

Minutes of the Special Housing and Planning Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 7th October, 2008 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Ciaran O'Brien, Cathaoirleach
Councillor Caroline Burrell
Councillor John Brady
Councillor John Byrne
Councillor Brid Collins
Councillor Anne Egan
Councillor Anne Ferris
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

Not In Attendance: Councillor David Grant

Before the meeting started, the Cathaoirleach Ciaran O'Brien, requested a suspension of Standing Orders at 9.30pm, which the members agreed to.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting dated 2nd September, 2008

Councillor Brid Collins proposed confirmation of the minutes of 2nd September, 2008 and Councillor Anne Egan seconded the proposal.

2. To Consider The Housing Progress Report

The members raised the following points:

Richmond Hill

- The lights are still on in this area.
- Do the lights need to be rewired?
- The shop light is still not working – please resolve this matter.

Grants

- Wicklow County Council are now saying that the DPGs etc are a function of Bray Town Council. People who are in bad situations have contacted me for help.
- We need to sort this out – I ask the engineers to have a look at the site/works and see if everything has been carried out properly.
- I ask Bray Town Council and Wicklow County Council to sort this issue out.
- I was told that anything greater than €10,000 goes to Wicklow County Council for approval. Can this be confirmed?

Giltspur Heights

- The wall between 49 & 50 Giltspur Heights is in a dangerous condition. I have written to Bray Town Council in relation to this, I ask the officials to have a look at this again.
- I hope the Youth Club in Giltspur Heights continues – thanks to the Estate Development Officer for his report.

Flash Flooding in Oldcourt

- There has been no compensation for the tenants of Oldcourt affected by the recent flooding. I asked that a letter go to the Minister – can we have an update on this?
- There has been damage to the plasterboard in these homes and people told this is not considered structural damage, so no repairs will be made. I believe this is structural damage and ask the council to help these people. Their homes have been destroyed.

Vacant Houses

- I am disappointed with the progress on the vacant houses. There are over 800 people on the housing list in Bray – can this list be circulated to the members?
- There is a house in Wolfe Tone Square that has been boarded up for 10 weeks. Most of these houses have been on the list a long time. There is a need for housing to be provided – they should not be boarded up.

Oldcourt

- It says that a Project Appraisal will be submitted to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. As a result of the Fire Safety Audit, we were told that one house would be chosen to cost the works that would be required to bring the houses up to standard.

Kilbride Lodge

- Planning permission was granted to the developer and this site was then handed to Bray Town Council as Part V housing. Can we have an update? The site is derelict and being used for illegal dumping.
- Can this be put on the list of schedules?

Ashlawn Court Refurbishment Scheme

- A Project Appraisal is being prepared. Did the meeting with the Department happen? Did we get approval for the remainder of Ashlawn Court?
- It is important to unboard houses that have been kept for this scheme. Are they ready to walk into?

Fire Damaged House

- With regards to the recent fire here, do we not have staff who can do repairs/painting – does everything have to go to tender? Can we not do some of the work ourselves?

House Purchases

- I am delighted to see that three additional houses are being bought.
- We should review this. I ask that a letter go to the Department – houses are cheaper now and it will take people off the housing list.
- I agree that we should review the housing purchases – perhaps the MPC should look at this and then come back to the full council. It might address some of the problems regarding housing.

Carrigoona Site

- It says in the report that a response will be submitted to the Department by the end of the month – will we see plans by the end of the month?

Miscellaneous

- It is a good idea to give Fáilte Park residents meeting rooms. I'm sure all Councillors will support this.
- I have brought this up at previous meetings – the name sign for Deerpark has been knocked down. I was told that it would be re-erected, but it has not been.
- Railings were erected around the Fassaroe Community Centre – thank you. I ask that the wall be raised by two or three blocks for extra security.
- I hope Kilbride Lane proceeds quickly – we badly need housing in the town.
- Street lighting in Bray is an issue. I have reported lights out in Fassaroe and given the pole numbers, but they are still out. Is the problem with the ESB – what deal do we have with them?
- I am delighted the graffiti scheme has started again. Is there anything that the Litter Warden can do to get people to remove graffiti from their walls, who refuse to do so?
- There is a tree in Thornhill Estate, which is causing danger – it is being hit by passing trucks and the tree is shaking. It has never been trimmed, can this be looked at?
- Bray Town Council staff are calling to tenants homes to effect repairs and are not treating them with respect. This is not good enough. When complaints are made, it should be addressed. I will give the engineer the details of the case.
- I am glad to see that the Silverbridge Halting Site scheme will be advertised.
- Have the problems with St. Rita's been sorted out?
- Sutton Road came before the council about three and a half years ago, I hope this progresses.

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

- We have had discussion with Wicklow County Council regarding the inspection of houses in the Bray Town Council administrative area under the Grants Scheme.
- Bray Town Council staff will inspect private houses and forward a report onto Wicklow County Council. Wicklow County Council will forward a list of houses to be inspected to Bray Town Council.
- The figure of €10,000 is in relation to the old Essential Grants – Housing Aid for older people.
- The Housing Adaptation Grants are dealt with by Wicklow County Council in the case of private houses.
- The vacant houses are being held back until we have a definite response regarding the Refurbishment Scheme.
- The houses being held will require a small amount of painting to freshen up the place, which can be done by our staff or by the prospective tenants, if they wish to do so.
- There is a schedule of works, which is carried out by the engineer and the Clerk of Works before going to tender. We bring the houses up to the correct standard, which takes time and can't be helped.
- The issues raised by the prospective tenants of St. Rita's have been resolved.
- I am confident Sutton Road will start this month.
- No plans will be presented to the members on the Carrigoona site until the Department approves the Project Appraisal. Once this is approved, the Department will fund the architect's drawings.
- I will talk to the Clerk of Works regarding the wall at Giltspur Heights.
- Regarding Oldcourt flooding, I will talk to the Clerk of Works if the problems are structural then Bray Town Council are responsible for repairs. Can Councillor Byrne provide the addresses of these homes?
- We have written to the Department regarding house purchases. Previously we had asked for permission to purchase 5. We increased this to 8 in 2008 and then asked for permission to purchase a further 4. We will increase our requirement to 12 for 2009 and 2010.
- A Project Appraisal regarding Kilbride Lodge is being prepared and will go to the Department.
- Kilbride Lodge cannot be put on the schedule until it is with the Department.
- Project Appraisals for Oldcourt and Ashlawn will be lodged with the Department by the end of October.
- I will talk to the Parks Department in relation to the tree at Thornhill.
- We will address the issue of complaints against staff members.
- I will check the graffiti query with the Litter Warden and An Garda Síochána.
- We will look at the sign in Deerpark.
- The Fire Safety Audit issues will be addressed in the schedule.

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

- We are aware that the lights are on in Richmond Hill. It is a matter for the contractor to resolve the costs involved are being incurred by the contractor. The Consultant Architect on the project has raised the matter with the contractor a number of times.

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

- Bray Town Council engaged a consultant to carry out an assessment of a house in Oldcourt to get an idea of the costs involved. The Project Appraisal will deal with the issues raised and the logistics of the works also. This needs to be fleshed out before it is lodged with the Department.

3. To Consider Planning Matters

The Administrative Officer reported that no planning files were requested.

The members raised the following points:

Planning File Reference 08/177

- This is for a betting shop on the Quinsborough Road, there are enough in the town already.
- I am against this – it is not appropriate for the area.
- This is relocation from number 6 to number 9, which has a decorative shop front. I would hate to see plastic signs on it.

Planning File Reference 08/179

- This is the fourth application for this site and the measurements don't add up. It should be invalidated.
- We have to send a message that people cannot just keep placing planning applications until permission is granted. I am totally against this application.

Planning File Reference 08/168

- I see that this application has been invalidated. This has already been built and I am concerned that it would be used for a business as it has windows and a toilet. There is also a cobblelock pathway leading up to it. The residents are also concerned. Can this be looked into further please?

Planning File Reference 08/173

- I support this application.

Miscellaneous

- I have concerns about businesses in the town. There is a shop in the Arcade that is selling drug paraphernalia. Does the Town Development Plan allow us to stop shops like this? I have spoken to An Garda Siochana in relation to this and they are investigating what they are selling. This shop glorifies drug culture.
- The provision of floodlights in Ballywaltrim and Fassaroe need to go to Part 8 – the funding is there, but the process is not progressing. They are needed with the winter and dark nights coming in.
- Are there problems with signing off on this? The money might not always be there.

The Town Engineer informed the members of the following:

- Two months ago Bray Town Council were presented with a scheme regarding floodlights in Ballywaltrim and Fassaroe. The scheme called for 4 lights at 500 lux (which is a very strong beam) on 6 poles, instead of 8, as is usual.
- We asked for a review to ensure that the lights that are installed are least obtrusive to the community.
- We are willing to install floodlights once they comply with best planning practice.
- We don't want to go to public consultation until we are happy with the proposed scheme. I do not want to recommend refusing the scheme to the members.

The Town Manager stated that Bray Town Council has offered to facilitate this and that it is up to the promoter of the scheme to progress the matter. He added that when the VEC lodge the drawings with Bray Town Council, the matter would be progressed.

4. Disposal of Fee Simple Interest in 22 Scott Park, Bray, in accordance with Statutory Notice

It was proposed by Councillor John Byrne and seconded by Councillor Caroline Burrell to proceed with the disposal of Fee Simple Interest in 22 Scott Park, Bray, in accordance with Statutory Notice.

5. To Discuss the Recommendation that an Application be made to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government In Relation to Raising a HFA Loan

The Town Clerk informed the members that an application had been made to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for funding and that the Notice to Treat had been served on this site. Once this has been done, there is no turning back. The Department do not have funding available for this scheme and the advice given to Bray Town Council was to raise a HFA loan. The Department has given Bray Town Council an indication that the funding for housing over the next three years will be in the region of €34 million. The Town Clerk added that it was proposed a loan of €6.1 million to buy the site.

The members raised the following points:

- [Councillor John Byrne] I propose that we seek this. If we agree with the loan, can we go to tender or are we still dealing with the Department?
- Has the price of the land been agreed with the owners?

- Will the Department come through with the money to build houses? What happens if we buy the land and can't build?
- We should wait until the Budget – I want to be certain we will get the money to build the houses.
- I am concerned other projects might suffer.
- This is a good opportunity and is ideal for Bray. I feel we have no option, we should go for it.
- [Councillor John Brady] I second Councillor Byrne's proposal. We have to move forward. I have concerns regarding the type of development. I would like to see a mixture of maisonettes and housing units for families.
- €6.1 million is a lot of money. Have we secured the Marino Clinic site?
- We should push ahead while we have the opportunity – get the housing list reduced.
- Wait until after the Budget – I don't want to be paying interest on a loan and not be able to build.

The Town Manager informed the members of the following:

- There is no land in Bray anymore. We have gone for all available land.
- We went down the route of a Compulsory Purchase Order on this, with the agreement of the Department.
- Bray Town Council is legally committed to buying this land. If we don't raise a loan to cover the cost of the site we'll be insolvent. We don't have a choice.

Councillor Anne Egan remarked that Bray Town Council did a CPO on Richmond Hill and the units were built before the owners were paid. Mr. O'Brien stated that he believed the law had changed and that the Notice to Treat has to be served within 18 months. He then added that Project Appraisal is currently with the Department, which will need to be approved prior to progressing the development.

Councillor John Brady stated that the owners of the site wished that Bray Town Council acquire the house and full site and asked if this was the case. The Town Clerk confirmed that this was so.

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

To Make An Application to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government In Relation to Raising a HFA Loan

	For	Against
Councillor John Brady	✓	
Councillor Caroline Burrell	✓	
Councillor John Byrne	✓	
Cathaoirleach Brid Collins	✓	
Councillor Anne Egan	✓	
Councillor Anne Ferris	✓	
Councillor David Grant	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Councillor Michael Lawlor	✓	
Councillor Steve Matthews	✓	
Councillor John McManus	✓	
Councillor Ciaran O'Brien	✓	
Councillor Pat Vance	✓	
Total	11	

The Town Clerk then deemed the matter to be carried unanimously.

6. Reports and Recommendations

Taking In Charge Of The Open Spaces at Novara Park

The proposed taking in charge of the open spaces at Novara Park had been advertised on Wednesday 23rd July, with a closing date for submissions of Friday 5th September, 2008.

The Town Clerk read a report from the Town Engineer on this. The report stated that no objectives or representation were received. Consequently, the recommendation of the Town Engineer is to proceed with taking in charge of the open spaces at Novara Park.

Councillor Pat Vance proposed and Councillor John Byrne seconded the proposal of taking in charge the open spaces in at Novara Park.

Proposed Taking In Charge at Lauderdale Estate

The Town Engineer had circulated a report, along with a map and costings to the members in relation to the above. He stated that he wished to clarify that the map issued showed that there is a part of the estate that will not be taken in charge and asked the members if this was understood. The members responded that it was. The Town Engineer then stated that this matter will be advertised.

Mountainview Drive Right of Way

The Town Clerk read out a report to the members from the Town Engineer in relation to the above. The right of way will be blocked off at one end by a gate. The Town Clerk added that she had written to adjacent residents some months ago and that reminder letters had been sent to the residents regarding the taking in charge.

The members raised the following points:

- The residents have approached me about this. It is very important to have a gate and not a wall, as this area was affected by the recent flooding.
- There has been a lot of anti social behaviour in the area. Can something be done in time for Halloween?
- These works should be carried out quickly.

Rent Allowance

The Town Clerk read out the following report from the Report from Community Cultural Social & Environmental MPC:

"At the September meeting of the Community Cultural Social & Environmental MPC the Members discussed the issue of private rented dwellings. It was noted that the forms being presented to the Community Welfare Officer for rent allowance do not include the PPS numbers of the landlord, in some cases the landlord's name and address is also not included. The Members of the MPC propose that a letter be forwarded to the HSE requesting that the form be changed and that details of all landlords in receipt of rent allowance be available to the Revenue Commissioners."

The members agreed to a letter being sent and raised the following points:

- This issue came up at the MPC – sub-standard accommodation is being offered. Bray Town Council are undertaking works.
- Tenants have to provide PPS numbers, but landlords don't – they are in receipt of state money.
- We should bring this matter to the attention of the Government and get it changed.
- We need to bring landlords into the open economy and out of the black economy.
- I wholeheartedly support this, some of the accommodation is pitiful and proper fire and safety standards are not being met.

Councillor Pat Vance asked if there were any reports in relation to the flooding in Bray on 16th August, 2008 and stated that the members had been told updates would be issued on this matter.

The Town Engineer responded that:

- We are looking at various areas regarding the flooding, Mountainview Drive is one area and Newcourt Road is another.
- The existing drawings that Bray Town Council have don't match with what is physically present.
- Dye testing is being conducted.

- Bray Town Council are liaising with Wicklow County Council with regard to the Southern Cross Road and roundabout.
- A big issue is the capacity of the pipes coping with run-off. Works on a chamber in Wheatfield have been carried out and it can take water more quickly now.
- Some of the pipe work contained on the drawings provided to Bray Town Council is not correct.
- We are not ready to give a report at the moment. It will be more than likely November. We will produce a report and circulate it in advance.

Fence at Glen na Smol

The Town Engineer informed the members that talks are being conducted with the residents of Wheatfield and Glen na Smol but that agreement has not quite been reached yet regarding the location of the fence.

7. Notices of Motion

307. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, Anne Egan, Anne Ferris & John McManus (02/09/2008)

“That a designated Disabled Parking Space be provided outside 6 Elmgrove Terrace on Duncairn Avenue to facilitate the resident who is disabled and needs to be able to park his car outside his house. This road is extremely busy with all-day parkers when the spaces on Seymour Road are full.”

Report

Duncairn Avenue is less than 5.5m wide. The provision of a parking bay would obstruct the two-way traffic. Having regard to the low traffic volume, this would be considered acceptable for the single space proposed provided double yellow lines are also provided on the opposite side of the road to ensure that the road does not become obstructed due to parking on both sides. It is therefore proposed to provide the disabled parking space and double yellow lines opposite.

The members raised the following points:

- I wrote to the Town Clerk and Town Engineer about this and was told that this person would have to talk to his neighbours regarding the double yellow lines. I gave this person a copy of the letter but I ask that that Town Engineer ensure that the neighbours across the road are aware of this.
- I support this. Is there a change of policy regarding this? I asked for the same on the seafront and was told no.
- I suppose it would depend on the area and the disability.
- What happens if the resident moves? Is it particular to this resident?
- No – anyone with a disability will be able to use this.
- Will this have to go to public consultation?
- [Town Clerk, Christine Flood] No, public consultation is not required for this.

308. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, Anne Egan, Anne Ferris & John McManus (02/09/2008)

“That the footpath at the Carlisle Grounds adjacent to the gates be repaired as it is in a very bad condition and has caused people to trip up and fall.”

Report

The area opposite the Carlisle grounds entrance gates has deteriorated significantly since the gates have come into regular use over a year ago. This will be addressed at the earliest opportunity.

The members raised the following points:

- A person with a disability has contacted me in relation to this – they have fallen a number of times. I ask that this work be done as soon as possible.

309. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, Anne Egan, Anne Ferris & John McManus (02/09/2008)

“That the Council introduces Bye-Laws to prevent off-road vehicles using Rehills Lands which is causing such a nuisance to local residents particularly at weekends. These Bye-Laws could be similar to those introduced by Wicklow County Council at Ballyremon Commons.”

Report

Draft Bye-Laws have been prepared. It is hoped to put these before the members for consideration shortly.

The members raised the following points:

- I welcome this reply and that the bye-laws will come before us for discussion. The residents of the area are plagued.

310. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, Anne Egan, Anne Ferris & John McManus (02/09/2008)

“That additional ramps be provided between the Egan Centre and the Lower Dargle Road with a view to slowing down traffic on this very busy road, and that warning signs be erected to advise motorists of the ramps.”

Report

This has been included on a list of proposed traffic calming measures that will shortly be made available for public consultation.

The members raised the following points:

- Thank you for that response, it is very welcome.
- When the engineers are looking at providing a ramp, can we make a zebra crossing at this point? It will kill two birds with the one stone.

311. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, Anne Egan, Anne Ferris & John McManus (02/09/2008)

“That the stretch of footpath along the north side of the Dargle Road at the foot of the wooded slope just beyond the Egan Centre be examined as it is often crossed by water running off the slope. Pedestrians have to cross the road to avoid the water. This stretch of footpath is also heavily littered.”

Report

Excess vegetation and litter was cleared from the bank several weeks ago. A further cleanup has been scheduled. The feasibility of providing an interceptor drain to collect ground water before it discharges onto the footpath will be assessed at the earliest opportunity.

The members raised the following points:

- Thank you for this response.

312. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, Anne Egan, Anne Ferris & John McManus (02/09/2008)

“That the council seek funding for a window replacement programme for Oldcourt Estate.”

Report

There are currently no window replacement schemes funded by the Dept of Environment, the Council are examining windows in homes occupied by the elderly and also the older type accommodation. In the event that a scheme is available these houses would be a priority; a small number of the houses in Oldcourt did have windows replaced in recent years.

The members raised the following points:

- I feel that in the long term this is a good idea, the residents have gotten new heating systems and these should be backed up with new windows. I feel that this should be a priority and recommend that Bray Town Council seek funding for this.
- I support this fully. We have been speaking of a Project Appraisal for Oldcourt, which will include a massive amount of work being done on the houses – we should include a window replacement scheme in tandem with these works. The windows will have to be replaced at some stage.
- I ask that Fassaroe be included in a window replacement scheme also.
- Can the Housing Department provide a report of how many houses in Oldcourt are Bray Town Council stock and how many are private? The private owners are suffering from negative publicity.
- I think the people who have bought houses privately in Oldcourt are not worried. When you buy a house, you have to get a surveyor to approve the safety of it before you are given a mortgage.

313. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, Anne Egan, Anne Ferris & John McManus (02/09/2008)

“Due to the number of serious robberies at the Post Office at Quinsborough Road that the council approach An Post to implement better security measures for its staff and the general public.”

Report

Bray Town Council has already been in contact with An Garda Siochana in relation to this matter. An Garda Siochana have regular meetings with all types of financial institutions. New security procedures have been adopted by An Post.

The members raised the following points:

- I welcome this. I have been approached by staff and members of the public in relation to this. I ask that it be put on the agenda of the next Joint Policing Committee meeting. People are afraid a major incident will take place there, if we can work in conjunction with An Garda Siochana and An Post, it is a good idea to do so.

8. Correspondence

Letter From Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government re Flash Flooding

The Town Clerk read out a letter from Mr. Eddie Kiernan, Private Secretary, which was received in response to a letter sent to Minister Gormley requesting funding for people affected by the recent flash flooding in Bray. The letter stated that the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government ‘does not have a role in providing financial assistance to people affected by flooding’ and that ‘funds are available under the Supplementary Welfare Allowance Scheme to assist people on low incomes who may not be insured.’. The letter also stated that ‘the question of any additional scheme of assistance...is a matter for the Department of Finance and the Department of Social and Family Affairs.’.

The members were disappointed with this response and raised the following points:

- Previous victims of flooding were helped out if they had no insurance in Bray and other parts of the country. To have to beg the Social Welfare for money is not the way to do it.
- It will cost a lot of money to repair these homes.
- Minister Gormley announced a major compensation package for the victims of the Carlow flooding. This should also apply to Bray.
- We should go to the Minister of Finance with this request.
- Minister Gormley should have sent this request onto the Minister for Finance.

Palliative Care in Bray

The Town Clerk read out a letter received from Mr. Darragh Scully, Private Secretary at the Department of Health & Children. This was in response to a letter sent to Mary Harney TD and Professor Brendan Drumm, CEO of the HSE on 22nd May 2008 expressing concern at the lack of a Palliative Care Nurse in the Bray area. The letter stated that Bray Town Council’s letter had been sent to ‘Ms. Marion Meany, Assistant Local Health Manager, Wicklow to have the matter investigated.’ and that Ms. Meany had replied directly to Councillor Brid Collins on 30th July in

regard to this matter. Councillor Bríd Collins confirmed that this was the case and added that the Town Clerk's office had circulated the response via email.

Heavy Duty Goods Collection

The Town Clerk informed the members of the 2008 Heavy Duty Goods Collection. This had been advertised in the local papers on 1st October 2008.

Upgrading of Sections of N11 Dublin – Wexford to Motorway Status

The Town Clerk informed the members that the Department of Transport are conducting public consultation on the above, details are available in County Buildings. Submissions should be lodged with the Department of Transport.

9. Any Other Business

Bray Swimming Pool

Councillor Pat Vance stated that a report was requested regarding the finances and management structure of the swimming pool. He wondered if projections and maintenance costs for the next five years could be provided.

Councillor John Byrne agreed with this request and stated that a number of people had been in contact with him regarding the pricing. He asked that the opening hours be looked at also.

The Town Clerk stated that there is no difficulty in providing figures to the members and added that she was not sure if 5 years' could be provided but certainly figures for the next year could.

The Town Manager added that the projections are based on a membership of 1,500 and that there are 800 members currently. The pricing has been based on other pools in the area and it is important that the pool is not underfunded – it is estimated that it will cost circa €950,000 per year to run. Pool only membership is being investigated and this might be provided at off-peak times.

Councillor John Byrne stated that there was a subcommittee in relation to the pool in previous years and suggested that they should meet and revert to the full council.

Suspension of Standing Orders

The Cathaoirleach Ciaran O'Brien informed the members that the fee for the SuperQuinn site had been paid to Wicklow County Council during the summer and that they had forwarded €2 million to Bray Town Council. This means that Wicklow County Council have an outstanding balance of €5 million to be paid to Bray Town Council.

The members then held a discussion on the matter, where the following points were raised:

- This is not the first time that Wicklow County Council have retained money owed to Bray Town Council.
- Bray Town Council paid for that land in full, but there was no documentation to back up the ownership and we had to settle for €7 million.
- I have no problem with lending this money to Wicklow County Council, but they should pay interest on it.
- Can we have a report on what monies are owed to Bray Town Council by Wicklow County Council?
- We should chase up any money owed and the include interest.
- What does Wicklow County Council owe us in total?

The Town Manager stated that the situation is not as bad as it sounds and added that Bray Town Council owe Wicklow County Council €5.3 million on the County Demand. He stated that Bray Town Council have withheld the County Demand so that Wicklow County Council will refund Bray Town Council. Legally Bray Town Council cannot with hold the County Demand.

Mr. O'Brien added that the Fire Service is paid via Bray and that there is usually a gap between Bray Town Council paying and Wicklow County Council refunding the monies. There is also money owed on Regional Roads Grants and Water and Sewerage. The land at the SuperQuinn site was registered in the name of Wicklow County Council and that is why the money went to them. There is no question of a loan to Wicklow County Council, if Bray Town Council had paid the County Demand, Wicklow County Council wouldn't have done this. The monies owing to Bray

Town Council by Wicklow County Council are between €300,000 and €500,000 at different times. Wicklow County Council are legally obliged to pay Bray Town Council.

Councillor Pat Vance remarked that Wicklow County Council should not have behaved in this manner and complemented the Town Manager on withholding the County Demand.

* * * *

This concluded the meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
TOWN CLERK

Dated: _____