

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held in the Council Chamber,  
Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present:** Councillor Joe Behan,  
Councillor Christopher Fox  
Councillor Steven Matthews  
Councillor Oliver O'Brien  
Councillor Michael O'Connor  
Councillor Brendan Thornhill  
Councillor Pat Vance

**Also present:** Mr. Des O'Brien, Director of Services  
Ms. Triona Irving, Acting District Administrator  
Mr. Liam Bourke, District Engineer

**Absent**

**Apologies:** Mr. David Forde, District Administrator

The Cathaoirleach opened the meeting by welcoming the new member Cllr. Michael O'Connor who was taking over Ex-Cllr. Brady's seat.

Cllr. O'Connor thanked the Cathaoirleach and stated that he hoped all would work together constructively for the people of Bray.

A Vote of Sympathy was extended to the people of Brussels, Patricia Fallon, Fr. John Bosco O'Byrne and Sister Catherine Hyland who recently passed away. A minute's silence was observed, as a mark of respect.

At this point the Cathaoirleach Cllr. Thornhill stated that he wished to bring up an item under Any Other Business. This matter was mentioned at the full Council Meeting yesterday in Wicklow County Council. Cllr. Thornhill was asked if there was any point in dealing with this would it not be better dealt with at the full Council Meeting. Cllr. Thornhill stated that no vote was taken and he wanted a letter sent to the Broadcasting Company and under the Broadcasting Act this had to be within 21 days of the broadcast.

The members raised the following points:

- This should be taken off the full council agenda if it is out of time.
- I won't vote on anything that I have not listened to.
- I think the text was totally inappropriate and I am happy to support this.
- All we are asking is for a review of the programme.  
A letter should issue to RTE
- A letter should issue to RTE stating that the coverage of the commemoration has been phenomenal; we have to be careful of entering an area of what is right and wrong.
- Two separate letters should issue as this is two separate issues.
- This was aired on national airways twice and the language was inciting.

*Councillor Thornhill proposed that a letter should issue to the Broadcasting Authority stating 'That this Council agree to write to the Broadcasting Authority requesting the organisation to review the content of the 'Irish Pictorial Weekly' programme first broadcasted on RTE 1 on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016 and rebroadcasted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2016. Given that part of the contents of the programme caused serious offence and was against the spirit and principles of a true republic' and this was seconded by Councillor Fox.*

The members voted as follows;

	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>
<i>Councillor John Behan</i>		√
<i>Councillor Christopher Fox</i>	√	
<i>Councillor Steven Matthews</i>	√	
<i>Councillor Oliver O'Brien</i>	√	
<i>Councillor Michael O'Connor</i>	√	
<i>Councillor John Ryan</i>		√
<i>Councillor Brendan Thornhill</i>	√	
<i>Councillor Pat Vance</i>		√
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>

Councillor O'Brien proposed that two separate letters should issue and this was seconded by Councillor O'Connor.

Councillor Ryan wanted it stated in the letter to the Broadcasting Authority that this motion was agreed by the majority of the members.

Councillor O'Connor requested suspension of Standing Orders to discuss the 1916 memorial in the People's Park.

The following discussion ensued and the members raised the following points:

- The 1916 memorial in People's Park can be taken under Any Other Business.
- Why is there not a lot on the agenda tonight who set it?
- It is extremely light and does not reflect the ongoing issues in the town; we need to talk about things that affect the people of the town.
- The reform of the Local Government destroyed the work the Local Authority has done. I hope the new government will tackle this.
- The agenda does not reflect the issues in the town, what is happening on the seafront? Residents and business owners are concerned, it is a significant item.
- People talk daily about this issue in the town.

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he and David Forde set the agenda but if any member wished to speak to him beforehand about any item they wished to cover.

Councillor Ryan replied that he would be happy to sit with the Cathaoirleach before the next meeting. To date the proposed workshop regarding the traffic issues in the town had not taken place. We should have a parking solution in place when the Florentine Centre works start; we want to have confidence in the solutions.

The District Engineer stated that he was happy to put a Roads and Traffic Report on the agenda.

The Acting District Administrator informed the members that the District Administrator sends his apologies he is unable to attend the meeting this evening he thought that as item number 2 on the agenda was a major one, he was giving the members' time to discuss same.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016.**

Councillor Christopher Fox proposed confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 and Councillor Joe Behan seconded the proposal.

**2. To Discuss the Schedule of Municipal Works 2016 (which includes Roads Programme previously circulated and approved at the March meeting).**

The District Engineer informed the members that the Roads Programme was the same one that was adopted at last month's meeting.

The members raised the following points:

- Is the grass cutting being extended to the Municipal District instead of just the town of Bray?
- It is a strange policy that it is not extended to the rest of the area and has to be eliminated in the future.
- Is it just being confined to the town, if that is the case then Kilmacanogue and Enniskerry are at a disadvantage to the rest of the district?
- The Vevay Road works is this a continuation of the works or just the money spent to date?
- I am delighted to see that something is being done for Kilgarran Park, is it the roads and paths?
- What is envisaged for Monastery?
- What is happening to the patch of road at the Wolfe Tone Square North junction?
- Do we have to decide on the Public Realm Expenditure tonight?
- Could we get the Schedule of Works in an easier layout to read in future?
- There is contributions to different festivals, what about the James Joyce Festival can we divert money to this festival?
- I propose that we take a €1,000 from the Summerfest and €1,000 from the Airshow and give it to the James Joyce Festival.
- Why should money be taken from the airshow?
- In the interest of fairness to other people.
- Any application has to go through a process; we can't give money to something that is not planned for, are you involved?
- I was assistant treasure a number of years ago.
- We can't take money and give to something without an application; we can't do this with public money. Do we know the benefits of this festival?
- This year will be the best airshow ever, it will probably be held over 2 days this year it is so big.
- I am not in favour of taking money from a fantastic festival that puts Bray in a positive light. I am not deeming James Joyce but we need to know what the festival is about.
- The Airshow is too important.
- The way the volunteers were treated last year was appalling; these events do not just happen. We need to send out a message saying how proud we are of their efforts.
- The Summerfest has been wonderful for the town.
- Can money be got elsewhere?
- The legs have been cut from under the District in terms of funding, they need to go through the proper channels and present a business plan.
- The Arts Council in Wicklow County Council has a facility where you can apply for funding. The deadline has passed for this year; they can apply next year like everyone else.
- I withdraw my proposal, maybe next year; James Joyce is a world figure.
- Division C Water Services public conveniences in Enniskerry €35,000 a year, is this value for money and what is the usage?
- The pathway and gate at Giltspur Heights is a necessity because of the bus terminus.
- Tidy Towns did a great job around Albert Walk/Avenue it is a main thoroughfare
- €4,000 for the Glór na Cásca landscaping is this sufficient?
- I am not in favour of the dog park on Bray Head. There is a piece of waste ground in Kilmacanogue near the 1916 garden and this could be a car park. Spend the money on this rather than a dog park.
- Has this dog park been discussed with the residents?
- Dog fouling is a serious problem in Bray I would be in favour.
- Are Bray Lakers still trying to raise money regarding the piece of land on the Boghall Road?

- Can we look at the completion of the seatbacks on the seafront all the way to the Harbour?
- We need to complete the seafront for once and for all it should be a priority to complete the works. You can never spend enough money on the seafront.
- Can we look at the Victorian Lamps on the steps, i.e. look at the costing and make provision for these?

The District Engineer informed the members the grass cutting budget is unchanged since last year there is nothing to cover the rest of the District.

Vevay Road; the budget includes the area in front of the shops; the work is being carried out in two stages. It is hoped to be completed by early summer.

A small area in front of the shops in Kilgarran Park where the area is poor and some section of the footpaths are included in the proposed works for this area.

There is an alternative list with other options that can be considered.

There is no capital costs associated with the public convenience in Enniskerry it is still owned by the supplier.

The funding for the Glór na Cásca works of €4,000 is just the shortfall, flags, trees etc are being provided.

The Acting District Administrator informed the members that we take onboard your comments regarding the spreadsheets. The funding for festivals is discretionary funding. €17,000 has already been allocated to the St. Patrick's Day Festival. Normal practice is that funding for festivals is advertised and any group can submit an expression of interest. It is the decision of the members if they want to allocate money from this division; this division consists of services provided. The contract for the public convenience in Enniskerry is for twenty years. The other amount of €51,169 includes payroll costs.

The District Manager stated that we would look for expressions of interest on what a group proposed to do and how. The Airshow brings in over a 100,000 people; we have to be prudent in allocating public money.

The Acting District Administrator read the following proposal to the members; to accept the Schedule of Municipal Works 2016 and 6 items of the 7 items under the Public Realm Works, excluding the Dog Park.

The members voted as follows;

	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>
<i>Councillor John Behan</i>	√	
<i>Councillor Christopher Fox</i>	√	
<i>Councillor Steven Matthews</i>	√	
<i>Councillor Oliver O'Brien</i>	√	
<i>Councillor Michael O'Connor</i>	√	
<i>Councillor John Ryan</i>	√	
<i>Councillor Brendan Thornhill</i>	√	
<i>Councillor Pat Vance</i>	√	
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	

### 3. **To Consider the Housing Report**

The members raised the following points;

#### Oldcourt Energy Efficiency Works

- Is there any further development with these works?
- How far have the discussions proceeded with the Department before something tragic happens?
- Can we have the development at Kilbride Lane as a heading in the next housing report?
- People in Oldcourt are concerned about the dumping of needles in the estate and have asked if you can clean away the ditches in the area.
- Whoever is doing this is grossly irresponsible.
- People need to be educated about the danger of syringes.
- There is a disposal service for needles available at the Resource Centre.

#### Brighton Terrace

- I welcome the closure of Brighton Terrace; it is a tribute to the work of Joe Lane to have a fair and effective solution to this issue.
- The facility at Brighton Terrace filled a gap at the time.

#### Cedar Court

- 1 Cedar Court was allocated months ago why have they not got the keys?
- Are the works to address the damp not working?

The District Engineer stated that the initial works were piloted; a consultant was engaged to study what was needed to be done. Works has been done to the floor of the balconies this combined with previous works seems to be working. There have also been delays in coordinating access with the tenants.

The Acting District Administrators stated that Kilbride Lane will be included on the housing report. I have spoken with the new person in the Department in relation to Oldcourt; they are aware of the urgency and the costs involved and a response will issue as soon as possible. We have had reports in relation to the needles in Oldcourt and the Estate Development Office will meet with the Gardai and the Estate Committee. The works at 1 Cedar Court are ongoing and they keys will allocated when the property is ready.

### 4. **Notices of Motion**

#### ***Notice of Motion In The Name of Councillor Joe Behan (01/12/2015)***

That this Council restores/reinstates the footpath on the road outside Santa Martha, Westfield Park, Bray to its original state and prevent continuous flooding at the above address which has been caused by works undertaken by Bray Town Council.

#### **Response**

The council has not carried out any works at Westfield Park that has any bearing on drainage problems at Santa Martha. Minor ponding does occur on this road during wet weather due to the very flat gradient. None of this water flows from the road into Santa Martha. The owner of this property has alleged for several years that the water seeps through the road and puts his basement at risk. It should be noted that this is the only property on the road with a basement and its level is below that of the nearest watercourse, a short distance from the house. The basement will always be at risk from groundwater, which only the property owner can address.

#### ***Notice of Motion In The Name of Councillor Joe Behan (01/12/2015)***

That this Council calls on Wicklow County Council to make a demand from Irish Water for the financial compensation for the extraction of water from County Wicklow sources given its plans to extract water from the River Shannon.

#### **Response**

This matter was discussed yesterday at the plenary Council Meeting in Wicklow County Council. The motion was agreed by all.

***Notice of Motion In The Name of Councillor Joe Behan (01/12/2015)***

That this Council calls on Wicklow County Council to demand that the Department of Transport, the National Roads Authority, An Garda Síochána, Dun Laoghaire County Council and Wicklow County Council urgently establish a Task Force to resolve the extreme traffic congestion on the M50 currently being experienced by motorists from County Wicklow.

**Response**

If the members so wish this matter can be referred to the full Council Meeting in Wicklow County Council.

This was agreed by all.

***Notice of Motion In The Name of Councillor Joe Behan (06/01/2016)***

*That this Council resurfaces the road in Monastery Grove, Enniskerry.*

**Response**

It is proposed to resurface this estate in 2017

***Notice of Motion In The Name of Councillor Joe Behan (06/01/2016)***

*That this Council repaints the ramps in Monastery Grove, Enniskerry.*

**Response**

We will put this on our list of scheduled works

**5. To Receive an Update on the Naming of Roundabouts**

The District Engineer presented the following update to the members:

It was agreed at the Bray Municipal District Council Meeting on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February to advertising the naming of roundabouts at the following 4 locations.

The Greystones Road Roundabout at the junction of the Greystones Road (R761) and the Bray Southern Cross Road (R768) in the townlands of Kilruddery and Ballynamuddagh.

The Giltspur Roundabout at the junction of the Bray Southern Cross Road (R768), Killarney-Southern Cross Link Road (L1003) and Giltspur Lane/Southern Cross Retail Park in the townlands of Ballywaltrim and Giltspur.

The Killarney Road Roundabout at the junction of the Killarney Road (R767), and the Bray Southern Cross Road (R768) at Hills Garage in the townlands of Hollybrook and Wingfield

The Dargle Road Roundabout at the junction of Dargle Road (R918), La Vallee (58135) and N11 in the townland of Fassaroe.

The closing date for submissions was Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 12 noon. Three submissions were received from the following;

1. Shane Harrison, 73 Ripley Hills, Bray, first choice, names should reflect their location, rather than being assigned the names of significant local people in culture and sports. An example stated roundabout at Greystones exit should be named Kilruddery Roundabout.
2. Some area residents (names not supplied), suggestion to name a roundabout after Ciaran Murphy former T.D. and Councillor.
3. Kieron Connolly, Bray and District Chamber of Trade Unions, proposed that a roundabout be named after Andy McEvoy, former international footballer. Another roundabout be named after trade unionist Joe Metcalfe who was a close associate of James Connolly and involved in

the founding of the Irish Transport & General Workers Union and Bray and District Council of Trade Unions in 1917.

The members raised the following points;

- I would not like to see a roundabout named after someone that is still alive.
- A few names were mentioned previously such as Steenie Mulvey who had a connection with 1916. I have been in contact with the families.
- This promotes people associated with the town for example Eamonn de Buitlear and Shay Elliott.
- I don't think this idea is a bad one, there were a number of people involved in 1916; I spoke to the family and they did not seem enthused did you speak to them?
- I would like to propose that we just select the townland names, the Gardai would be in favour of this.
- It would be better to identify the roundabouts by the land area.
- This came about by discussions with the Gardai, it is an opportunity to showcase people from the area that have done well.
- A County Museum would be a place to honour people.
- There are so many people, some may feel left out.
- Andy McEvoy could be remembered another way, maybe a monument in the Carlisle Grounds.
- Emergency services do prefer place names.
- I am sure that we would need the permission from the estate of the deceased person.
- It went to public consultation and there was a poor response.
- It would develop pride in the town

Councillor Vance proposed to name the four roundabouts in accordance with the town land names and this was seconded by Councillor Ryan.

The members votes as follows;

	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>
<i>Councillor John Behan</i>		√
<i>Councillor Christopher Fox</i>		√
<i>Councillor Steven Matthews</i>	√	
<i>Councillor Oliver O'Brien</i>		√
<i>Councillor Michael O'Connor</i>		√
<i>Councillor John Ryan</i>	√	
<i>Councillor Brendan Thornhill</i>		√
<i>Councillor Pat Vance</i>	√	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>

Councillor Thornhill proposed the name the four roundabouts after individuals associated with Bray and this proposal was seconded by Councillor Behan.

The members votes as follows;

	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>
<i>Councillor John Behan</i>	√	
<i>Councillor Christopher Fox</i>	√	
<i>Councillor Steven Matthews</i>		√
<i>Councillor Oliver O'Brien</i>	√	
<i>Councillor Michael O'Connor</i>	√	
<i>Councillor John Ryan</i>		√
<i>Councillor Brendan Thornhill</i>	√	
<i>Councillor Pat Vance</i>		√
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>

#### **6. To Receive an Update on the Florentine Centre**

The District Manager informed the members that a Consultant has been appointed following a tender process. We are proceeding with the E.I.S. An Architect is preparing drawings and we hope to lodge these plans in June. We will be having a public consultation session shortly. If you wish you can have a separate briefing with the E.I.S. Consultant.

We will begin the process of looking at the car park on the Herbert Road but would like to start the planning process first.

The members raised the following points;

- If you feel confident to begin the planning process and then begin the process of the deck parking on the Herbert Road, as long as we have this in place when the work on the Florentine Centre begins.
- That we will lose 200 car parking spaces is the only negative, people will say there is no parking in the town. I would be fearful of driving people out of the town while the development is taking place.
- I would implore that we would find the resources to begin the decking on the Herbert Road as a dual process with the Florentine Centre.

#### **7. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence at this time.

#### **8. Any Other Business**

##### Countywide Review of Speed Limits

Councillor Matthews informed the members that there was a countywide review of speed limits. This could improve road safety. Councillor Matthews stated that he has been approached by a number of people requesting that a submission be made by the District and wanted to arrange a workshop meeting possibly on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April. The deadline for submissions is the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

Councillor Ryan stated that the speed limit on the Southern Cross Road was too low and perhaps we could look at this.

The members agreed to the workshop meeting.

1916 Glór na Cása Memorial Garden

Councillor O'Connor inquired about the garden in the People's Park stating that the funding was in place but there was no sign of the Proclamation on the marble plinth. The bulk of the volunteers gathered in the People's Park on that morning in 1916. It is a half hearted effort to remember the volunteers, when will it be finished? The project in Kilmacanogue is magnificent.

The District Engineer stated that the difference between Bray and Kilmacanogue is that the project in Kilmacanogue is community driven. The members only made the decision two months ago to place the garden in the People's Park. The Proclamation has been ordered.

Carlisle Grounds- Rugby League Ireland

The members raised the following points;

- I would support rugby league being allowed in the Carlisle Grounds.
- Can we look at Rehills Land to see if it can be used for pitches? I know that access would be a huge issue, is it possible to look at this and appropriate use.
- The Carlisle Grounds is the home of soccer in Bray, the lease says soccer. I think we should wait for legal advice.
- It has always been used for soccer and Gaelic at various times. It was used for carnivals years ago.
- It is a sporting venue and it would be only for 4/5 games a year.
- It is a sporting lease, do we have a say or is it an executive function?
- I would support Rugby League Ireland using Bray as a base, but if there is a legal issue then there is no point in talking until we get legal advice.
- Are we afraid of losing possession?
- It would be maintained as the home of football, this proposal is probably for financial reasons.
- Croke Park the home of G.A.A. changed the rule temporarily to allow football to be played.

The Acting District Administrator informed the members that we are still awaiting legal advice and would forward same to the members.

Meeting with the Gardai

The Cathaoirleach Councillor Thornhill wished to arrange a meeting with the Gardai to discuss general crime in the District and to work with the Gardai for the betterment and safety of Bray. Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> at 5.30pm at Bray Garda Station was suggested.

The members agreed.

Calary Upper Road

The District Engineer informed the members that the Calary Upper Road realignment 1<sup>st</sup> phase had recently been surveyed and was going to Part 8. This may go to the plenary Council rather than the District.

Road issues would be included in the reports in the coming months.

\* \* \* \*

This concluded the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**Signed:**

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**DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**

**Dated:**

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