

**Minutes of the Special Housing and Planning Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008 at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present:**

**Councillor Brid Collins, Cathaoirleach  
Councillor Caroline Burrell  
Councillor John Brady  
Councillor John Byrne  
Councillor Anne Egan  
Councillor David Grant  
Councillor Michael Lawlor  
Councillor John McManus  
Councillor Steve Matthews  
Councillor Ciaran O'Brien  
Councillor Pat Vance**

**Also present:**

**Mr. Des O'Brien, Director of Services  
Ms. Christine Flood, Town Clerk  
Mr. Sean O'Neill, Town Engineer  
Mr. David Forde, Administrative Officer Finance  
Ms. Joan Kavanagh, Senior Staff Officer Housing**

**Apologies:** **Councillor Anne Ferris**

**1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting dated 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008**

Councillor Caroline Burrell proposed confirmation of the minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 and Councillor Anne Egan seconded the proposal.

**2. Disposal of Fee Simple Interest of Shop at Richmond Hill, Fassaroe, Bray**

The members raised the following points:

- This was circulated to the members and mentions a substantial figure. Where does this money go? Can it be ring fenced for the area? The Community Centre needs work.
- I was never in favour of a shop going back into Fassaroe, as there was trouble with littering, dirt and antisocial behaviour previously.
- I'd prefer to have the shop leased for a few years to see how things go. We could then dispose of it in 3 or 5 years time.
- What happens to the tenants living above the shop if the owner decides to sell? There will be no comeback for Bray Town Council.
- I'm inclined to agree, we have two new planning applications for off-licences. I am concerned that this shop would become an off-licence if we sell it.
- It is a good idea to have a local shop back in the area, but we need to keep some control. We should restrict the sale of alcohol and give a 5 year lease.

The Town Clerk, Ms. Christine Flood informed the members:

- The funds raised will go towards paying the debt incurred during the construction of houses and the shop. There is no fund available to ring fence.
- The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government encourages tenants living above shops in this manner, as it is passive security. The tenants would accept their allocation in the full knowledge that they would be living over a shop.
- Under the Litter Act the shop owner/tenant is required to keep the area clean.
- The offer for an outright purchase was more attractive to the purchaser than rental, as there are fit out costs involved. I can discuss your concerns with the Valuer.

The members raised the following points:

- People have a certain legal hold on a lease. We need to get legal advice on this, if we go down that route.
- Maybe people won't take a shop with a short lease.
- If someone pays a substantial amount of money for this shop, they will look after it.
- I'm concerned about what control Bray Town Council have regarding litter.
- The residents are concerned regarding anti social behaviour. What can we do?

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

- We can let this property on a 200 year lease with a covenant prohibiting sale of alcohol.
- The land was the subject of a Compulsory Purchase Order and was very expensive.
- While the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will refund some of the outlay, I don't think leasing this property will cover the cost of the capital expenditure.

The Town Clerk advised the members that there are devices used in shops to deter anti-social behaviour and that the provision of such a device for the shop at Richmond Hill will be considered. She stated that Bray Town Council will strictly enforce the Litter Act in the area of the shop. Ms. Flood then informed the members that the matter could be adjourned for a week, so that she could discuss the matters raised with the Law Agent.

The members agreed to adjourning this item until the next Council meeting and requested that this matter be resolved and the keys handed over quickly.

### **3. Disposal of Fee Simple Interest of 79 James Everett Park, Bray**

Councillor Pat Vance proposed Disposal of Fee Simple Interest of 79 James Everett Park, Bray and Councillor Anne Egan seconded the proposal.

### **4. Disposal of Fee Simple Interest of 31 Wolfe Tone Square North, Bray**

Councillor Caroline Burrell proposed Disposal of Fee Simple Interest of 31 Wolfe Tone Square North, Bray and Councillor John Brady seconded the proposal.

### **5. To Consider The Housing Progress Report**

The members raised the following points:

#### House Purchases:

- I welcome the house purchases. I hope they are ready soon for tenants.

#### Richmond Hill:

- When will people be given their keys? This is more than one year behind schedule.
- I am very frustrated and angry with the developer.
- The tenants were informed in February that they would be moving in. A number of them are in private rented accommodation and it's very hard on them to give notice to landlords.
- The keys were due to be handed out last week and the contractor held back.
- We need to enforce penalties built into contracts.
- Let's get the tenants in as soon as possible.
- It would be nice to have an official opening before the end of the Cathaoirleach's term.
- I'm very disappointed about this. However, the tenant that was in the newspapers is a tenant of Bray Town Council and is downsizing.
- What is the reason for the keys not being handed over?
- The officials are keeping in constant touch with the prospective tenants. I hope I get to open it.

#### Oldcourt Fire Safety Audit:

- This seems to have fallen off the agenda. A comprehensive report was due to go to the Department. I spoke to them last week and was told no such report was received.
- What works have been done in this area?
- I would like to see this on the Housing Progress Report every month to keep us up to date.

#### Kilbride Lane

- There are 42 proposed units on the Murphy's site. These plans are with the Department for approval. At what stage will they come to us for our approval?
- There are 70 units pending between Kilbride and Carrigoona, we need to get these on their way.

#### Carrigoona

- I hope this proceeds quickly.
- There are plans for 28 units. Are they just for Carrigoona and not the cycling club or does this figure include both sites?

#### Land Bank

- Will this come before the members soon?
- A parcel of land at Kilbride Lodge was handed over to us as Part V – what is the status of this? Why is it not on the report?

#### Deerpark/Ard na Greine

- The name sign in Deerpark was knocked over two years ago and nothing has been done to rectify this. Can you please update us on this?
- The sculpture at the entrance to Ard na Greine was due to be removed – what is happening with this?

#### Maitland Street

- This is nearly complete and is an excellent job. Thank you.

#### Fassaroe Overall Scheme

- This is very vague. There is no commitment that the pilot scheme will be extended. We need to make our position clear to the Department.
- There was great publicity for this at the time. The then Minister (Roche) was to give us €8 million to spend on the estate.
- A lot of houses need new windows. I'm very disappointed. Please continue window replacement in Fassaroe.
- We have 6 – 8 houses being kept for refurbishment – this won't happen for a long time. We should reallocate them.
- The current Minister (Gormley) has decided this won't happen.
- This is an outrageous dereliction of duty. Residents were told Fassaroe would be upgraded and the Community Centre was tied into this.
- I would assume incoming Ministers would honour the commitments made by outgoing Ministers.
- People in Fassaroe were promised this – it is a good scheme.
- We should make it clear to the Minister that we are not accepting this.
- Some work has been done on the Community Centre recently – I would like to thank the officials for the repairs to the roof.
- Bray Town Council's Housing Budget has been increased by €250,000 by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. This is because the applications were made in the proper manner by the officials. My understanding is that the Fassaroe Scheme will continue.
- I'm delighted that the money is being continued, it is well deserved. The residents are proud of the estate.

### Silverbridge Halting Site

- I know Bray Town Council and Wicklow County Council are liaising on this and I request that this is done urgently.

### Housing Adaptation Grant

- We are still waiting on contractors – when will we get them?

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

- I have spoken to the architect on the Richmond Hill site. He is due to go on site tomorrow morning to carry out a final inspection.
- The Clerk of Works will be onsite also.
- We are dependent on the go ahead of the architect. We have letters ready for dispatch to the prospective tenants.
- I was not expecting to give a report on the Fire Safety Audit tonight. There has been work done in Oldcourt.
- I've written to the consultants for clarification.
- We are in the process of engaging a Quantity Surveyor to cost a full house upgrade e.g. chimneybreasts will have to be replastered etc.
- We are constantly writing to the tenants regarding smoke alarms and unauthorised development, but we have received no feedback from them.
- We need to take additional technical advice. The Department have gotten the full report but we need to get clarification on some matters.
- The Assistant Arts Officer has met with the artist of the Ard na Greine art to get permission to decommission the piece. It is in the process of being so.

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

- I have spoken with the Traveller Tenancy Sustainment Officer today and Bray Town Council should have the necessary procurement documents in the next two weeks.
- I have circulated a proposed allocation to members on the houses purchased. The contracts will be finalised on Friday.
- Kilbride Lodge is being reviewed. We will go to the Department to request funding. The site is in our ownership.
- Re: Kilbride Lane. The Department have a new scheme – they require appraisal of every new development. This involves a lot of work and I would like to thank the Town Engineer and the Housing Engineer for their help.
- We have to show maps, outline the proposed design, local amenities, estimated costs and cost of land. The Department require this before it can go before the members. They have a publication – Quality Housing for Sustainable Communities, which we are consulting.
- We are awaiting comments from the Department and it can then go before the members and then Part VIII. Hopefully, we'll get the design right and the members will be happy.
- A number of Housing Adaptation Grants have come in recently. There is a good working relationship between the Clerk of Works and the Occupational Therapist. My understanding is that there will be contracts soon.
- The Department want full costing and an overall master plan for the Fassaroe Scheme. A Feasibility Study will have to be based on the costings from the Pilot Scheme.

The members raised the following points:

- People in Oldcourt do want to do something to make the houses safer.
- You said you were looking at carrying out a complete job – what would it entail? If you want to do a report for next week's meeting that's fine.
- The Housing Officer did not say who deemed that consideration would be given to a second pilot phase in Ashlawn Court.
- [Senior Staff Officer Joan Kavanagh] The Department made this decision.
- We didn't receive a reply regarding the Carrigoona and Cycling Club sites.
- We objected to 13 units being placed on the Cycling Club sites previously.
- If we object to the number of units, does it have to go back to the Department?

- The new procedures that the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government have in place are an insult to the engineering and administration staff. This is not devolving power to Local Government.
- Point of Information – consideration will be given to a second pilot phase in Ashlawn Court, what about the rest of the estate?

The Town Clerk informed the members of the following:

- I was at the meeting with the Department and it was reasonably successful as far as Bray is concerned.
- The Department have asked us to carry out an evaluation of the Ashlawn Court Pilot, as energy and other regulations have changed during the course of the pilot scheme.
- The Department are interested in an overall regeneration project for Fassaroe.

Councillor John McManus asked when this project would commence and the Town Clerk informed him that she couldn't answer his question. Councillor Ciaran O'Brien remarked that this project should be welcomed.

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

- The previous process worked in the following way: once the Local Authority decided a scheme was worthwhile, a consultant was employed and then the scheme went to the Department for approval.
- The current scheme requires Departmental approval before the appointment of consultants can take place.
- We retained the services of a private architect to give an opinion on the Kilbride Lane site. Based on this, the site could and should be developed.
- The Department require all the boxes to be ticked e.g. schools, amenities, facilities etc.
- An appraisal will have to be done. Once this appraisal is done and approved, a consultant will then be engaged to do the design.
- Once the Department approve the design, it will then go to the members and Part VIII.
- We think from the appraisal that there will be 28 units in a combined site at Carrigoona/Cycling Club.
- As to whether or not houses should be retained for refurbishment/remedial works, this is a judgement call.
- We have to guarantee the contractor a certain number of vacant houses during refurbishment. Current contracts specify 10 houses, this can be changed.

The members responded:

- The Departmental process is very long. If criteria are not met in some areas, does this mean houses will not get built?
- We need to take this up with the Department.
- Carrigoona – this has been going on for 2 years.

The Town Engineer replied:

- The appraisal requirement is relatively recent. It is only waived if we have written proof from the Department that the scheme has advanced to a certain point. St. Rita's will not need an appraisal approval.

The members raised the following points:

- We have made a decision regarding the Carrigoona site.
- I am concerned about vacant houses causing anti social behaviour – youths accessing and drinking etc.
- Carrigoona will be up and running before the Fassaroe Scheme takes place.
- I agree we should allocate these houses.
- I agree with Councillor Lawlor's comments made about the appraisals.
- I would like to support these appraisals. We know we have to change our building practices regarding sustainable housing. We should be positive.

## 6. To Consider Planning Matters

The Senior Staff Officer reported that no planning files were requested:

The members raised the following points:

- It was agreed that Bray Town Council would employ someone to earmark trees as per the Development Plan – has this been done? It was suggested that summer staff could do this.
- It was raised at the Municipal Policy Committee that this Council has failed to take estates in charge. We had a retired engineer/planner who was working on this previously. I would like a report at the next Special Housing & Planning meeting of the estates not in charge.
- There have been complaints about a licensed premises on the Vevay regarding noise/disturbances. Barrels have been left on a public lane and people are kicking them over late at night. This public lane should not be used as a storage area. I request Bray Town Council do something.
- Can we have an update on the Florentine Centre please? The car park on the Quinsborough Road that is being run by Ballymore Properties is in a dreadful state.
- The Litter Warden should be issuing fines to Ballymore.
- The lock has been pulled off the hoarding on the Florentine site and now the public can access it. Youngsters are drinking in there and it is also being used for dumping.

### Planning File Reference 08/67

- I strongly recommend that this application be refused. We have more than our share of bookmakers.
- I agree.
- This is a listed building.
- Bray Town Council have spent a lot of money to upgrade the Quinsborough Road.
- I see this application was invalidated. I hope when it is resubmitted that it will be refused.
- This is a main thoroughfare in the town – we need a good mix of shops. There is already a bookmakers here.

### Planning File Reference 08/62

- I don't support this. They are knocking down a house and building apartments. I hope that developers go the route of 3 – 4 bedroom apartments so that families can live in them.

### Planning File Reference 08/37

- I am glad this off licence has been refused.
- I see that the decision has been appealed to An Bord Pleanála. I hope they take into account that there are already 9 in the town.

### Planning File Reference 08/57

- This mentions a managed shared house – what does this mean?

### Planning File Reference 08/79

- This for an off licence at the Pickled Pig site – there is no need for another off licence in the area. There is a pub in the area that has an off licence.

### Planning File Reference 08/07

- I hope this doesn't get permission.

The Cathaoirleach Bríd Collins, informed the members that Ballymore Properties are no longer clamping in the car park due to her efforts. She stated that Ballymore have been contacted on numerous occasions with requests to clean up the site and asked the Town Clerk for an update.

The Town Clerk informed the members of the following:

- I will contact Ballymore again in relation to the car park.

- I am very concerned, for health and safety reasons, about people accessing the Ballymore site – Ballymore are also concerned.
- If you are aware of the gates being open, please ring me directly – don't wait until the next meeting.
- If you tell me immediately, I will deal with it immediately.
- I would ask you not to access the site as it is setting a bad example to youngsters.
- We are dealing with Ballymore but the process is very slow. There are a number of legal issues.

The Town Manager informed the members that nothing has been done about the trees yet. He stated that there is a lot being done in Bray at the moment e.g. the SAAO with very little staff. Councillor John McManus stated that this is not acceptable and wanted to know if in fact, this would be done.

The Town Manager responded that he will try to get to it. He stated that he is trying to use his staff efficiently and is trying to chase up Development Levies due.

Councillor McManus then responded that this should be done as it's in the Development Plan and we need to protect the town. He stated that he is happy for it to be done during the summer but worried that this undertaking was being reneged upon. The Town Manager stated that this was not the case and endeavoured to get to it.

**7. To Discuss The Local Government Auditors Report on the Bray Town Council Annual Financial Statement, Year Ending 31st December 2006**

The members raised the following points:

- There is mention of a surplus of €93,000+ after transfer to reserve of €736,000+. Does this mean that we have a surplus of greater than €830,000?
- This report mentions that there is no internal audit of Bray Town Council, I'd like to hear the Manager's comments.
- Our system is a system of checking, but there is not a formal audit.
- I'd like to commend the Auditor on this report – it is well laid out. The collection rates are very good.
- Paragraph 8 mentions the Development Contributions. We need to review this. Currently Commencement Notices go to Wicklow County Council as the Building Authority, but Bray Town Council is the Invoicing Authority. What system of checks are in place? How do we know when developments have commenced building?
- A Commencement Notice was acknowledged 14 months after the development had started. This council should be notified sooner, so we can collect the levies.

The AO Finance, Mr. David Forde informed the members

- An Internal Audit Unit has recently been set up in Wicklow County Council for all Wicklow Local Authorities.
- This new unit will include Bray Town Council also.
- The figure transferred to reserves will go to pay off loans.

Councillor John McManus asked how the figure of €93,000 can be explained or reconciled? The AO Finance, Mr. David Forde responded that this figure is income generated, and not a surplus. He added that more income was generated in Housing & Planning that was budgeted for.

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

- €93,000 on €16,000,000 is less than 1% - sometimes we overspend.
- While the Commencement Notices are completed in Wicklow County Council there is a system in place which notifies Bray of commencements.
- The intention is to go back twelve years on all planning permission applications. We will hire someone to visit the various sites to see what has commenced. We will recover the Levies.

## 8. To Discuss The Proposed Parking Bye-Laws 2008

The members raised the following points:

- This is a pre-publication draft. We have a problem in Bray in relation to parking in Bray.
- This plan says we want to manage parking and extend the area. This will benefit the town and visitors to the town.
- I don't accept the seafront as B 2 hour zone. Long term parking all along the seafront is free.
- We should change this and include the north beach car park also.
- This free long term parking will not be good for the seafront and businesses along there.
- The Castle Street car park is on a 35 year lease. This is up for review at the moment. We are not getting the best return on this.
- I would think that the rent we are getting for the car park is not 33% of the profits of this car park. We need to get a better return.
- The proposed area in the draft bye laws cuts through Maitland Street, Loreto Grange, Charnwood and Seacrest. It is splitting estates in half. It would seem that one person in Seacrest will need a permit and another will not. Please clarify this.
- I am opposed to an increase in parking charges. We should not be basing our fees on Dundrum.
- We are not getting enough people into the town. An increase in the charges will drive them out.
- Why is the increase in fees for a Residential Disk so high? What about a waiver for elderly people?
- This is a reserved function and is up to the members to decide. This is a difficult thing to do.
- If this issue goes past October, we should drop it. It will only become a political football.
- Traders want more parking, shoppers want to park, employees want free parking and residents don't want people parking in the areas.
- If this is not agreed by October, I won't be supporting it.
- How will people apply for Special Parking Permits and whom will they apply to?
- Who will make sure these byelaws are enforced? Will it be the Traffic Wardens or An Garda Siochana?
- It is important to get this out to public consultation and get feedback.
- I support what we have going to public consultation and then making changes/amendments.
- Why has the car park on the beach not been included in this?
- [Town Clerk, Christine Flood] Car Park Parking Bye Laws are under a different piece of legislation. The current proposals only relate to On Street Parking Bye Laws made under the Road Traffic Act.
- Zone A has proposed fees of 50 cent for the first 30 minutes and €1.50 per hour. People will put 50 cent in every half hour just to save 50 cent.
- If we are going to charge for parking on the seafront, it should be free at weekends.
- I assume that the black line on this map is a rough line – in the event of Bye Laws being established, will it follow the lines of the roads?
- It is proposed to have long stay paid parking from the level crossing back towards Albert Avenue. Is this on one side of the road only? Is it proposed that on the side of the sea it will be free? Is it not better to tidy up long stay pay parking?
- It is important that the cost of parking in Bray will not be out of line with other areas.
- I can't agree to let this out to public consultation. Most of these changes are in my area and to ask people who can park outside their homes free of charge to pay €50 is madness. They are well away from the town centre.
- €50 is too much to ask of people to pay for residents parking.
- Asking people who have never paid for parking to do so now will lead to major problems.
- We need to provide a means for commuters to get to the DART. This is a matter for CIE.
- It is ridiculous that it is cheaper to park on street than in the car parks.
- The area is too wide.
- This needs to be fine tuned.
- There are problems with the Permits at the moment – people can't get them for numerous cars.

- If we set up a small sub committee or get the two MPCs to have a look at this – fine. However, we will not get complete agreement.
- I supported paid parking ten years ago. We know what the answer to public consultation will be – no.
- Regarding Castle Street car park, the deal is done now. The area will change, what will happen to the lease?
- I agree that we need an increase. This is only a draft.
- This was done to free up spaces on the streets. At all times there are spaces in the Herbert Road car park, except when there is a funeral mass on.
- The free spaces in the Civic Centre car park are not being used on Saturday and Sunday. Traders and workers will not walk to work.
- Will people be charged at the southern end of the seafront and there will be free parking elsewhere on the seafront?

The Town Engineer, Mr. Sean O'Neill informed the members:

- We discussed this about a month ago and now we are discussing this tonight
- The matter of charges is irrelevant to me.
- On street parking should not be less than off street parking.
- Some councillors have stated that the area is too big, I will take guidance from the councillors on the size of the area.
- The proposed areas is approximately 1km from the DART and approximately 700 metres from the centre of the town.
- Opinions expressed have been that we want less people driving to Bray to park all day.
- Some areas should be tweaked. We have your feedback and we will tweak this and present a new document next week.
- We have to consult with An Garda Siochana regarding the bye laws. We do not need to consult with them regarding the charges.
- Charges can be changed without public consultation.
- Bye Laws relating to car parks can be changed without public consultation.
- The area on the seafront may be too big, or perhaps should not have be there at all.
- We are proposing to leave Ravenswell Road as a completely free area as there are a minimum number of residents on the road.
- This only applies to public roads, it does not apply to estates not in charge.
- Parking permits are proposed for the area within the black line.
- There are areas outside the existing zone and inside the proposed zone, which people are parking in to avoid paying fees.
- If we make major amendments to what goes on display, does it matter?

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

- We are responding to what we are hearing from residents. We have received complaints regarding people parking all day in housing estates.
- We will take guidance from the councillors.
- The Town Engineer will meet with the members if you wish.
- I ask the members if we can agree that this go to public consultation. The advertisement has to be booked.
- Changes can be made, as nothing is set in stone.

The Town Engineer added:

- We did an analysis of parking in the Herbert Road car park for a full week. For your information, 6% of users paid for 3 hour parking.
- 40% of transactions were for €1.
- 1,000 transactions were for €2.
- 10% of transactions were for 50c and under.

Mr. Des O'Brien advised the Town Clerk to book the advertisement and added that the map can be changed in time for the next meeting. He asked the councillors to suggest estates to be included in the revised boundary. He then asked if there was consensus on free parking along the seafront.

The members responded:

- It does not make sense to have free parking near the DART.
- Residents in this area will be paying for Disks.
- My understanding is this will come back to us next week and we'll make a formal decision then.

## **9. Reports and Recommendations**

Due to time constraints, Reports & Recommendations were not addressed at the meeting.

## **10. Notices of Motion**

Due to time constraints, Notices of Motion were not addressed at the meeting.

## **11. Correspondence**

### Letter From National Sea Life Bray

The Town Clerk informed the members of a letter received from Mr. Pat Ó'Súilleabháin of National Sea Life in relation to the condition of the building that houses it. Mr. Ó'Súilleabháin expressed his disappointment that the name of National Sea Life is connected with discussions about the condition of the building.

His letter stated that National Sea Life Bray is a tenant located in a portion of the building, and as such, has no responsibility, under the terms of its lease, for the maintenance and upkeep of the external aspects of the building in its entirety.

The letter further stated that the management of National Sea Life Bray has endeavoured to secure commitments from the owners of the building to renovate and upkeep the aspects of the building not under the control of Sea Life. Sea Life Bray have landscaped the approach to their premises at their own expense. The letter finished by stating Mr. Ó'Súilleabháin's desire to work closely with Bray Town Council to ensure the condition of the building is upgraded.

### Proposal Document From Richard Burke Consultant

The Town Clerk had circulated the above to the members by email prior to the meeting. This document was a vision document and contained details of electric transport available to the general population.

### Letter From Department of Transport re: Bray Air Express

The Town Clerk had circulated a copy of a letter regarding the Bray Air Express Airport Shuttle to the members prior to the meeting. This letter was sent to the Department of Transport to restate Bray Town Council's support for this service.

### Email From Community & Enterprise Regarding the Development of Community Halls/Centres

The Town Clerk had circulated this to the councillors via email on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. A workshop was held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May in relation to this.

### Letter Regarding Charitable Organisations & Commercial Rates

The Town Clerk informed the members of a letter from Máire Halvey A/Senior Staff Officer in the Finance Department. This letter advised that charitable organisations will now need to apply to the Valuation Office for confirmation of exempt status in order to qualify for exemption from commercial rates. The letter added that all charitable organisations have been informed of this requirement and how to proceed in applying for exempt status with the Valuation Office.

### Letter From Bray Summerfest

The Town Clerk informed the members of a letter from Mick Glynn, Festival Director of Bray Summerfest requesting permission to use public areas of Bray Seafront, the People's Park, Main Street, Albert Avenue and the Civic Plaza for Bray Summerfest 2008.

The letter stated that an application for an Event Licence had been placed as required by the Planning Act 2000 and as requested by the Town Engineer.

Letter From Commission For Taxi Regulation

The Town Clerk had circulated a letter received from Ms. Kathleen Doyle, the Commissioner for Taxi Regulation inviting submissions on the National Maximum Taxi Fare Revision by post or email by 5.00pm on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June next.

Email From United States Service Corp

The Town Clerk had circulated via email an email received from United States Service Corp requesting help on finding premises of at least 800 square metres, preferably in a historical building in need of repair.

Social Housing Allocations for 2008

The Town Clerk informed the members of the allocation of Housing Grants from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Bray Town Council have been allocated €8 million for social housing, €1 million for remedial improvement works and €150,000 for central heating works.

**12. Any Other Business**

Terminal Care Service

Councillor John McManus stated that he regretted the need to bring this issue before the council. He remarked that Bray town is the worst served region of the country regarding terminally ill people. He then added that there is no terminal care service in North Wicklow and there is in fact not one terminal care nurse in Bray or North Wicklow.

He suggested that Bray Town Council should write to the Chief Executive of the HSE Professor Brendan Drumm and the Minister for Health, Ms. Mary Harney TD. He remarked that it is a disgrace that people are left without this basic service and that people who are at their most vulnerable are being hurt.

Councillor McManus finished by stating that if this matter is brought before the Dáil, the answer is usually 'this is a matter for the HSE' and added that the HSE don't answer to anyone and that there is total dissatisfaction with this system.

The members supported Councillor McManus and agreed to a letter being sent to Professor Drumm and Minister Harney on this matter.

\* \* \* \*

This concluded the meeting.

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

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

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