

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 1st March 2016 at 7.30 p.m.**

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

Also present: Mr. Des O'Brien, Director of Services
Mr. David Forde, District Administrator
Mr. Liam Bourke, District Engineer

Absent

Apologies: Councillor John Ryan
Ms. Triona Irving, Administrative Officer

A Vote of Sympathy was extended to the families of Sean Fox, Bill Murray, Niall Condren, Dick Redden and Peter Keogh who recently passed away. A minute's silence was observed, as a mark of respect.

At this point congratulations were extended to the three Councillors who took part in the General Election. They were praised for their great performance, for putting themselves forward and raising their heads above the parapet. Councillor Brady was congratulated and wished all the best for the future.

The five TD's for the county were wished every success and it was hoped that they would work together for the future of the county.

Anne Ferris and Billy Timmins were thanked for their past endeavours stating that they were tremendous public servants over the years.

Councillors Behan and Matthews thank everyone for their kind words and support.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting dated 2nd February 2016.

Councillor Christopher Fox proposed confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray dated 2nd February 2016 and Councillor Joe Behan seconded the proposal.

2. To Receive a Presentation from Bray Tourism.

Pat Ó Súilleabháin, Chairperson of Bray Tourism made the following presentation to the members.

Some Facts.

Bray Tourism was established in 1996.

It is funded exclusively by Bray Municipal District

There are 9 Directors on the Board

Board of Directors

- Chairperson: Pat Ó Súilleabháin (SEA LIFE / Seafront Traders)
- Secretary: John Duggan (Martello Hotel / Seafront Traders)
- Treasurer: Joe Maguire (Maguire & MacNeice / Chamber of Commerce)
- Christine Flood (WCC) - Outgoing
- Mick Glynn (Planet Sound / Chamber of Commerce)
- Vacancy (Bray Municipal District)
- Gabriel Dooley
- Eugene Finnegan (Finnegan Buses / Chamber of Commerce)
- Noel Keyes

Past Activities.

- Membership of Tourism sub-committee on Bray Economic Think Tank
- Support of Bray Jazz Festival
- Support of Festival activity
- Employment of 2 litter pickers to support BTC with maintenance of Seafront

Current Activities.

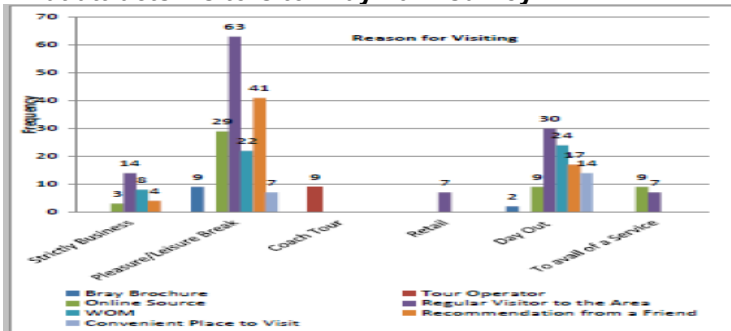
- Design and production of brochures for distribution
- Production of marketing copy for Tourism Information panels and maps
- Liaising with Wicklow Tourism
- Management of tourism content of Bray.ie

Goal

To Increase the Economic Contribution of Tourism to Bray
HOW?

1. Increase number of visitors
2. To increase visitor spend
3. Provide a superior destination experience

What attracts visitors to Bray 2012 survey

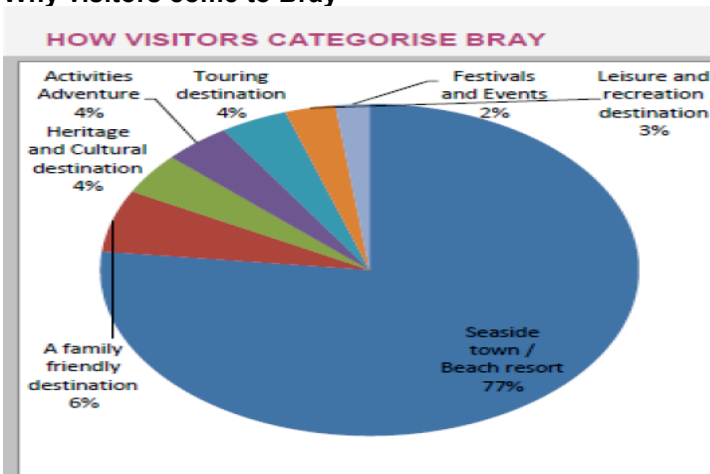


What kind of visitors come to Bray?

Overall profile of visitors to Bray 2012:

- Extremely high proportion of leisure day visitors 81%
- 46% from overseas
- 54% domestic visitors
- 26% repeat visits

Why visitors come to Bray



Vision

- Town Centre and Seafont as a Primary Tourist Destination, retaining and showcasing the Values, Victorian Heritage, Culture and Natural Beauty of Bray

Bray Tourism Mission Statement

- Bray Tourism Mission is to foster develop and promote sustainable tourism for the town and surrounds of Bray and to encourage active collaboration among all key stakeholders.

Priority Actions

1. Develop Seaside & Sea Related Activities (Town and Seafont)
2. Package/ Experience Development
3. Events Calendar
4. Marketing & Promotions
5. Visitor Management Information & Signage
6. Collaboration among Stakeholders
7. Leadership & Business Engagement

Objectives

Increase Visitor Numbers to Bray, Increase Visitor Spend in Bray, Develop Tourist Office Offering

Strategies

Cohesive Online Presence for Bray.ie & Tourism Providers

Direct Promotion

Promote via Failte Ireland & Wicklow Tourism

Promote via Tourism Ireland

Develop Experiential Offers

Channels

Bray.ie

a) Content

b) Link Building

c) Subscribers

Bray Tourism Print Materials

- *Search Engine Optimisation*
- *Content & Link Building*
- *Adwords*
- *Email Campaigns*
- *SM – Facebook*
- *SM – Twitter*
- *Events*

Content for SM & Discover Ireland Site

Content for DI Email Campaigns

Location Based Offers

Content for SM & Tourism Ireland Sites

Content for TI Email Campaigns

Location Based Offers

Packages

2 & 3 night stays with activities to attract & retain Tourists & spend in Bray

The members raised the following points;

- Thank you for your presentation, it is great to see your enthusiasm and to hear someone talking up the town.
- We are engaging with An Taisce in trying to obtain a Blue Flag and we should aim for this.

- We are getting good water results at the moment.
- There is potential for water sports activities in the area and we are not exploiting this for example kayaking in the harbour area.
- There seems to be some confusion as to who manages the harbour, Bray Municipal District or Wicklow County Council.
- We need to keep the day visitors in the town overnight and develop 2-3 days holiday package options; we are only 40 minutes drive from Dublin.
- What is the relationship between Bray Tourism and Wicklow Tourism?
- Surely it would be prudent to have one agency.
- Powerscourt, Enniskerry have a huge amount of visitors, if we don't have one agency then they may not be aware of what Bray has to offer.
- Do we have enough hotel space?
- I don't think that north east Wicklow has enough hotel space, what are the negative points that we can work on?
- We want to play our part in making Bray Municipal District an attractive place to visit.
- A starting point for tourists is that they look for deals.
- Tourism is an important subject, Bray can be just associated with the seafront; we have festivals and Noel Dicker promotes Bray on Garden County Radio.

Pat Ó Súilleabháin informed the members that the Blue Flag would be useful, Sealife are committed to education and conservation. I don't know the status of the harbour. It is a diamond in the rough; we could take advantage of it and turn it into something creative and imaginative. It would not take a lot of money. Bray Tourism is marketing Bray as a gateway to Wicklow, we have all facilities in Bray and it is within a couple of hours of what Wicklow has to offer. It is also within the bright lights of a capital city. Bray Tourism has a role to play, Bray has built a strong brand, and we don't want to dilute it, not to the detriment of our environs. We are working with the Wicklow Economic Think Tank, as a group looking at the tourism strategy for the county. We have a county wide vision, tourists don't see boundaries. With a growing economy we will probably need more 4 star hotels but it takes a huge capital investment to build a hotel. There are not huge options for hostels in the area and we are asked about parking for camper vans.

I don't like negatives but there are opportunities that are not tapped into. We also need improved signage. We should also look at the policy on how we promote festivals. The Summerfest; it is unfortunate that the organizers and the officials don't have common ground. We need Bray to be at the front of people's minds as a happening place.

Things have to be commercially viable, the Groove Festival initially lost money. We need to be on the ball to tap into any available funding. Wicklow in 2015 received not one euro from the Arts Council for festival funding. We need a unity of purpose for events. An event should be able to stand on its own to function.

We are steeped in history in this town; walking tours would have relatively low capital costs. Bray Tourism can't do other peoples jobs, it is up to all of us, and sometimes we are busy blaming others when we should be asking what we can do. We deliver value for every euro invested in tourism in Bray. We need to be pushing the positives.

3. To Consider the Housing Report

The members raised the following points;

Brighton Terrace

- At the last meeting Councillor Behan requested that the Director of Housing Joe Lane be invited here tonight to address the Council in relation to Brighton Terrace and Oldcourt; we have received a report
- Do we know why the Director is unable to attend tonight?
- A month ago we asked him to attend we are entitled to have him here it is not good enough.
- A little over a year ago I raised this issue over the misuse of this building.
- We were given a guarantee that by Christmas it would ceased to be used, I felt at the time that it was premature and would take a little longer.
- I am delighted to see that this will happen on the 31st March this year.
- We need to change tact in relation to the homeless.
- A number of the residents expressed angry at what was happening and the unacceptable living conditions.

- This is a win win situation, Joe Lane moved as quickly as possible.
- Eight of the residents have effectively been evicted for nonpayment of rent; eight are going to be homeless what is going to become of them?
- I am concerned that some will be on the street. The report states that '*services users 7-14 can only be supported by the Homeless Unit of Wicklow County Council going forward on the basis that rent is paid and a meaningful re-engagement with the Council's support services occurs*'.
- It is a delicate subject.
- What role do we have if they are not willing to engage to get some facility at the end of the month?
- If this is the end of their tenancy has notice been properly served?
- What plan is in place for those who won't co-operate with the move?
- We could call a special meeting for the Director of Housing to clarify the matter.
- It is a fundamental issue the Director is an employee of Wicklow County Council; the Roads Engineer was invited I can't remember if he attended. What is the point of this Council we can't operate in this vacuum?
- We don't get proper time to discuss these matters in Wicklow. If we request suspension of Standing Orders at the next meeting in Wicklow County Council collectively and keep doing this then the penny will drop and they will realize that it is more beneficial to come here to discuss issues.
- This Council has been ineffective since the amalgamation we are not getting services for the town.
- We are not asking officials to turn up at every meeting, only in relation to specific items.
- If they can't attend then they should send a deputy.

Councillor Behan asked the following;

Do we know why the Director is unable to attend tonight?

A month ago we asked him to attend we are entitled to have him here it is not good enough. We have questions in relation to Oldcourt and have just received a nine line report. I want my disquiet recorded.

The District Administrator stated that the Director was invited but was unable to attend.

The District Manager informed the members that in relation to Brighton Terrace it was not tenancies that we are talking about but hostel accommodation. I just want to clarify do you want this closure to go ahead or postponed?

Councillor Vance proposed that this goes ahead, this is not a reserved function but an executive function, the non engagement of officials is a separate issue.

Councillor Fox also support the closure, stating that the Manager is getting away from the point it is not unreasonable to expect senior officials to attend meetings if required, it is the general principle.

The District Manger stated that he was just seeking clarity, two Districts have evening meetings, and the officials don't get paid to attend these evening meetings. We need some balance, it is their free time, and we could have these meetings during working hours.

Councillor Vance stated that we are not asking for Directors to attend every meeting but maybe once or twice a year to deal with specific items, this is not unreasonable. Housing is a major area of concern; I will bring this up at the Protocol Meeting and discuss this at management level.

Oldcourt

- We are no further along with Oldcourt and the continued danger to residents and those who bought their houses.
- The Department has sat on this for 6 months; what is happening, the Director is not here to answer.

The District Manager stated that when we were Bray Town Council we were committed to use our capital receipts. We have made an application to the Department what more can we do?

4. To Receive an update on the Florentine Centre

The District Manager that we have advertised for a consultant to prepare an E.I.S., the closing date is this Friday. The consultant will be appointed next week. We have engaged an architect and commercial adviser to progress this project.

The members raised the following points;

- In relation to the timeframe are we are on target?
- How long will the E.I.S. take to prepare?
- Why is the pedestrian walkway from the Florentine site to the Main Street closed?

The District Administrator informed the members that there was an issue with one of the properties in the vicinity of the walkway but it will be open again on Thursday at the latest.

The District Manager informed the members there is no reason to otherwise believe that we are on target time wise. The E.I.S. will take approximately 3 months to prepare.

5. To Receive a Report on the Road Work Proposals for 2016

The District Administrator stated that the report has been circulated regarding the proposed road works for 2016 this is normally adopted at the April meeting but the engineering staff wish to proceed at this time.

The District Engineer stated that the following was based on last year's figures and we have been informed that our allocation will be in and around that amount.

Road Class	Road Number	Road Name and/or Townland Name	Works Type	Estimated Cost of work (EURO)	Cumulative Cost of work (EURO)
R	R117	Kilgarran Hill Enniskerry Village	SR	€ 15,750.00	€ 15,750.00
R	R761	Vevay Road	RR	€ 114,800.00	130,550.00
R	R760	Ballyorney Road	SR	€ 85,875.00	216,425.00
LT	L-50291	Glen Cap Road	SR	€ 23,900.00	240,325.00
LP	L-1012	Forge Road, Enniskerry	SR	€ 22,000.00	262,325.00
LT	L-10101	Kilgarron Park	SR	€ 12,074.00	274,399.00
R	R755	Roundwood Road	SD	€ 50,000.00	324,399.00
R	R117	Bray Road, Enniskerry	SD	€ 24,100.00	348,499.00
LP	L-1011-0	Glenree Road	SD	€ 50,000.00	398,499.00
LS	L-5529	Bohilla Lane, Kilmacanogue	SD	€ 26,800.00	425,299.00
LT	L-19654	Charnwood, Bray	SD	€ 13,400.00	438,699.00
LT	L-19651	Sugarloaf Crescent, Bray	SD	€ 17,300.00	455,999.00
LT	L-19588	Seacrest Estate, Bray	SD	€ 5,200.00	461,199.00
LT	L-19689	Mountain View, Bray	SD	€ 13,200.00	474,399.00
LT	L-19632	Herbert Park, Bray	SD	€ 15,540.00	489,939.00
LT	L-19553	Glenwood, Bray	SD	€ 6,050.00	495,989.00
LP	L-1956-15	Herbert Road	SD	€ 12,210.00	508,199.00
R	R760	Church Hill,		€ 26,144.00	534,343.00

		Enniskerry			
R	R761	Vevay Road Footpath		€ 15,360.00	549,703.00
L		Bray Town Footpaths		€ 9,000.00	558,703.00
LT	L-10101	Kilgarron Park		€ 6,000.00	564,703.00
LT	L-10071	Monastery Estate, Enniskerry		€ 9,900.00	574,603.00

RR Road Restoration
SR Surface Restoration

The members raised the following points;

- The condition of the Vevay Road is scandalous, when is this going to be repaired?
- The Glencap Road, Wicklow County Council states that only half the road is in charge but I have submitted documentation stating that it is all in charge.
- The Kilmacanogue to Roundwood Road there was a proposal to take off the bend; I don't see it here on the list.
- Can we have a look at the Upper Calary Road it is in a poor state, it is not a huge stretch of road, can we keep this in mind for future reference.
- There is a big problem with ponding on the Vevay Road at the bus stop; can we ensure that this work is included?
- When will the discretionary projects be completed?
- Can this be done as soon as possible it is a safety matter?

The District Engineer stated that the Vevay Road work will be completed by the end of June. The area at the bus stop on the Vevay Road will be re-sloped. The last of the 2016 discretionary fund works will take another few months; these have been delayed due to our workload.

Councillor Christopher Fox proposed the Roads Works 2016 as presented by the District Engineer and this was seconded by Councillor Joe Behan.

At this point Councillor Oliver O'Brien proposed that €1,250 (this was previously requested by ex Councillor John Brady and was part of his discretionary fund) be allocated to the 1916 Kilmacanogue Commemorative Committee and this was seconded by Councillor Joe Behan.

6. To Receive an Update on the Old Dump at Bray North Beach.

Old Dump at Bray North Beach

The District Engineer read the following report received from Wicklow County Council regarding the old dump at Bray North Beach to the members.

Staff from Wicklow County Council Environment section has met on 16th February with representatives from Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council in relation to the old dump at Bray North Beach. A consultant has been engaged by Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council to carry out investigations on the site and make recommendations on any remediation works that may be required. In the interim litter will be picked on the site and signage erected. Wicklow County Council will continue to engage with Dun Laoghaire Rathdown on this matter

The content was noted by the members.

7. Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion In The Name of Councillor Joe Behan (06/10/2015)

That this Council acts to prevent further flooding of houses on the Upper Dargle Road close to its junction with Fassaroe Estate.

Response

There is no public storm sewer in the vicinity of this junction. The sewer overflow that occurs here is from the combined sewer from Fassaroe estate. This sewer is in the charge of Irish Water, who have investigated the problem and determined that there is insufficient capacity in the existing sewer network for heavy rainfall events.

According to protocol Irish Water does not engage with the Council at Municipal District level. If agreed this Notice of Motion will be referred in the first instance to the next available meeting of Wicklow County Council for consideration.

It was agreed to send this notice of motion to Wicklow County Council

Notice of Motion In The Name of Councillor Joe Behan (06/10/2015)

That this Council undertakes drainage work to prevent flooding at the entrance to the Sea Scouts Den at Bray Harbour and constructs a footpath in front of this clubhouse.

Response

As part of the planning conditions for the Dublin Road Schools, a new cycle and pedestrian facility will be provide via the Harbour Road. Drainage will be examined and included as part of the facilities provided.

The members raised the following point;

- When will this work happen, it urgently needs to be carried out.

The District Engineer stated that a meeting will take place tomorrow to discuss the works and they will be carried out towards the end of the year.

Notice of Motion In The Name of Councillor Joe Behan (06/10/2015)

That the Council deals with the ongoing problem of surface and foul water flooding of the stream at Boghall Road/Wheatfield Estate.

Response

Foul water is a matter for Irish Water. Apart from occasional ponding due to blocked road gullies there has been no information provided of on-going surface water flooding that the council can act on.

According to protocol Irish Water does not engage with the Council at Municipal District level. If agreed this Notice of Motion will be referred in the first instance to the next available meeting of Wicklow County Council for consideration.

It was agreed to send this notice of motion to Wicklow County Council

Notice of Motion In The Name of Councillor Joe Behan (03/11/2015)

That this Council erects a crash barrier along the boundary of the Kilmacanogue/Roundwood Road and the property known as 'Anna Curra', Carrigoona Commons Estate, and Kilmacanogue as it has been the site of numerous serious traffic accidents.

Response

As there is a narrow footpath at this location, the proposed works would involve the removal of existing private site boundary for which the consent of the property owner would be required. Also required would be the construction of a retaining wall to the stream to support the crash barrier. The estimated cost of works is about €12,000.

The members raised the following point;

- I would like to reiterate the danger and there is a stream underneath.

Notice of Motion In The Name of Councillor Joe Behan (03/11/2015)

That this Council receives a full report on the effectiveness of the foul/surface water system from Bentley Park and Granite Cottage, Boghall Road.

Response

The foul water drainage is a matter for Irish Water. There is a 375mm dia surface water sewer along the Boghall Road from Pinewood Close to the Swan River. There have been no reports of flooding along this route so the sewer is assumed to be effective.

According to protocol Irish Water does not engage with the Council at Municipal District level. If agreed this Notice of Motion will be referred in the first instance to the next available meeting of Wicklow County Council for consideration.

The members raised the following point;

- We won't refer the notice until we get a copy of the report.

Notice of Motion In The Name of Councillors John Brady and Oliver O'Brien (03/11/2015)

That lighting would be installed to light up the monument that was erected for the two Bray firemen, Brian Murray and Mark O'Shaughnessy who lost their lives whilst serving the community.

Response

The estimated cost of providing lighting is about €7,000

The members raised the following points;

- It is a matter of respect to keep this monument to a high standard.
- What type of lighting costs €7,000?

The District Engineer informed the members that the cost also involves ducting etc.

Notice of Motion In The Name of Councillors John Brady and Oliver O'Brien (01/12/2015)

That this Council paints a yellow box at the junction of Castle Street and St. Cronan's Road.

Response

No significant delays or queuing has been noted on St' Cronan's Road. A yellow box does not therefore appear to be warranted.

Notice of Motion In The Name of Councillors John Brady and Oliver O'Brien (01/12/2015)

That the trees on the embankment opposite 14 Oldcourt Drive be cut back.

Response

The trees at this location have been assessed and are in good order. They will not be cut.

The members raised the following point;

- The leaves are causing major problems to a senior citizen in the area.

The District Engineer stated that it is just nature; we tend to get more complaints when trees are taken down. We will ask the sweeper to pay more attention to this area when they are in the vicinity.

Notice of Motion In The Name of Councillors John Brady and Oliver O'Brien (01/12/2015)

That the speed ramps along the Lower Dargle Road are redone and painted as they are currently a risk to public safety.

Response

As previously reported no funding has been provided to replace speed ramps around the town of Bray. It is estimated that about €50,000 is required to replace the oldest ramps in most urgent need of attention and further amounts will be required over the next few years.

The members raised the following points;

- I would support this, these ramps are unbelievable, they should be a more appropriate height.
- Can they ramps be positioned so that they would also serve as pedestrian crossings?

Councillor Behan also asked if a response has been received from the H.S.E. requesting that they attend a Council meeting to discuss the following;

- Provision of a Primary Care Centre in Bray.
- The withdrawal of STEMI patient treatment from St. Vincent's Hospital.
- The ending of pancreas and kidney transplant service in Beaumont Hospital.

The District Administrator stated that no response has been received but a reminder letter would issue.

8. Correspondence

The District Administrator informed the members that Lorraine Gallagher, Senior Executive Officer, Enterprise and Corporate Affairs had forwarded correspondence from the Alameda Country Board seeking to establish a sister country relationship with County Wicklow.

This matter was discussed at a Protocol Meeting held on Monday 12th January and it was agreed by the committee that this should be forwarded to the Bray Municipal District with a view to expanding the current Dublin California relationship to include Alameda County if appropriate.

The members raised the following point;

- We should investigate this as it is a much bigger area close to the Silicon Valley, an interesting place, only a few miles from San Jose.

The District Administrator informed the members that he would explore this invitation and revert back to the members.

Bray Wanderers

The District Administrator informed the members that the following letter has been received from Bray Wanderers Chairman Denis O'Connor.

'We have been developing a relationship with Rugby League Ireland and would like to them formally use the Carlisle Grounds as their Irish base.

This is good for Bray Wanderers F.C. as it adds to our revenue stream.

It is also good for the town as it brings in visitors who take up bed nights etc.

Accordingly we request that the Council permit the occasional use of the ground for representative rugby league matches'.

Councillor Vance proposed that permission be given to Bray Wanderers to allow Rugby League Ireland to use the Carlisle Grounds as their Irish base and this was seconded by Councillor Steven Matthews.

The members raised the following points;

- I don't support this at, we need more information, my understanding is that the lease is for football.
- What is going on at Bray Wanderers, we need to see a copy of the lease, it is a public facility.
- We should invite Bray Wanderers to make a presentation.
- It is for sporting usage, no type of development.
- I would have no problem with Bray Emmet's or Rugby League Ireland using the grounds.
- Youth teams such as Ardmore Rovers were told they could not use the pitch as its condition had to be preserved; yet St. Josephs in Sallynoggin outside of the area can use the facility. This is completely unacceptable. We need more information and time to consider this.
- I have no problem with this in principle but if it comprised the lease then that would be a different matter.
- We should get the Law Agents advice.

- I would not approve anything that would comprise the lease, I would insist on specific terms going into the lease.
- This did not appear on the agenda, we had no prior notice, we need to see the lease, see advice, I am not agreeing to anything.
- This should be discussed further.
- The lease is watertight; I can't see a big issue one way or another.
- This is a timely opportunity to review the lease and the members can decide one way or another.

The District Manager stated that we are very careful; when the car park was approved we sought counsel on how it would affect the lease.

Councillor Behan proposed that we do not proceed to give permission to Bray Wanderers to allow Rugby League Ireland to use the Carlisle Grounds as their Irish base at this time until we get a copy of the lease and advice from the Law Agent and this was seconded by Councillor Thornhill.

9. Any Other Business

There were no items to discuss at this time.

* * * *

This concluded the meeting.

Signed:

CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated:
