

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 7.00 p.m.**

**Present:**

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

**Also present:**

**Mr. Des O'Brien, Director of Services  
Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive  
Mr. Brian Gleeson, Head of Finance  
Mr. Joe Lane, Director of Services  
Ms. Breege Kilkenny, Senior Engineer  
Mr. Graham Wynne, Executive Engineer  
Mr. David Forde, District Administrator  
Mr. Liam Bourke, District Engineer  
Ms. Triona Irving, Administrative Officer**

**Absent**

**Apologies:**

A Vote of Sympathy was extended to the families of Rúairí De Buitléar, Paddy Dempsey and Noel Manning who recently passed away. A minute's silence was observed, as a mark of respect.

Congratulations were extended to Katie Taylor on her recent world title win.

Councillor Behan requested a suspension of Standing Orders to discuss the Bray Local Area Plan.

Councillor O'Brien made a request to raise an item under Any Other Business

This was agreed.

At this point it was agreed to take the two presentations first but for ease of reading these minutes will follow the Agenda as circulated.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting dated 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017.**

Councillor Joe Behan proposed confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray dated 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 and Councillor Steven Matthews seconded the proposal.

**2. To Receive a Presentation on Housing Capital Projects**

Joe Lane, Director of Services informed the members The matter of Wicklow County Councils priorities for the next phase of own construction was discussed at the Local Authority meeting of the 12th of June, where it was agreed that the selection and scheme of priorities for the 2019-2021 scheme (2 ) would be agreed at Municipal District.

These priorities will then form the basis for a stage 1 application to the Department based on the overall priority as agreed by the local authority at the June meeting.

Bray Municipal District has limited land at this stage. We have identified 6 pieces of land;

- Carrigoona
- Ard na Greine

- Cedar Court
- Kilbride Lodge
- Sutton Villas
- James Everett

We have carried out a cost benefit analyse and are looking at progressing the sites at Kilbride Lodge and Sutton Villas with Voluntary Bodies. We have also recently advertised the site at Central Garage seeking interest from a housing body.

The members raised the following points;

- Thank you for preparing the plans, I have a number of observations on your proposals. It is not proper to build on open space. We should not establish a precedent to build on open space; it would be detrimental to the communities and could lead to development in private estates.
- I agree with the proposal for the triangle of land at Cedar Court nothing is happening there.
- I have no difficulty with Sutton Villas but Carrigoona is another matter. There are already 300 houses in the Fassaroe Estate and I am not in favour of extending the estate. There might be scope to at the entrance to the left to have houses that front onto the road i.e. stand alone houses.
- I am not in favour of the Ard na Greine site this is being used as a football pitch by the residents.
- The land in the centre of the town, the Central Garage site is a prime site.
- Is there a general rule on expanding ourselves rather than farm out to voluntary bodies. The Local Authority should get back to providing houses.
- Rehills Land is a substantial site which was originally for mixed use development, perhaps this could be explored.
- We put a lot of money into the Sutton Villas site, this development was on the agenda when we were a town council. If we go for an own door development then we restrict density and design.
- There are pockets of land near the N11 that are considered to be in Bray but are part of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council can we negotiate with them is this something that can be considered?
- I am open to looking at green spaces that offer no community value.
- I am willing to look at green spaces on a case by case basis.
- I have difficulty with the Carrigoona site, Fassaroe is a big enough estate, there is no room for anything else.
- Can we look at the site at Rochbrae house on the Vevay Road that belongs to the Department of Defence; it is a great location just sitting there.
- We should look at individual sites on their own merits.
- Carrigoona I would be in favour of the front section onto the Dargle Road; it is encumbering on us to look at every option. We are not blessed with a huge amount of land.
- We should look at how the public use the land and how we can get the best value from it.
- Why are we just look at Bray and not the District, we could identify other lands.
- The site at Cedar Court is a no brainer; I agree that we look at options on a case by case basis.
- We could debate around on whether we should construct and manage but I would be unhappy to see the Council going back to this; Voluntary Housing Bodies are the best at this.
- Carrigoona, it is crazy when we need to get people off the waiting list, it just needs a little creativity a little thought.
- This town is in dire need of housing and we can't make up our minds on the sites being investigated.
- We are still awaiting the 42 units in Kilbride Lane.
- Bray Golf Club Lands and Fassaroe both sites have huge potential.
- Rehills Land, there is lots of talk about road ways, we need to put on pressure, this is a valuable and important land bank.
- We would need a new small town/village to sort the problem.

Joe Lane informed the members that the Central Garage is a difficult one that is why we are seeking interest from approved housing bodies. The NRA may have a link proposal so this cannot be explored at present. We looked at land in the Kilmacanogue and Enniskerry and they would only accommodate one or two units. We will go

ahead and approach the Department regarding Cedar Court and Carrigoona and revisit Ard na Greine at a later stage.

**3. To Consider the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Bray for the Financial Year ending the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018**

Mr, Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council and Brian Gleeson, Head of Finance made the following presentation to the members.

The Draft Budgetary Plans for Municipal Districts of Wicklow County Council for the financial year ending the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 have been prepared in accordance with Section 102 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended by Section 58 of the Local Government (LG) Reform Act 2014. Per Circular Fin 06/2017 the prescribed period that applies for the holding of a meeting of a Municipal District to consider the Draft Budgetary Plan is 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017 to 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

**Summary**

- 2018 Budget Process for Local Authorities
- Draft Budgetary Plans for Municipal Districts
- Factors which determine the level of discretionary funding available to the Municipal Districts.
- 2018 General Municipal Allocation for Bray

**2018 Budget Process**

- Agree Budget Strategy, including Local Property Tax rate for 2018
- Develop Draft Budgetary Plans for each Municipal District, including the provision of the General Municipal Allocation for 2018
- Draft & Adopt Statutory Annual Budget
- Schedule of Municipal District Works
- Proposed level of works the budget provisions will deliver in each District

**Draft Budgetary Plans**

- Considered by the Municipal District members at a meeting which concludes no later than 10 days prior to the Local Authority Budget meeting.
- Sets out how the General Municipal Allocation will be spent.
- Non discretionary costs have first call on income available to Wicklow County Council.
- Discussions on the strategic, non-discretionary expenditure of the Municipal Districts will form part of the main local authority budget preparations.

**General Municipal Allocation 2018**

- The GMA is the discretionary funding which is made available to the municipal district members for allocation within the draft budgetary plan.
- Based on overall Resources available to the Local Authority.
- Level of non-discretionary costs required for 2018.
- The funding requirements of the Council's Service Directorates.
- The funding requirements of all 5 Municipal Districts.

**Resources Available to Wicklow County Council in 2018**

- Current Expenditure estimate €96.6m
- Current Income estimate €94.5m
- Current Shortfall is €2.1m
- Requirement to achieve a balanced budget

## Draft Budget 2018 – Additional Costs

<b>Additional Costs</b>	<b>€</b>
Non Discretionary Expenditure	1,262,000
Non-Discretionary Income Adjustments	123,000
Additional Service Provisions	691,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,076,000</b>

### Draft Budgetary Plan 2018

- Provisional Expenditure Estimate for the 5 Municipal Districts in 2018 is €26.7m.
- Non-Discretionary Expenditure is currently estimated at €24.65m.
- Strategic County-Wide Objectives = €1.835m.
- Discretionary Expenditure - General Municipal Allocation for 2018 is €214,500.
- Bray Municipal District GMA is €71,500.

### General Municipal Allocation 2018

<b>Bray Municipal District</b>	<b>€</b>
Town Twinning	10,000
Tidy Towns / Economic Development	7,500
Christmas Festival	20,000
Other Festivals	32,000
Civic Receptions	2,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>71,500</b>

- The GMA is the minimum level of discretionary income available to the Municipal District.
- It is at the members' discretion to reassign the GMA according to their priorities.
- The Municipal District may also consider adjustments to local charges in their district to impact on the funding available for the GMA.
- Economic Development, Community Grant Aid and Tourism Investments to be co-ordinated centrally.

### Conclusion – Next Steps to Take

- Reserve function of the members to adopt the Draft Budgetary Plan.
- The Draft Budgetary Plan as adopted by the members will be incorporated into the overall Local Authority Budget.
- Draft Local Authority Budget to be considered for adoption at annual Budget meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> November.
- Presentation of the Schedule of Municipal District Works.

The members raised the following points;

- 52,000 for festivals, has any application been turned down for funding and why?
- Every year it is the same festivals, the Chinese festival could be considered for the future budget.
- The budget meeting is in November it is some time before the money comes to the District's can this be speeded up?
- €71,500 it is an insult to the people of Bray when untold millions goes to the central coffers of Wicklow County Council in property tax.
- This money is not spent in Bray but the rest of the County we are getting a bad deal. This is a waste of time, a drop in the ocean. We are not getting the services we are paying for, it is a farce. When we were a Town Council we were responsible for our own income and expenditure. The sooner this policy is changed the better.
- This process is farcical, parking fees, rates, Local Property Tax, we are just the cash cow of the County. We are getting a bad deal within Wicklow; equalization means that Bray money is being filtered to the rest of the County. We are just going through the motions.

- There is an imbalance in the figures that leave Bray.
- I would prefer if the Community Grant Aid was done by the Municipal District's, this is a localized scheme. I feel there would be more engagement if it was done on a District basis.
- There are other grants which feed into Wicklow, town and village renewal, the LEADER funding as well. Bray is left behind, these should be brought back to the Districts at local level, it would be far more beneficial.
- Bray Tidy Towns allocation is well worth it, they are a benefit to the community.
- Do you have a figure of what Bray pays in Local Property Tax?
- I have requested this from the Revenue and have been told that they are stretched at the moment and as such cannot provide this information.

The Chief Executive stated that he would take on board the suggestion regarding the Community Grant Aid. The budget process is set out nationally, we will be talking to the Department in February.

Some festivals are historic (annual events) I would be interested in talking to anyone that adds to the value. We don't have the information to hand regarding the Local Property Tax; the minister would have to request this.

The District Administrator called for a vote to adopt the Municipal District Budgetary Plan 2018 and the members voted as follows.

<b>RE: Municipal District Budgetary Plan 2018</b>			
<b>MEETING: 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017</b>			
	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	
<b>Councillor Joe Behan</b>	√		
<b>Councillor Christopher Fox</b>	√		
<b>Councillor Steven Matthews</b>	√		
<b>Councillor Oliver O'Brien</b>	<b>abstain</b>		
<b>Councillor Michael O'Connor</b>	<b>abstain</b>		
<b>Councillor John Ryan</b>	√		
<b>Councillor Brendan Thornhill</b>	√		
<b>Councillor Pat Vance</b>	√		
<b>Total Votes</b>	<b>6</b>		

#### **4. To Receive a Presentation from Festina Lente.**

Jill Carey Chief Executive Officer made the following presentation to the members stating that their lease expires in 7 years and they need to relocate and maybe they could form a partnership with Wicklow County Council even though we straddle to County Councils.

##### Past

Equestrian Vocational Training Programme

Spruce Lodge, Kiltarnan

1986 – 1996

1996

Old Connaught Avenue

E.U. Funding

2 employment projects for people with a disability

1996 – 2017 growth and development

Present

Funded programmes 2016

▶ Department of Education and Skills	€342,858	
▶ Department of Health and Children	€512,512	
▶ Department of Social Protection	€352,711	
▶ Trading Income		€604,700
▶ Grant and Donations:		€ 96,566
▶ Total income		<u>€1,909,347</u>

We have 60 staff

Social and Economic inclusion through the medium of horses and horticulture

Department of Education and Skills'

Key Objective: Training for the labour market

Equestrian Training Programme (n = 16)

National Programme

Department of Health and Children (2 programmes)

Key Objective: Vocational Training (n=10)

Adult Therapeutic Day Services

Vocational Training

Key Objective:

Adult Therapeutic Day Services (n=25)

Vocational Training (n=10)

Adult Therapeutic Day Services (n=25)

35 adults and growing

Department of Social Protection Social Enterprise

Key Objectives:

1. Employment creation
2. Services not provided by local authorities
3. For example.....  
DEIS Schools (primary and secondary n = 7)  
5 research studies

Therapeutic Riding (n= 180 weekly)

Supported Helpers Programme (n = 67 weekly)

Outreach programme

Variety of settings

Accredited learning (QQI level 6)

Therapeutic Coaching Programme

Equine Assisted Learning Facilitator Programme

Walled garden amenity

Between 10,000 and 13,000 visitors each year

Educational workshops

64 Allotments

2018 First Networking Seminar

### About Adam

The equestrian has helped Adam progress, improved his self confidence and esteem. He is now part of a team.  
Future

Proven track record

A socially inclusive model that works

Demand for services is high

Has put Wicklow on the map

Positively impacts on people's lives

Part of the social fabric of Wicklow

Potential for further developments

The members raised the following points;

- Thank you I am familiar with Festina Lente it is an amazing place and a fantastic facility.
- It is good that you have come to us in advance; what acreage would you require?
- One site may be suitable on the Fassaroe Lands; another possibility would be lands at Kilruddery.
- It was an excellent presentation; I know you won a pride of place a few years ago.
- The variety of work that you do is fantastic, does staff get paid?
- Continued success Kilruddery would be a fantastic fit.
- It is amazing how kids change when they interact with the environment; there is too much emphasis on books and massive investment is needed in this area.
- Have you made a presentation to Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and do you intend to?

Ms. Carey informed the members that they would require approximately 4.5 acres and 20 acres for grazing. Festina Lente generates income and staff do get paid. Our financial report is available every year on our website. Staff are well qualified.

No we have not made a presentation to Dun Laoghaire but we intend to, most people we cater for are from the Bray area.

The Cathaoirleach stated that you provide a high level of services and the lines of communication are now open to the officials. We will help identify a site somewhere and provide land if we possibly can.

## **5. To Receive a Presentation from Easi Cabs**

Pat Mellon of Easi Cabs and Homelink made the following presentation to the members stating the following.

We are a call centre with 987 members all elderly and they live alone. We ring them on either a daily or weekly basis. Our members want a call for different reasons. Homelink also provides a maintenance service such as hand rails in showers. We operate support system with empathy, compassion and understanding. We charge a membership fee of €20 but only approximately 450 pay it. We send our members a birthday and Christmas card. We remind them of hospital visits. If we telephone them 3 times and receive no reply we contact their next of kin. Very few organizations provide this type of service. Our funding is decreasing year on year, we do fund raise ourselves. We are trying to provide for the most vulnerable in our society. We are helping people to live independently.

How Homelink helps older people to remain living in their own homes for longer

- Call service
- Maintenance
- Social Events

Why Homelink was established

2002 Easi Access Transport established

2006 Research Survey



- I knew very little about easi cabs, it would be better to seek funding centrally from Wicklow County Council rather than negotiating with 3 Municipal Districts.
- You should approach Wicklow, I am sure you would get a sympathetic ear. A phone call means a lot to an elderly person.
- I would like to compliment you on your work; we don't treat our elderly people well enough. You need to be provided with the tools to provide your services. We need to keep minds active.

## **6. To Receive a Report on Roads and Transport.**

The District Engineer informed the members that there was little change from the previous months report. The contractor appointed to carry out the alterations to the Strand Road/Putland Road junction and the Putland Road contra-flow cycle section of the Strand Road Cycle Scheme commenced work this week. An application for a road closure by the contractor has been made for elements of the work including works under the railway bridge. Resurfacing of Calary Lane following the installation of a new bridge was carried out on the 31<sup>st</sup> October. There will be no further works at this location this year. We are currently working on outstanding works on footpaths, the budget is nearly spent.

The members raised the following points;

- Is there any update on the proposed ramps in Deepdales and Raheen?
- I accept that we need to engage in further public consultation can we have assurance that the money is safe if it is not spent.
- The footpath between Rectory Slopes and Ardmore Wood seems to have dropped off the list, is the money still earmarked?

The District Administrator stated that he would engage with the head of finance in relation to the funding.

The District Engineer stated that Public Consultation was held last year there were objections to Deepdales and we are looking at other options for Raheen Park, this is still on hold at the moment.

## **Suspension of Standing Orders**

### **Bray Local Area Plan**

Councillor Behan stated that he only received a copy of the draft plan this morning. We were told that we had 6 weeks to consider it but a meeting will be held in 4 weeks time to discuss it, we should be given the 6 weeks that we were supposed to have. It would be sensible to have this at the 1<sup>st</sup> week in January and I propose this. I understand that a large volume of submissions were received and the officials were under pressure but the people who made the submissions are entitled to respect and consideration of same. It is the elected members that make the decision.

The members raised the following points;

- Can I have clarification if we run into 8 weeks will there be a statutory issue in adopting the plan?
- There is a huge amount of submissions but not a huge amount of issues. These could be condensed; there are not many controversial items.
- They are not all grouped; there are a lot of individual submissions.
- This should be discussed at a public meeting, we are responsible for our plan and this should be arranged if at all possible. Workshops are not great for public accountability.
- The 29<sup>th</sup> of November is the deadline for amendments.
- Public Meeting or not the gallery can't effect the decision made.

The District Manager informed the members that the law is if it is not considered in the timeframe the Chief Executive would be entitled to make the decision. We are not going to railroad into pushing something through. There is a huge amount of submissions and we can discuss this at a workshop and take it from there. Workshops were agreed by the SPC 8 years ago to facilitate members input into plans. We want to get the best plan possible.

It was agreed to hold the workshop on the 28<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm in the Civic Offices.

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

The District Manager informed the members that we are awaiting documents from the lawyers. As you are aware this is a 3 stage process. The invitation to tender in the coming week and hopefully we will have more information for the December meeting.

## **8. Notice of Motions**

### **Notice of Motion In The Name of Councillor Brendan Thornhill (03/10/2017)**

That this Council supports the idea of a pedestrian crossing be placed at the bottom of the Putland Road and Strand Road

#### Response

A raised table is being provided under the current contract that includes a pedestrian crossing point on the Putland Road arm of the junction.

### **Notice of Motion In The Name of Councillor Brendan Thornhill (03/10/2017)**

That this Council supports the idea of improving, updating or repairing the outdoor furniture at the People's Park, Bray.

#### Response

A contract is currently place for the replacement of 22 seats in the Peoples Park; 8 have already been replaced

### **Notice of Motion In The Name of Councillor Brendan Thornhill (03/10/2017)**

That this Council supports the idea that a proper solid foundation be put in place for the adult outdoor gym on the seafront.

#### Response

A survey of the area has been organised with a view to pricing this work and seeking funding for next year.

### **Notice of Motion In The Name of Councillor Brendan Thornhill (03/10/2017)**

That this Council supports the idea of the yellow box at Seacrest/Vevay Road be repainted.

#### Response

This will be added to the schedule of road marking works

## **9. Correspondence**

### Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government

The District Administrator informed the members that we have received acknowledgment of our recent letter in connection with Kilbride Lane from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

## **10. Any Other Business**

### Lincara Centre

Councillor Behan stated that the Lincara Centre which is a drop in centre in Bray was being wound down and proposed that we write to the Minister seeking clarification on what the plans are for this centre.

This was agreed by the members.

### St Vincent's Hospital

Councillor Behan stated he had received several complaints in relation to the suspension of spinal injury complaints been dealt with by St. Vincent's Hospital and proposed that we write to the Minister expressing our deep concerns at this decision.

This was agreed by the members.

Ballywaltrim Recreational Park

Councillor O'Brien raised the issue of Ballywaltrim Recreational Park and a discussion ensued.

In the interest of fairness to all users it was agreed that the Cathaoirleach would contact the Executive Engineer to discuss this recreational park.

Bray Swimmers

A question arose regarding providing a hut for the swimmers at the northern end of the seafront.

The District Engineer informed the members that the Council provided the lifeguard hut for the swimmers for the previous two years. However following an incident this summer a person nearly drown. We were advised by the Water Safety Officer to erect warning signs in this area. Irish Water Safety assed the beach but only the Blue Flag area. We are awaiting a report for the northern end of the beach. We have a duty of care and cannot leave ourselves liable.

The members raised the following points;

- Have you any idea when you will get the report?

The District Engineer stated that reminders have been sent regarding the report.

River Dargle Environmental Monitoring Committee

Councillor Matthews stated that the River Dargle Environmental Monitoring Committee finished 2 months ago; they met 35 times over the duration of the project. Councillor Matthews requested that we write to J.J. O'Dwyer thanking him for his work in chairing this committee.

This was agreed.

The Official Opening of the River Dargle Flood Defence Scheme.

Councillor Thornhill asked if the locals were being invited to the opening.

Triona Irving, Administrative Officer responded that the Environmental Committee Members had received invitations and the residents were represented on that group.

Dog Fouling

The issue of dog foul was raised by Councillor Thornhill and provision of a dog park. He stated that the onus of cleaning was on the owners of the dogs.

Bonfires

Councillor Thornhill stated the message that bonfires were illegal was not getting across to the public and people will have to be more civic minded.

\* \* \* \*

This concluded the meeting.

**Signed:**

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

**Signed:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**

**Dated:**

\_\_\_\_\_