I object to this. If it was to service the Garda Station there would be no problem. I am not happy with this. The procedure and planning laws have been flouted. It should be taken out.
- The advertisement was on the back page of the Irish Times and on a Saturday. It was not in the local papers. This is the wrong message to send.
- The residents are very concerned. This is not just for retention, there are other items planned. It should be removed.
- This is an unauthorised development. The OPW carried this out with no consultation with Bray Town Council. An Bord Pleanála refused it and now it is up to us as the Planning Authority. I hope that it is refused. The OPW ignored this Planning Authority.
- I think every member has had contact with the residents on this matter. The planning laws were ignored.

##### Planning File Reference 09/37

- I support this application.

The members raised the following points:

- With regard to a taxi rank on the seafront, there is an issue between the hours of 12 – 3am regarding collection of customers. Cars are double parking. Permission from An Garda Síochána is needed for a rank. The taxi drivers only want the spaces between these hours.

This matter came up at the JPC meeting. I ask that the Town Engineer talks to Liam Bourke [Senior Executive Engineer] about this.

- With regard to Costcutters at Sunnybank – I thought we had agreed that there would be no off-licence?

The Town Clerk informed the members that planning permission was granted for the Costcutter store off licence. The Town Manager, Des O'Brien added that the Development Plan is under review and now is an opportune time to put policies in place regarding the proliferation and location of certain types of business in the town.

Mr. Stephen Fox, Executive Engineer informed the members that a Background Issues Paper is available to the public in at the planning counter in Civic Offices, the local libraries, community centres etc. The Issues Paper covers a number of topics and sets out the framework as to how improvements can be made to Bray town e.g. shops desired on the Main Street etc. The closing date for submissions is 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2009.

The Town Manager added that the document was only finalised the previous Friday and that ideally it would have gone to the members for consideration. There is a short timeframe involved and there will be a Managers Report generated synopsising the submissions received, which will go to the members. This will be on the Agenda for the November meeting and Council officials will take direction from the members. After the Local Elections, public information meetings will be convened. The time frame is based on when the previous Town Development Plan was adopted and is a statutory process.

#### **5. To Discuss The Draft Litter Bye Laws**

The members raised the following points:

- What is the definition of an 'authorised person' at Section 3.7?
- It is important that people who are distributing by hand inform the Council of the areas they will be doing so in. If we ask shop owners for contact details when they are distributing flyers, we should be asking people distributing by hand also.

The Town Clerk informed the members that the draft document, as presented, will go on public display and any adjustments will be made when feedback from the public is received. The definition of an Authorised Person can be included.

#### **6. To Discuss Amendments to the Byelaws for Placing of Skips on Public Roads**

The members raised the following points:

- There is no mention of Skip Bags – it is important that we have something relating to these. They are becoming a big problem.
- [SSO Joan Kavanagh] The definition states 'container', this will take skip bags into account. We will put the following regarding skip bags into Part III Section 12(i) *'In the case of skip bags the operator shall notify Bray Town Council of the name and address of the hirer or in the case of promotional distribution, the location.*

*In the event that promotional skip bags are used, the operator will accept responsibility on behalf of the user''.*

- I agree, skip bags will become a major problem. I was speaking to a lady today and a skip bag has been outside her house for 3 months. We need strong regulation on this. People are not bothering to remove them.
- Point 2, Section 5 states *'in any place, position or manner that may result in the skip obstructing, delaying or interfering with the entrance to/or the exit from a fire station or a Garda Station'*. What about apartments and multi unit developments? We need to put something in about consulting other residents.
- The Draft Bye laws make reference to no skip being loaded higher than 1 metre above the upper edge of the skip. We should also put something in about overhanging skips.

The Town Clerk called for a vote to adopt the Byelaws for Placing of Skips on Public Roads with the following amendments:

- Part II, Section 5(c) – ‘in any place, position or manner that **may** result in the skip obstructing an entrance for vehicles to premises, except when the hirer of the skip who is an occupier/in charge of such premises consents’
- Part II, Section 9 (7) ‘Skip Operators shall ensure that each skip shall be provided with a **secure cover** which shall be put in place at times when the skip has been fully loaded, ensuring that no items are overhanging, and **also when the loaded skip is being transported.**

The Councillors voted in the following manner:

	For	Against
Councillor John Brady	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Absent</i>
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 Ciaran O'Brien	✓	
Councillor Pat Vance	✓	
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>

\* Councillors Grant and Lawlor had left the meeting by the time the vote was called.

**7. To Discuss The Local Government Auditors Report on the Bray Town Council Annual Financial Statement, Year Ending 31st December 2007**

Mr. David Forde, Administrative Officer informed the members that he would be happy to answer any questions in relation to the Auditors Report. None were forthcoming. Councillor John Byrne proposed the Local Government Auditors Report remarking that Bray Town Council’s targets are in line, and in some cases exceed national targets. Councillor Steve Matthews seconded the proposal. The Cathaoirleach Ciaran O'Brien added that the figures for collection of rates are very high.

**8. To Seek Approval from Members to Arrange an Overdraft Facility With Our Bank**

The Local Government Auditors Report stated that Bray Town Council might wish to consider applying to the bank for an overdraft. Mr. David Forde had contacted the bank in relation to this and was advised that the approval of the members would be needed. The overdraft would be for €1.5-2 million and is purely a prudent measure. Councillor Pat Vance proposed seeking an overdraft and Councillor Caroline Burrell seconded the proposal.

**9. To Discuss Bray Town Council’s Taking In Charge Policy Document**

Mr. Stephen Fox, Executive Engineer informed the members that in accordance with Government policy, the Taking In Charge Policy Document has been designed to provide structure and clarity to the Taking in Charge process. He stated that it is proposed that the policy be adopted and reviewed annually.

The members raised the following points:

- It is a great idea to have this. I ask that a list be drawn up and published to state what estates are not in charge. We could then ask for submissions from persons.

- [Councillor Caroline Burrell] I propose that we adopt this.
- This was drawn up by the Planning and Economic Development SPC in Wicklow County Council as there were no clear guidelines. It has proved very successful. There is clarity in it and it shows the developers the process. I believe a number of other Town Councils and County Councils have adopted a similar document also.
- [Councillor Pat Vance] I second the proposal to adopt this.
- I welcome this document, not many estates have been taken in charge during the lifetime of this council. We need to designate a staff member to look at this. Wicklow County Council's record for taking in charge in the Bray area is better than ours.

The Town Clerk prepared to call a vote on the matter but the members were all in agreement that this document should be adopted. This was adopted by acclamation.

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

The members raised the following points:

- I asked for this to be placed on the Agenda, but unfortunately, things have moved on. Schering Plough has decided to move to other countries.
- I spoke to the Manager, Mr. Kerr and he told me the decision was final. I asked what the future of the plant would be, but was told that Schering Plough are being taken over at the end of the year by another company. I also asked what the situation would be with the lands but was told that the decision was up to the new owners.
- The redundancy terms have been agreed with the staff. Schering Plough have indicated that they will redeploy the staff from the Bray plant if possible.
- We could use the site for an Enterprise Centre. We should engage in discussions regarding an Enterprise Centre/relocating the Recycling Centre. The main priority of the new Council should be jobs.
- The loss of jobs is regrettable. There is a tendency to forget the level of employment they provided over the years.
- This idea that we should be grateful to multi-nationals for coming to Bray is not on. They should be grateful to their workers for making their profits.
- The biggest challenge for the new Council will be to redevelop the area of the Boghall Road. The area needs new thinking, planning and possibly new zoning. There is a large land bank there and it should be looked at how to develop employment.
- I would be delighted if the new Council were to discuss rezoning.
- I agree, we need to look further down the line. We need some kind of business rejuvenation.
- If we have more businesses in the town, we will collect more rates and be able to do more for the people of the town. We need to get the Bray & District Chamber of Commerce, the IDA, Rejuvenation Committee to sit down and discuss what to do.
- The new Council should reconfigure the meetings. Have one meeting for Planning Development and Community Enterprise. The MPC could be a sub-committee of this. The second meeting could be for Planning and the MPC be a second sub-committee.
- I agree with changing the structure of the Council meetings. Perhaps have one a month with the emphasis on sub-committees. We need to have a cross party effort.
- One of the top officials in Bray Town Council will have to take on the role of business development. The key is an Enterprise Centre. We can't wait until the Fassaroe development is on board – we need an Enterprise Centre urgently.
- We need to get real about retail and make Bray into a proper retail centre. The incoming Council should work with businesses in the town.
- We should convene a forum with the high tech businesses in Bray to see how to attract similar businesses to Bray. We should also connect with the research departments of universities.
- The focus of the Council has to change. The bodies in Wicklow charged with job development and creation are singularly failing. Bray Town Council has to become the development body for Bray. We've got to do our best to retain and develop jobs.
- The new council will have to be proactive and not afraid of change. They will need to look at the Development Plan thoroughly and encourage businesses into Bray. It's unbelievable that a town the size of Bray has no Aldi, Lidl or Heaton's. Gorey has all these stores, and more, and they are surviving.

The Town Clerk, Christine Flood informed the members of the following:

- The key to the whole employment initiative is the new Town Development Plan. This is an opportune moment as we are at the beginning of a new Plan. I hope that it will serve as a document to attract businesses.
- We can set up workshops through the Issue Papers and public consultations and ask people for suggestions.
- Our job is to encourage people's input and advertise well.
- The Enterprise/Corporate Estate department of Wicklow County Council are looking into converting the APC building into an Enterprise Centre. However funding is scarce. We are exploring all opportunities.
- I agree that under the new Council we have to take a more development and employment role.

## 11. To Discuss The Bray Recycling Centre

The members raised the following points:

- We have sent letters to the Department of Finance and the County Manager on this.
- A letter went to the Minister of Finance and 10,000 people have signed the petition. It is obvious that the people of Bray are behind the staff.
- There is an element of urgency with this, the directive came out in March. The contracts of the staff finish at the end of the month.
- The workers have voted to take industrial action and the union is in agreement with them. A strike would not be in the interest of Bray Town Council, the general public or the employees.
- I ask anyone that has influence with the Minister to use it. Time is running out. If there is an official dispute, I think it will close the Centre. I can't see workers from Wicklow County Council passing the picket. I ask people to contact the Minister. We have a good service and an excellent staff. Bray Town Council are providing the money for this. I know that Mr. Tom Murphy [Director of Services] wrote to the Minister on 29<sup>th</sup> April. It is possibly too early for a reply.
- The letter from Tom Murphy was too late and too slow in being dispatched. There is an 'out' from the Circular. 10,000 signatures show people want this exemption. We should do more for these people.
- The workers are great. They have educated people how to dispose of their recycling. What is the next step? Well done to the Cathaoirleach for writing to the Minister of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.
- I don't want to see the staff on strike. I hope the Minister of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government puts pressure on the Minister of Finance. This is a well-used service.
- I am disappointed with the letter that was sent out – it does not say that Wicklow County Council want the staff kept on. It says that the members want the staff kept on. Repak and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government provide funding for the Centre. It is not up to the Department to tell Wicklow County Council how to deal with staff.
- We all want to see the staff kept on in the Recycling Centre, Wicklow County Council is not stating the case.
- I've heard it all now. Tom Murphy and the County Manager are to blame. The Government and Minister for Finance are to blame. It is not just the workers of the Recycling Centre who are affected. A lot of other staff are also affected.
- It is not too late, I know the 5 TD's have made representations. Bray Trades Council have also made reps.
- We all hope it won't come to strike, but what have they to lose? They will be fired anyway. If they strike, the centre will close. We should write again to the Minister and tell him we're extremely concerned about this.
- When we signed the lease for the site for three years, I was worried what would happen at the end of the three years. This is what has happened. Wicklow County Council don't want the responsibility of the Recycling Centre. It is important that we continue to fight for these people and their jobs.
- The Minister is trying to micro manage the town. This is not acceptable. The perceived threat is good in one way, more people are using it.
- [Cathaoirleach Ciaran O'Brien] A lot of money was spent on training this staff. Some of the contacts expired a year ago. The Centre is not closing down. I'll personally send another letter to the Minister of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. I think a letter

should go to the Minister of Finance also. I will do everything I possibly can to put pressure on them.

- This letter should come from all of the Council members please.

## 12. To Discuss The Proposed Date of The Annual General Meeting

The Town Clerk informed the members that a request had been received to hold the AGM on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2009. In relation to Annual General Meetings of Local Authorities, Schedule 10 of The Local Government Act states:

*3.—(1) In every year in which a local election is held, the annual meeting of a local authority shall be held—*

*(a) if the local authority is a county council, on the fourteenth day, and*

*(b) in any other case, on the tenth day, after the polling day or, where the poll is for any reason counter-manded, interrupted or adjourned, after the day on which the poll is completed or the fresh poll is held.*

*(2) Where the fourteenth day or tenth day referred to in subparagraph (1) is an excluded day, the meeting shall be held on the next following day which is not an excluded day.*

The Town Clerk stated that according to Schedule 10 the AGM will have to be held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June. After some discussion, it appeared that the AGM could be held on a date after 15<sup>th</sup> June, but not before. It was agreed to hold the AGM on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June, subject to confirmation by the Law Agent.

The members raised the following points:

- A Councillor who is not present has put up election posters, this is not right. That person should be here, not erecting election posters before the date allowable.
- This is illegal postering, they should be taken down and a fine issued. It is not acceptable that instead of doing what they are elected to do and attend Council meetings that they are putting up posters instead.

## 13. Reports and Recommendations

### Angels Plot/Urn Wall

The members raised the following points:

- I was delighted to receive this report. I hope we are not waiting too long for it. I look forward to visiting it.

### Block Grants

The Town Engineer had circulated a proposed Block Grants programme for carriageway/footpath repairs in advance of the meeting.

The members raised the following points:

- I welcome the Block Grants and the Wolfe Tone Square road works. Will any future traffic calming measures be put in place?

The Town Engineer responded that he had looked at the overall plan for Wolfe Tone Square and that most of the traffic calming measures were already in place. There were difficulties with the gullies and putting two ramps in place.

## 14. Notices of Motion

It was suggested by the Cathaoirleach that the responses to the Notices of Motion be sent out by post, the members agreed to this. Councillor John McManus asked that Notice of Motion 369 (*That Bray Town Council demands that the HSE maintain the Orchard Welfare Home site for community health purposes.*) be addressed. He requested the members support that a letter be dispatched to this effect. The members agreed to a letter being dispatched.

## 15. Correspondence

### Letter From Deputy Joe Behan TD

The Town Clerk read out a letter from Deputy Behan, thanking the Cathaoirleach and members for the invitation to the reception for Councillors elected to the 2004 Council not seeking re-election. He wished Councillors Collins, Egan, Ferris and McManus well in their retirement and thanked them for their service to the people of Bray. He also wished the Cathaoirleach and other members standing for election the best of luck on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

### Election Posters

The Town Clerk read out a letter from the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government advising that the Minister had made new regulations regarding the earliest date for erection of election posters, in the case of local elections no posters should be erected before Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2009. She also advised that under the Litter Act, in order to erect signage, authorisation in writing must be sought from the owner of the area where signage is desired to be erected. Exemptions to this are posters advertising public meetings and elections.

### Ethics Declarations – Register of Public Interest

The Town Clerk had circulated an email from Ms. Fiona Flynn, Ethics Registrar with Wicklow Local Authorities with regard to the above. It was requested by Ms. Flynn that this matter be placed on the Agenda of the next Protocol Committee meeting for discussion.

### Request for Use of the Town Hall

A request for the use of the Town Hall on Tuesday the 19th May at 5.00pm to launch an initiative 'Dial on a Dealer' was received from the Drugs Task Force. The members agreed to this.

### People of the Year Awards

The Town Clerk informed the members that the People of the Year Awards are currently looking for nominations. Nominations can be made in the following ways: by logging onto [www.peopleoftheyear.com](http://www.peopleoftheyear.com) and completing the nomination form, by writing to People of the Year Awards, Rehab Group, Roslyn Park, Sandymount, Dublin 4 or by emailing [poy@quinn-healthcare.com](mailto:poy@quinn-healthcare.com). The Town Clerk urged the members to consider who to nominate for this.

### Bray Youth Directory

The Town Clerk informed the members that Bray Youth Service had launched the Bray Youth Directory and copies were available in Civic Offices.

## 16. Any Other Business

The Cathaoirleach raised the matter of four of the sitting councillors retiring and added that he is sad to see them go and remarked that the five year term of this council has passed swiftly. He then asked each retiring member to say a few words.

Councillors Ferris, Egan, McManus and Collins thanked the Cathaoirleach and Town Clerk for the presentation and reception, which was held on 21<sup>st</sup> April.

Councillor Anne Ferris stated that it was lovely to be able to bring their family members and that the tributes paid by the members were very poignant and touching. There are good friendships across the table and the political divide. Everyone put the town first and worked together. When she was first co-opted onto the Council, Councillor Pat Vance was the Cathaoirleach and was very patient. It is a great idea that there will be new people sitting on the future Council – the old hands will have the experience and the new people will have new ideas. She finished by wishing everyone contesting the Local Elections the best of luck and hoped that they all got re-elected.

Councillor Anne Egan stated that when she was Cathaoirleach, she had a great year in the Chair. She thanked the people of Bray for electing her, the indoor and outdoor staff. She hopes to see the People's Park Playground and Angels Plot in situ soon. She thanked the Town Clerk Christine Flood, Town Manager Des O'Brien and Town Engineer Sean O'Neill and added that Christine and her staff are a tremendous help. She thanked her fellow Councillors, Deputy Liz McManus and

Deputy Joe Behan. She made good friends on the Council, particularly with Councillor Bríd Collins and will always remain so. She wished Councillor Collins the best of health. She finished by stating that there had been four female Cathaoirleach in the past five years and wished all those going for re-election the best of luck.

Councillor John McManus thanked the members for their help and support over the years, particularly his party colleagues. He stated that Councillor Egan helped him hugely over the years, before she was even elected.

Councillor Bríd Collins thanked the Cathaoirleach stating that he is a great ambassador for the town. She thanked Senator Shane Ross who had faith in her and put her name forward for election in 1991. She wished her colleagues luck in the forthcoming elections, thanked the people of Bray and also thanked the press for their honesty in reporting matters raised in the Council meetings. She stated that it was a pleasure to work and become friends with Councillor Anne Ferris and added that she was very proud of her becoming Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council. Councillor Collins stated that she and Councillor Anne Egan will always be friends and that she was leaving a great legacy behind. She wished Councillor Egan's daughter Tracey the best of luck in the elections.

Councillor Collins then remarked that she didn't think Councillor John McManus liked her in the beginning, but that they are firm friends, he is a terrific Councillor and has worked hard for the town of Bray. She wished Councillor McManus' Sean O'Neill Ronan good luck in the election.

Councillor Collins stated that it was a shame that Councillor John Brady was not at the meeting this evening. He has worked very hard for Bray and is a great craftsman. Councillor Pat Vance is an exceptional Councillor and knocked Councillor Collins into shape. She has no regrets and has worked very hard. Councillor Grant and Councillor Collins ran in the same Ward 15 years ago and she wished him the best.

Councillor Michael Lawlor is a gentleman and is full of enthusiasm, help and knowledge. He is always willing to help. She wished him the best in the election. Councillor Collins and Councillor Burrell have become good friends and she wished Councillor Burrell the best of luck. Councillor Collins was Cathaoirleach of Bray Town Council when she welcomed Councillor Matthews onto the Council. He is a credit to Bray Town Council and she wished him the best of luck.

Councillor Collins stated that she would do anything for Councillor John Byrne and that they have become the best of buddies. He is a genuine person and it is no wonder he tops the poll. She wished him luck in the elections.

Councillor Collins then went on to say that she listened to everything that Liz McManus had to say and that she was a great Minister for Bray. She wished Senator Deirdre de Burca luck in the European Elections and wished Deputy Joe Behan the best of luck in the future. She also paid tribute to former Councillor Noel Keyes.

She then thanked the indoor and outdoor staff, David Forde and his staff in Finance, Triona Irving and her staff in Planning, Joan Kavanagh and her staff in Housing and the Town Clerk and her staff.

She thanked everyone who supported her in her illness and added that she felt it was not fair to them and the people of Bray to run again when she was not in the full of her health. She then thanked the Town Clerk and Town Engineer for doing a lot of work behind the scenes. She finished by thanking Des O'Brien for being a great Town Manager.

The Cathaoirleach stated that Councillors Collins, Egan, Ferris and McManus are going onto a new life. There are plenty of committees in Bray Town Council that they are welcome to join and give the benefit of their experience to.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the members for their help and cooperation during his term and stated that the year had passed by very quickly.

Councillor John Byrne thanked the Cathaoirleach for his help and courtesy during his term of office and stated that he carried out his duties extremely well. He thanked the staff of Bray Town Council and complemented the media on giving balanced reports of the Council meetings. He finished by wishing those not running in the Local Elections well.

Councillor Pat Vance on behalf of himself, Councillor David Grant and Councillor Michael Lawlor wished the retiring members well and wished those running again the best of luck. He thanked the Cathaoirleach remarking that it is a great honour to have and a great experience, which gives great insight into the town of Bray and the opportunity to meet people from all walks of life.

He finished by thanking the Town Clerk and officials for their help and courtesy and added that public servants give a good service contrary to popular belief.

Councillor Caroline Burrell thanked the members, wished the members retiring well and those running the best of luck. She also thanked the media for their coverage of the council meetings.

\* \* \* \*

This concluded the meeting.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOWN CLERK**

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_