

**Minutes of the Special Housing and Planning Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present:** Councillor Ciaran O'Brien, Cathaoirleach  
Councillor John Brady  
Councillor Brid Collins  
Councillor Anne Egan  
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

**Apologies:** Councillor Caroline Burrell  
Councillor John Byrne

**Not In Attendance:** Councillor Anne Ferris

**1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Special Housing and Planning Meeting dated 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2008**

Councillor Bríd Collins proposed confirmation of the minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2008 and Councillor Anne Egan seconded the proposal.

Councillor Bríd Collins then proposed that Item 6 on the Agenda (To Receive To Receive A Report On The Taking In Charge of Roadway To The Rear of 23-19 Lauderdale Estate) be postponed until the next meeting, as Councillor John Byrne who had done a lot of work on this matter was not at the meeting. Councillor Anne Egan seconded the proposal.

**2. To Consider The Housing Progress Report**

The members raised the following points:

Richmond Hill

- I hope the snag list will be completed. Works need to be completed on the path and a wall. I hope groundworks opposite the shop and apartments is also done.
- Has any investigation been undertaken by management regarding the showers in Richmond Hill? How can a modern housing estate be designed without showers in this day and age?
- I think we have a case against these people and we should pursue it. This is an urgent matter and should be addressed.

Schemes With The Department

- Is there any further information on the resolution to raise a loan to purchase a site? The letter was sent to the Department in November.
- Have the Project Appraisals on Kilbride Lodge, Killarney Road, Brighton Terrace and Parnell Road been submitted?

Miscellaneous

- I had previously asked if the residents of St. Rita's would be in before Christmas and was informed that they would be. This is not the case.
- I condemn the recent shooting in one of our estates. This is a worrying trend and is the second shooting in one of our estates. I request an emergency meeting of the Joint Policing Committee to discuss this matter.

- Regarding the Central Heating Programme, what is the position with tenants of ours who have installed their own central heating? Part of the Central Heating Scheme allowed for extra insulation and also smoke alarms. One of our tenants has only a few radiators and I have been told that Bray Town Council will not look favourably on completing this job.
- I'd like to highlight the Estate Development Officer's report – a lot has been done in Fáilte Park and this [meeting room] is a big thing for the residents.
- I am delighted that the fascias etc in Maitland Street have been completed.
- Are we looking at buying any more houses?
- I would like to draw the attention of the Cathaoirleach and members to the issue of transfers. I got a phone call from a person who told me exactly what transfer she was getting. One of the members told her. I told her I couldn't discuss the matter with her. This is confidential information that is being given out and it shouldn't happen.
- [Cathaoirleach Ciaran O'Brien] We will discuss this matter in conference after the meeting.
- Works have commenced at Mount Pleasant Villas. The residents were not consulted. Can we put a liaison person in place so that the residents can have someone to contact with any problems they may have?
- Rocks and bottles are being thrown from the bank – I suggest that we put palisade fencing in.
- The residents have written to Bray Town Council with their concerns, what response has been given to them?

Ms. Triona Irving, Administrative Officer informed the members of the following:

- I will discuss the matters relating to St. Rita's with Councillor Egan after the meeting.
- I will talk to the Clerk of Works regarding the snagging at Richmond Hill.
- The Central Heating Scheme has finished. There is no funding from the Department in 2009 for this. I ask that the resident in question contact the Housing Department and we will look at the application.
- There has been nothing forthcoming from the Department in relation to the Marino Clinic site.
- The matter of showers has been referred to the Housing Engineer; I will discuss this with him tomorrow.
- A written response will issue to the residents regarding Mount Pleasant Villas. The cost of palisade fencing needs to be considered by the Department. The Department already has granted funding and the cost of a fence was not included.
- Submissions from residents were not received during the Part 8 process.

The members responded:

- The site at Mount Pleasant was cleared and the problems have been exacerbated.
- I agree. There is a lot of rubble in the area now and we can't leave it as it is. It is not safe. The fencing should be extended and the hedging removed.
- [Administrative Officer Triona Irving] I will talk to the Housing Engineer about this in the morning.
- If the Housing Engineer becomes involved, the residents should meet with him.
- [Administrative Officer Triona Irving] The Housing Engineer has met with the residents of Mount Pleasant on two separate occasions and is formulating a response to them.
- Can this response be circulated to us?
- I raised the lack of showers over a month ago. Do the officials know what the situation is?
- We will have to install showers and pay for them. Can we have a detailed report at the next meeting?

### 3. To Consider Planning Matters

The members raised the following points:

#### Planning File Reference 08/244

- I requested this file and was told that it was returned invalidated. I hope this area gets sorted out.
- The problems are not down to Sealife, they are leasing the premises and have done great work regarding landscaping etc.
- I hope when this application comes back in that it is approved and the area is enhanced. I am glad that money is going to be invested in the area.

- We didn't criticise Sea Life even though it was in the media that we did. We are well aware that they are leasing the premises.

#### Planning File Reference 08/245

- This application states that there will be a singular carriageway vehicular road to serve the 'lower' lands at the St. John of God's complex. Can you clarify this?
- [Administrative Officer Triona Irving] I will have a look at the file and revert.
- Is it fair to say that the road to service Ravenswell will be from the new road that is coming in?
- [Town Engineer, Sean O'Neill] Yes.

#### Miscellaneous

- I raised the matter of the Nirvana Head Shop at a previous meeting. A letter has been dispatched, can we have an update please?
- The Derelict Sites process was initiated on the AO Smith site, but was halted when the site was brought up to standard. The owners have again walked away and it is worse than ever.
- There are gas canisters, rodents and drinking parties on the site now. The hoarding has been removed and I believe the site is dangerous. I ask that the Derelict Sites process be re-initiated on this site.
- The planning application [08/148] in Fairyhill was granted and this saddens me. I ask that members have a look at the conditions. The closing date for submissions to An Bord Pleanála is 23<sup>rd</sup> January.
- Can we have an update on the Angels Plot and Urn Wall? We had a report but nothing has happened since.

Triona Irving, Administrative Officer informed the members of the following:

- We wrote a letter to the owners and occupiers of Nirvana Head Shop. This was a warning letter. The occupiers were not aware of the breach of planning and will make a planning application for change of use.
- The AO Smith site was placed on the Derelict Sites Register. Works were carried out to render it non-derelict and it was removed from the Register. The site is monitored by Bray Town Council staff.
- Any drinking or anti-social behaviour is a matter for An Garda Síochána – I trust that the Councillor has referred this to them.
- I will ask the Town Engineer to look at the matter of the Angels Plot.

The members raised the following points:

- When is the site monitored? The hoarding has been off the windows for five months. This is the responsibility of the owners and us as a town council. It is dangerous. I ask that a detailed report be brought to this council.

The Town Manager, Des O'Brien stated that there is a relatively small staff in the Planning Department in Bray and that the site is monitored when they pass by. He asked that instead of raising this at council meetings, the Councillor contact Planning directly. It would be more advantageous if a written complaint was received as this could go onto the file and then the owners contacted with a listing of items to be rectified.

#### **4. To consider entering into a Section 85 Agreement (Local Government Act, 2001) with Wicklow County Council in relation to the performance by Bray Town Council of the Wicklow County Council Sanitary Function within the town boundary of Bray for the year 2009**

The Town Clerk informed that members the Section 85 Agreement is an annual agreement with Wicklow County Council under the Local Government Act, 2001. Wicklow County Council now operate sanitary services that were formerly in the charge of Bray Town Council. This Section 85 Agreement will enable Bray Town Council to carry out the sanitary function on behalf of Wicklow County Council.

Councillor Pat Vance proposed and Councillor David Grant seconded the proposal to enter into a Section 85 Agreement of the Local Government Act, 2001 to enable Bray Town Council to carry out the sanitary function on behalf of Wicklow County Council for the calendar year 2009.

## 5. To Discuss The Draft Litter Management Plan

The Cathaoirleach Ciaran O'Brien informed the members that the Draft Litter Management Plan had been considered by the members of the Community Cultural Social and Environment MPC and the Litter Task Force. Triona Irving drafted the Plan up and it was circulated to the members via email prior to the meeting.

The members raised the following points:

- Has the Task Force had a meeting yet?
- In this plan it states that under the Litter Pollution Act it is an offence to place posters or other notices on buildings, poles etc without the prior consent of the owner. This is a problem outside of election time – during the year flags etc are placed on poles.
- Are we going to prosecute if permission is not asked of the owners? Is permission required from Bray Town Council also? We need to act on this, no matter who is doing it [placing items on flag poles].
- The Litter Act states that signage can be erected seven days prior to a public event and must be removed seven days after the event.
- We should publish what the Litter Act defines as an offence.
- What management structure will be put in place to ensure this plan is enacted? Who will implement it? Who will be accountable for its' implementation and who will report back to this council?
- This is a fine document if it is followed. The main area is enforcement. We spent thousands cleaning up the chewing gum on the Main Street, but within a few months it was back to the way it had been.
- The citizens of this town are causing the littering – the public have to be educated. The street cleaners do an excellent job.
- Cigarette butts are also a problem. The machine we have is great, but it can only do so much. People must co-operate.
- I would love to see people littering being photographed. There are two secondary schools in Bray that should be ashamed of themselves regarding littering.
- These attitudes start at home. Everyone in the town has to take responsibility.
- The staff of Bray Town Council are doing a great job. We need to improve on enforcement.
- There are a lot of good people involved with the Litter Task Force e.g. Coastcare, Tidy Towns and businesses also. Their sole interest is to get Bray back to the way it was.
- This plan should go to public consultation and hopefully people will have their say.
- We need to take immediate remedial action regarding the IBAL results. Some issues raised are not our responsibility but we need to address them.
- The IBAL results don't have much credibility but they do a lot of damage. Yes, there is a serious litter problem in the town. There is fly tipping every weekend at the Herbert Road and it must be the same people doing it all the time. We haven't caught anyone yet. We must have a high profile name and shame campaign.
- Only issuing 86 Litter Fines for 2008 seems very low.
- This figure is not acceptable. We have to ensure that litter fines are chased up. We need to be rigorous about it and we need to send a clear message on this matter.
- How many litter fines were paid in 2008? Is it possible to give us figures every month.
- About 40 cars on the seafront were plastered with menus and the fine was for thousands – is this considered one fine? [AO Triona Irving] Yes.
- We fell down on the approach roads as they are under the jurisdiction of other Local Authorities – this was the same problem with the last results. What has happened to rectify this? I would like to see this on a list of objectives.
- The IBAL report ruined Bray unjustly and unfairly. We need to contact Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and I ask the Town Manager to bring our views to Wicklow County Council.
- The public are responsible for littering. We need to push this plan and keep the area spotless. People will drop litter if they see litter. In 2005, 2006 and 2007 we were classed as litter free. What happened in 2008 to bring us down so far?

- [Cathaoirleach Ciaran O'Brien] The methodology changed, the approach roads were not measured previously.
- People objected to the Recycling Centre [over littering concerns] and it won an award for Best Recycling Centre.
- Why was the seafront not mentioned in the IBAL report? It is in great condition. I ask that the Cathaoirleach meet with IBAL to discuss the results.
- The IBAL report mentions three sites that are very close together. This is unfair.
- The Boghall Shopping Centre gets criticised, which is unfair. It is very heavily used and cleaned every evening.
- A lot of groups are at work to clean the town and Bray Town Council staff do a lot of work also. We should refute this report. The comments are very negative. We should make our views known to IBAL.
- As Chair of the CCS&E MPC, I think this plan is a good start and we should act upon this.
- The Wicklow County Council approach roads are 'clean to European norms', the other approach roads from Dublin are in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown. We've got to change so that the results will improve.
- We need to sit down with the private individuals named so that the area can be improved. We also need to get proactive on enforcement.
- Four out of the ten sites mentioned are outside the town council's area. Regarding the Everest Centre, Bray Town Council have moved in under the Litter Laws.
- The Town Clerk has contacted Dun Laoghaire Rathdown regarding the areas in their jurisdiction.
- All the good work done by this council (Rejuvenation, Recycling Centre) has been eroded.
- We should take the issues raised in the IBAL report on board.

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

- We go after every fine issued and undertake court proceedings if the fine is not paid.
- In the past, we have gone through bags of rubbish for names and addresses in order to issue fines.
- It is nearly impossible to enforce a fine against a person. The Litter Wardens don't have the right to ask the names and addresses of people littering, only An Garda Siochana do.
- In our last trip to court, we did not get one prosecution.
- We should judge ourselves by our own standards, not IBAL's.
- We spent €10,000 removing chewing gum from the Main Street – this money could do a lot of money for community groups.
- The Main Street is cleaned well twice daily – we will have to work together to tackle this (moderately littered result).

## 6. **To Receive A Report On The Taking In Charge of Roadway To The Rear of 23-19 Lauderdale Estate**

As Councillor John Byrne was not present at the meeting, it was proposed by Councillor Bríd Collins and seconded by Councillor Anne Egan to hold off discussion on this matter until the next meeting.

## 7. **Reports & Recommendations**

### Recommendation From Community, Cultural, Social & Environmental MPC

The Town Clerk informed the members that the recommendation from the CCS&E MPC is that the Part 8 process be commenced in relation to recycling facilities at Fassaroe Community Centre, Bray.

The Town Clerk added the following:

- Wicklow County Council analysed the usage of the Mobile Recycling Service at St. Peter's School and deemed it to be very expensive. Subsequently, funding was withdrawn in August.
- Bray Town Council funded the service for the remainder of 2008, while alternative facilities were set up at the Fassaroe Community Centre. This is open five days a week, instead of every second Saturday morning and accepts most recyclables.

- Last Saturday (3<sup>rd</sup> January) our Litter Warden went to the Mobile Recycling collection point at St. Peter's to inform people that the service is no longer in use. Twenty cars turned up and no one came on foot. Most people were happy to be re-directed to the Recycling Centre on the Boghall Road.
- There were some complaints as people now have to separate materials, but on the whole, most were happy.

The members raised the following points:

- I contacted the Town Clerks office on 30<sup>th</sup> December and was told that the service had stopped with immediate effect. I am disappointed that as a Town Councillor that I was not told previously.
- It is not fair to say that alternative arrangements are in place, what is in place at Fassaroe is very basic.
- No one was informed that this would happen. There was a local group set up and they were not informed about this matter.
- I met with the Chair of this group and they did know the service was to be discontinued. The service cost €1,000 a week and there was a lot of abuse of it. Bray Town Council were never committed to providing the service beyond the end of 2008.
- I am not happy that this service has gone, but we all knew it was going to happen.
- The residents were aware that the service was going to stop.
- Wicklow County Council analysed the collection and it was not used properly. People were not separating their waste.
- Are we paying anything towards the facility in Fassaroe?
- A lot of elderly people in St. Peter's Road won't be able to get to Fassaroe. A lot of people on foot used this service.
- It is possible to keep the service on once a month?
- I was at a public meeting regarding the ending of the service. A subsequent meeting was held in Bray Town Council and the officials told the residents that Bray Town Council couldn't guarantee collection after November. This deadline was stretched to the end of the year.
- We have the best recycling centre in the country – is it possible to have a truck collecting items from this area and delivering to the Boghall Road? We would need to have different receptacles for the items.
- Most of the complaints to me were from people who are elderly and don't have cars. They wouldn't have abused the service. We should investigate the possibility of retaining the service in one form or another.
- I am sad to see this service discontinued. No matter how good the Recycling Centre is, it is dependent on cars. I believe there should be door to door recycling.
- We need to investigate how recycling can be done for the elderly who don't have cars.

The Town Clerk stated the following:

- Thirty three tonnes of waste was collected at St. Peter's during the period of operation. One third of this waste was not recyclable.
- The average cost for collection of recyclables in Wicklow County is €120 per tonne. The cost for the collection of one tonne at St. Peter's was four times that figure.

Triona Irving, Administrative Officer informed the members of the following:

- The recycling facilities at Fassaroe are being paid in full by Bray Town Council.
- [Councillor Anne Egan] Is the fee for this greater than if we did a collection once a month at St. Peter's?
- We won't know until we have full take-up. The indications are that it is substantially cheaper. We pay by lift. Education in relation to recycling has also taken place.
- [Councillor Anne Egan] Were the residents in agreement to have recycling facilities there?
- The Estate Management Committee in conjunction with the residents approached us to have it there. They wanted to build on the recent Pride of Place award.
- The Part 8 process will allow for more bins to segregate and more education also.

## 8. Notices of Motion

### 340. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor Brid Collins (14/10/2008)

*That this Council include in this years estimates the repair of the wall at the forest in Fairyhill.*

#### Report

Bray Town Council will endeavour to have the repairs to the wall carried out as soon as possible.

The members raised the following points:

- I am delighted with this response, as the wall is in a serious state with missing bricks.

### 343. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor John Brady (04/11/2008)

*That this council put a yellow box on the Killarney Road at the entrance to Ballymorris.*

#### Report

The impact of traffic queues on side road traffic caused by nearby traffic lights will be examined. If warranted a yellow box will be provided.

### 344. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor John Brady (04/11/2008)

*That this council put a yellow box on the Killarney Road at the entrance to Ballywaltrim Heights/Glenthorn.*

#### Report

The impact of traffic queues on side road traffic caused by nearby traffic lights will be examined. If warranted a yellow box will be provided.

The members raised the following points:

- This NOM and 343 could have been taken together as they are in the same area. People who use the road in the mornings will see the problems.
- Can we have a report provided for both areas after the engineers carry out their examination and have them addressed at a subsequent meeting?

### 345. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor John Brady (04/11/2008)

*That this council place a name stone/plate at the entrance to Ballymorris.*

#### Report

A nameplate for Ballymorris can be provided at the entrance.

The members raised the following points:

- I welcome this. There is a long road leading to this area, and as there is no name plate, people are ending up in the cul-de-sac.
- I hope this is put in place as soon as possible, as the residents are proud of the area.

### 346. Notice of motion in the names of Councillors David Grant, Michael Lawlor & Pat Vance (04/11/2008)

*That this council take the necessary action to address the derelict site on Killarney Lane, beside the shop adjacent to Avondale Park.*

#### Report

The Council have issued a Notice of Intention to enter this site on the Derelict Sites Register, this was served on all persons with an interest in the site.

The members raised the following points:

- What happens next to ensure the site is cleaned?
- There is also a problem with littering on that site. There is a sewerage manhole cover that residents are worried about as children are playing in this area.

- I am glad to see that action is being taken.

Ms. Triona Irving, AO Planning informed the members:

- Under the Derelict Sites Act, the procedure is to issue a notice. We have had a number of responses from people.
- The Engineer will carry out an inspection of the site and decide whether or not to enter it onto the Register. The site stays on the Register until it is deemed not derelict.
- We can apply a levy of 3% of the value of the site. This applies for every day that the site is on the Derelict Sites Register. It is in the interest of the owners to render the site not derelict.

**347. Notice of motion in the names of Councillors David Grant, Michael Lawlor & Pat Vance (04/11/2008)**

*That this council remove the planting scheme at the entrance to Killarney Heights.*

Report

The Council cut back excessive growth from the planting scheme every year. A delay to this work this year did cause obstruction on the path. The reason for removing it is unclear if it is properly maintained and enhances the landscaping in the estate.

The members raised the following points:

- Given the make up of the planting, residents are finding that this is being used for dumping. I ask that it is cut well back this year to see if this will solve the problem. I ask that we look at it in the future with a view to removal.

**348. Notice of motion in the names of Councillors David Grant, Michael Lawlor & Pat Vance (04/11/2008)**

*That this Council provide a report on the issue of flooding in Fairyhill.*

Report

The Council is unaware of any major flooding issues in Fairyhill. There was an issue in the vicinity of No 75 and work was carried out there.

There was also an issue in the vicinity of No 114 in relation to water emanation from the green space. It is proposed to lower the footpaths leading to Killarney Road so that excess water will not flood houses when/if gullies become ineffective.

The members raised the following points:

- There was a problem during the flash flooding in August. The residents dug a gully – I ask that the Town Engineer investigate this.
- The problem was resolved around number 75.

**349. Notice of motion in the names of Councillors David Grant, Michael Lawlor & Pat Vance (04/11/2008)**

*That the council provide an update on the improvement works carried out in Ardmore Park on the sewerage system and comment on the present condition of the remaining sewerage system infrastructure in the estate.*

Report

The only significant work to the sewerage system in the estate took place approximately two years ago when a public sewer from Ardmore Lawn onto Killarney Lane was diverted as it was damaged where it passed under private property. This section of sewer is now entirely under the public road and has worked satisfactorily. While there are a number complaints about blockages in the estate, these have generally been found to be on lines on private property not in the charge of Bray Town Council. There are no further works deemed necessary to the public sewer in Ardmore Park/Lawn deemed necessary at this time. However it has been noted that the sewer serving a number of estates along the Herbert Road and which discharges to the sewer system in Ardmore Park is seriously

deficient both in condition and capacity and its replacement will have to be considered for replacement in the near future.

The members raised the following points:

- Thank you for this report. I will talk to the Town Engineer regarding particular areas in the estate that have problems.

**350. Notice of motion in the names of Councillors David Grant, Michael Lawlor & Pat Vance (04/11/2008)**

*That the council provide an adequate footpath on the southern side of Killarney Lane.*

Report

There is inadequate space for a footpath on both sides of Killarney Lane at present. Widening and realignment of the road is required to achieve adequate footpaths and this requires design input and land acquisition.

The members raised the following points:

- I ask that this be investigated at some stage.

**351. Notice of motion in the names of Councillors David Grant, Michael Lawlor & Pat Vance (04/11/2008)**

*That the council clear the gullies in Clover Hill and Kilbride Lane in front of the estate.*

Report

Gully cleaning in this area has been included on a schedule of works in the area to be carried out over the next few days.

The members raised the following points:

- Works have been carried out and the residents are pleased.

**352. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell & Steve Matthews (04/11/2008)**

*That Bray Town Council would consider putting the Fairtrade Logo on any of their correspondence as this is part of the new regulations of being a Fairtrade Town, which come into force from 2009.*

Report

We will consider including the Fair Trade logo on our headed paper when placing our next order, based on our current stock, I estimate that this will be well in to the new year.

**353. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, Anne Egan, Anne Ferris & John McManus (04/11/2008)**

*That the council provide a public light at the entrance to Mountain View Flats off Vevay Road.*

Report

No, there is adequate lighting on the Vevay Road. Lighting for the Mountain View apartments is a matter for the Management Company.

The members raised the following points:

- Councillor Byrne won't be happy with this response – we'll have to re-enter this.

**354. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor Brid Collins (11/11/2008)**

*That Bray Town Council in conjunction with Wicklow County Council improve the signage and sighting on the Southern Cross at the entrance to the industrial estate and also consider a pedestrian crossing at this point.*

Report

A pedestrian crossing and junction modifications were included as part of the planning permission for the SuperQuinn site. Discussions will take place with SuperQuinn Ltd to determine when this work can be progressed.

The members raised the following points:

- Signage is definitely needed here.
- [Town Clerk Christine Flood] We are in discussions with SuperQuinn. As soon as they come back to us, we'll revert to you.

As Councillor John Byrne was not present at the meeting, it was decided to hold off on Notice of Motion 355.

**356. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor Brid Collins (02/12/2008)**

*I request the Town Clerk to write to the relevant Ministers regarding 'no funding' for the upgrading of the N11 - outlining the dangers of this stretch of road.*

*I also request Wicklow County Council members on Bray Town Council to put pressure at Wicklow County Council meetings and keep us informed.*

Report

I will certainly write to the Minister for Transport and to the National Roads Authority, I will copy the letters to Wicklow County Council.

The members raised the following points:

- Thank you. Please keep us informed. There is ten miles of treacherous road. I plead with our Wicklow County Council colleagues to see if anything can be done.
- The road is a death trap. I ask the Cathaoirleach to request funding from the Department.
- I agree – I drive this road every day and it is dangerous.

**357. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John McManus, John Byrne & Anne Egan (02/12/2008)**

*That the large open space in Fassaroe be designated a public park.*

Report

It is not recommended that the large open space in the 'Fassaroe' estate be designated a public park.

There are considerations in relation to the longer term rejuvenation/refurbishment of the estate, which would be contingent on maintaining layout flexibility within the entirety of the estate.

The rejuvenation of the estate would thus be constrained and possibly compromised.

- This is precisely the reason I put this Notice of Motion down. The large open space in Fassaroe is really the only area left. It should be a public park. People in the area don't want more houses.
- [Councillor John McManus] I propose that we should proceed with turning this area into a public park.
- [Councillor Pat Vance] I second this motion.
- I agree and support this Motion. Green space is essential in the area and is widely used.
- In effect, they are being told hand over the green space if you want the estate refurbished. The residents are adamant that there should be no more houses. We should proceed with this.
- A huge amount of money has been spent in Fassaroe. I thought it was the policy of this council that there would be no more houses in Fassaroe.
- The Development Plan excludes development on public open space.
- It is important that this be designated a public park. It should be made into a park that all kinds of people enjoy.

- We need to protect this area from usage by Off Road Vehicles. We discussed the Draft Bye Laws recently and this area was not included.
- Is the designation of public park the best one to protect the area? Is there anything else we do?

The Town Manager, Des O'Brien remarked that as he stated at a previous meeting, the more designation you put on an area, the less protected other areas are. The Development Plan states that it can't be built on. He added that he couldn't see a radical scheme being financed by the Department and until the legal designation of 'public park' is known he didn't think there would be any benefit in the designation of this area as a public park.

The Town Engineer, Sean O'Neill added that the Draft Bye Laws relating to Off Road Vehicles had been drafted to address the problem of quad bikes being used on Rehills Land and Bray Head. The People's Park and seafront were also included. The seafront does not have any designation. Some of the green area in Fassaroe is not under the control of Bray Town Council. Bray Town Council won't build on the green area.

## 9. Correspondence

### St. Patrick's Day Parade 2009

The Town Clerk informed the members of a letter received from Mr. Mick Glynn of the St. Patrick's Day Festival Committee requesting permission for the use of the town for the St. Patrick's Day Parade 2009 and funding to enable improvements to the Parade. The letter also stated that further details relating to the intended route, health and safety issues and insurance details will be sent to Bray Town Council.

Councillor Bríd Collins stated that she supported this in principle and Councillor Anne Egan added that the request for funding will be discussed at the Budget meeting the following week.

### Annual Declaration Forms

The Town Clerk informed the members of an email received from Ms. Fiona Flynn, Senior Staff Officer, Enterprise & Corporate Services stating that the Annual Declaration forms have been issued and added that the members are requested to return them to Ms. Flynn by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2009. Bray Town Council has also issued the Annual Declaration Form regarding Political Donations and these must be returned by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009.

### Head Shops

The Town Clerk informed the members of a letter received from Darragh Scully, Private Secretary to Minister Harney. This was in response to a letter sent to Minister Harney regarding Head Shops. Mr. Scully's letter stated that the matter is receiving attention.

### Vegetation Obscuring Signage Along N11/M50

The Town Clerk informed the members of a letter received from Mr. Tom Loftus, Director of Services, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council regarding the above. Mr. Loftus' letter stated that the matter had been referred to Mr. Jim Hayes, Senior Engineer, Road Maintenance.

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Councillor John Brady asked the Town Clerk if there had been any response to the letters dispatched to the OPW and Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding provision of funding for flood gates. He wondered if it would be possible to get an indication if funding would be provided before the Budget meeting the following week.

The Town Clerk responded that the letters had been dispatched to Minister Gormley and Minister Mansergh. She re-iterated that flood gates are not the solution in certain areas, only evacuation is. She added that there is the danger that people would wish to stay in their homes when evacuation was clearly needed. Ms. Flood then stated that if she could, she would follow up on the matter.

Councillor Anne Egan stated that a lot of the recent flooding came up through floors, rather than in doors.

**10. Any Other Business**

Ballywaltrim Library

Councillor John Brady raised the issue of cutbacks due to the recent Wicklow County Council Budget. He stated that the Ballywaltrim Library service will be cut back to twenty three hours per week. This means that the Library will now close for one full morning, one full evening and also a full day. He remarked that this is detrimental to the users in the area as it is a widely used facility with 60,000 books taken out on an annual basis.

Councillor Brady added that the decision to reduce the opening hours was Wicklow County Council's but the County Demand pays for the service. While it is understood that cutbacks are needed they should not be in this area. Councillor Brady finished by requesting that a letter be drafted to the Head Librarian regarding this matter.

Bray Daly Station

Councillor Brady requested that a letter be sent to CIE inviting a spokesperson to address the Council regarding station. He stated that there is 24 hour Pay and Display parking being operated in the area and that two cars were clamped on New Year's night. A lot of people are not aware that the forecourt is a private area, not public as there is no signage to indicate it is in private ownership. He finished by stating that the forecourt is an eyesore.

Signage

Councillor Pat Vance stated that he had requested a sign for Sidmonton Road to replace the one that is missing at a previous meeting. This sign has not been replaced and he wondered what the delay was.

On-Street Parking Bye Laws 2009

Councillor Pat Vance stated that the issue of parking along the seafront would need to be re-visited. A person living in a listed building in the area who can't provide off-street parking for vehicles approached him. Councillor Vance stated that this individual has four cars to provide Residential Parking Disks for (€30 for the first disk and €70 for each additional disk). He asked that the matter and any other matters arising be addressed in a month or so.

Coastal Protection Scheme

Councillor Pat Vance informed the members that the Department of the Marine had indicated that an adjustment of the Coastal Protection Scheme would be necessary. He stated that the area at the Barracuda Restaurant has become dangerous due to a large drop.

Ambulance Parking on Strand Road

Councillor John McManus informed the members that the Shannagh Bay Nursing Home has three ambulance bays and the Kinvara Nursing Home have no ambulance bays. He requested that this matter be resolved and that Kinvara Nursing Home have the same amount of ambulance bays as the Shannagh Bay Nursing Home.

\* \* \* \*

This concluded the meeting.

**Signed:**

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

**Signed:**

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

**Dated:**

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