

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 6th September 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 John Ryan
Councillor Brendan Thornhill
Councillor Pat Vance**

Also present:

**Mr. Des O'Brien, Director of Services
Mr. Stephen Fox, Executive Engineer
Mr. David Forde, District Administrator
Ms. Triona Irving, Administrative Officer**

Absent

Apologies: **Mr. Liam Bourke, District Engineer**

A Vote of Sympathy was extended to the family of Margaret Cahill who recently passed away. A minute's silence was observed, as a mark of respect.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting dated 5th July 2016.

Councillor Joe Behan proposed confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray dated 5th July 2016 and Councillor Oliver O'Brien seconded the proposal.

2. To Discuss the Speed Limit Review 2015-2017

The Executive Engineer informed the members that he would take a note of any questions for the District Engineer which would be responded to at the next meeting.

The members raised the following points;

- Hopefully this report is the pre-draft and will be on display later in the year, it is important that the public make submissions.
- 30kph is great in principle but the question is will it be enforced/
- Consideration to periodic speed limit for schools is a good idea.
- 20kph would be a good idea in some estates, it would be better to be caught in traffic than follow a hearse or ambulance.
- The engineer in Wicklow has done a lot of work on this; he has mapped the entire county.
- Speed limits in estates go back a long time; people who speed in estates generally live in the estates, 20-30kph is not going to matter to them.
- We need a cultural change in attitude, we need to educate people; there has to be an awareness and acceptance by the public and enforced by the Gardai.
- The Gardai do have a role, they are public roads. I am not a fan of through roads in estates.
- There is a wider speed limit review taking place on a national level.
- All regional roads are included but not roads such as the N11.
- We did put in speed limits for different estates in the town, I am not against put up signs but it is not enough in itself. I would be in favour of 30kph for the entire town, it would be better for pedestrians, cyclists and children going to school.
- I would propose 40kph for the Sidmonton/Meath/Parnell Roads and 30kph for the road at Healy Pottery.
- I would question the use of ramps.

The Cathaoirleach Cllr. Matthews asked the members if they wish to make a collective submission or individual submissions; the members agreed to individual submissions subject to the provision that the review goes to public consultation.

3. To Discuss the Proposed Skateboard Park

The Executive Engineer informed the members that we are looking at the Peoples Park as a possible location. The River Dargle Flood Defence works are ongoing at this time and our preference would be that both works would be approached together in a joined up fashion not independently. It will be another week or two before a plan for the whole area will be seen. We are aiming for a facility that will be inclusive of all users of this area. A brief is being prepared.

The members raised the following points;

- What about the possible option of the harbour area that was brought up at the last meeting?
- We previously had a presentation from the Skateboarders, is there a design in mind? Is it still open for input and have we asked them?
- Was the Peoples Park decided on? I think we should ring fence the money for this and process it as speedily as possible.
- The Skateboarders had a jam on the seafront and I spoke to them. They are happy with the Peoples Park but are open to other locations. They would very much like to be part of the design.
- I am 100% in favour of the Peoples Park, this area will be rejuvenated.
- No site has been chosen and I want a vote when it is being decided. The Skateboarders have been lead a merry dance over the last few years; they should be treated with respect.
- My understanding is that the funding and design will be done through Wicklow County Council. I am not in favour of rushing this, we need to get it right and we have to recognize other park users. Michael Nicholson from Wicklow County Council met with the Skateboarders. The design option is not definite at this time.
- We keep this on the agenda.

The Executive Engineer informed the members that no decision has been made; we want to be in a position to make an informed decision. We are talking about the development in the park and are giving it due consideration. We are liaising with the landscaper and are trying to accommodate the needs of the users with what is suitable and ideal for the location. We are trying to incorporate the feature within a boarder park design. It may be possible to accommodate this in the harbour, maybe Ravenswell Road; I don't have the necessary information to hand. I will keep you updated with the progress.

4. To Consider the Housing Report

The members raised the following points;

Oldcourt Energy Efficiency Works

- Is there any update on Oldcourt, there was a press release stating that the Minister has approved funding, have we received notification?
- I read that 70 houses are to be upgraded at a cost of 5.3 million.
- I would like to thank Triona and all her staff for continually raising this issue with the Department for the last 18 months

Kilbride Land – Murphy's Land

- Where is this development at, what is happening?
- How long will it take for the design to be provided?

Cedar Court

When will the work on the balconies begin do we have a date?

Energy Upgrade Scheme

- Can this scheme be expanded out to cover other areas such as Failte Park, O'Byrne Road, Kilmantan Place and Kilmacanogue?

Miscellaneous

- The Tenant Purchase Scheme is there much uptake in the Bray area?
- I know people who don't qualify, can we review the categories that don't qualify, is there any local discretion?
- People won't give up a 4 bed house to move to a 2 bed house.
- Those in a 4 bed are excluded.
- The Director of Services has indicated that there may be some flexibility.
- I know someone who wanted to purchase their house that they have lived in for a long number of years. They were refused because they did not have a job. They had the money, I find this very strange.
- Those on social welfare don't qualify.
- To say that the elderly who have the money can't avail of the scheme seems crazy.
- There has been many purchase schemes since I have been on the Council but I have never seen one like this before. We encouraged tenants to avail of these schemes in the past.
- We decided this as a body at the Council meeting.
- We can take the two examples of the unemployed and elderly to Wicklow County Council.
- We can bring this up at the Special Housing meeting on the 26th in Wicklow.
- What happens to the money that comes in through this scheme?

The Administrative Officer informed the members that we received confirmation this afternoon that our application for Oldcourt has been approved in principle for the amount of 5.3 million. The Department is anxious that we proceed as soon as possible. The contract will be tendered and we will get back to the Department with the tender report. The Department had one query; they wished to know if we were in a position to start immediately. I know we were questioned in the past about the vacant houses in Oldcourt but we have these available for decanting purposes and as such we were able to inform the Department that we were ready to begin. The last preference by the residents was that the names were picked out of a hat and we will be guided by their preference again. We hope to carry out the work over the next 18 months in lots of 8 houses.

The housing development at Kilbride Lane has been approved by the Department and we need to get approval for the full tender design.

Stage 1 approval has been received for the two developments at O'Byrne Road and Kilmantan Place. We will carry out a feasibility study and this will then be sent to the Department for approval for us to go to phase 2.

The Tenant Purchase Scheme is dealt with centrally in Wicklow and the criteria were set down by the Department and the members adopted their criteria at the full Council meeting. I don't have the number of tenants who have applied for this scheme. This is exclusively for the named tenant; a tenant could be at risk if it is purchased in joint names. The money that comes in through this scheme goes into the housing capital fund in Wicklow County Council.

The Town Manager informed the members that this is for the protection of the tenant; we have to be careful of where the money has come from.

The Executive Engineer informed the members that the work on Cedar Court would begin next week. The Energy Upgrade Scheme will be rolled out to additional houses, not all houses would be suitable for cavity insulation but maybe external insulation. I am not sure of the suitability of Failte Park at this time.

Councillor Thornhill requested that an issue in relation to the housing policy be taken in committee at the end of the meeting. This was agreed.

5. To Receive an Update on the Old Dump at Bray Harbour.

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that we are still waiting on the up to date report and will leave this on the agenda for next month. Hopefully we will get the plan and find out how much it is going to cost.

6. To Discuss the Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that a report was circulated with the agenda and enquired if they had any questions.

The members raised the following points;

- I know that there was not much time to prepare this report but it is top class.
- Is there any idea of the estimated cost and will Greystones Municipal District contribute to this?
- I think we should set a five year plan and adopt it.
- We need to consider access for people with disabilities, it is a magnificent walk.
- From a tourist perspective it is marvellous, it is one thing we have control of and there is huge public interest in this.
- We as a Municipal Authority should push for increased funding for this walk.
- I was recently informed that the bridge near Raheen car park was known as 'Fiddlers Bridge', we should put a plaque or sign there.
- The Cliff Walk is a great resource and an enterprise centre located beside the former chair lifts would be a good idea. It would help the public to understand the history tied up in the walk. Also the flora and fauna in the area.
- The number of the public using this walk is growing every year. We should aspire for the Cliff Walk to join up with the Sugarloaf Way and win back the tourists lost to the Wild Atlantic Way.

The Executive Engineer informed the members that the Area Engineer in Greystones has done a lot of work in the background. He is looking at replacing the old wooden bridge at the Greystones end with a recycled plastic structure. Talks have also been taking place with Michael Nicholson regarding signage aspect; we recommend trailfinding signs which can market our brand.

7. To Receive a Report on Roads and Traffic.

The members raised the following points;

- I would like to thank the District Engineer for the report; I am concerned that the re-surfacing work on the Vevay Road has been deferred till next year. People expected a proper road surface can this be reviewed it is not acceptable?
- 'A contract to surface dress Herbert Road, Bray and of estates in Bray (Charnwood, Sugarloaf Crescent, Seacrest, Mountain View, Herbert Park and Glenwood) was deferred before summer holidays due to wet weather. No new date has been confirmed by the contractor' so is the contractor deciding when the work will be done, what is the reason?
- We agreed that the work would be done to wait another month is a complete farce.
- The proposal for no right hand turns at Schools/Boghall Road junction and on the Upper Dargle Road, there was no consultation with the Board of Management of the schools.
- It was agreed to have amber lights at the crossing at Springfield when is this going to happen?
- I welcome the works that have been carried out on the Forge Road, Bohilla and the Glencap Road. However, only work has been carried out to half the Glencap Road as it is not in the charge of Wicklow County Council. Previous correspondence received from the County has been submitted by the residents stating that it is in charge
- I also welcome the Calary Upper realignment.
- Kilgarran Park, Enniskerry resurfacing works in area of shop has been deferred until next year due to high costs incurred on the other roads, there is clearly a safety issue at the shop.
- Resurfacing work needs to be carried out from the garage in Enniskerry this road is very slippery and dangerous.
- Can the road markings on the Southern Cross Road be carried out?
- Did we carry out any works on the road adjacent to Healy Pottery?
- Can we progress the crossing point for Bray Lakers?

- I assumed that everyone in the Raheen area was in favour of the proposed ramps which can be a nightmare when you have a wheelchair in the car. The only people that benefit from ramps are the car manufacturer.
- The only submissions received in relation to the traffic calming were from Raheen and Deepdales, does it mean the residents have to wait?
- The right hand turn at Schools Road is creating chaos.
- I thought that part of the Aldi agreement was to widen the road.

The Executive Engineer informed the members that he would raise these issues with the District Engineer.

The Town Manager informed the members that surface dressing cannot be carried out in wet weather. Also the temperature has to be taken into consideration; if the window is missed then we go to the end of the queue. It makes sense to carry out all the necessary work to the Vevay Road at the same time, it is more expedient.

8. To Receive an Update on the Florentine Centre

The Town Manager informed the members that the application was submitted in July. The closing date for submissions was the 31st August 2016 and 10 submissions were lodged. We have not seen the submissions yet but I understand that they will be displayed in our offices and on our website. The Board at the moment seem to be keeping to their target deadlines and hopefully we will have a decision by the end of the year.

The members raised the following points;

- There is a tremendous support in the community for this development especially the cinema.
- Have we had a look at the observations, are they of a serious nature?
- Previously we received two positive decisions from the Board.
- Has the parking situation been progressed in any way?

The Town Manager stated that at the moment we are working on how to attract finance partners. We don't have the money so we have to look at getting partners from the private sector. We are keen to get going to see what the market is offering. We are organising a completion that is transparent, we are preparing this and hopefully will have this ready for November. We want to attract people who have good experience and a track record. We are looking at alternative parking arrangements.

9. Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion In The Name of Councillor Joe Behan (21/06/2016)

That this Council constructs a functioning surface water shore and pipe at house number 24 Elgin Wood.

Response

It has been previously reported that to drain the roadway at 24 Elgin Wood an extension of the public surface water system at Elgin Woods for a distance of about 68m would be required at a cost of approximately €18,000. No funding has been allocated. Several years ago the council provided a soakaway in the adjacent open space but due to limited permeability it does not provide sufficient drainage. The owner has proposed that the council connects the surface water to his foul drainage system. However this is contrary to sustainable development and Irish water policy. It is proposed that consent be sought from Irish Water to install an overflow from an improved soakaway. If permitted, the expected cost would be of the order of €10,000.

The members raised the following point;

- It is important, this garden is constantly flooded if something could be done the resident would appreciate it.

Notice of Motion In The Name of Councillor Joe Behan (21/06/2016)

That this Council repairs the footpath at house number 2 Sugarloaf View, Kilmacanogue.

Response

Funding for footpath repairs is already committed in 2016. It is proposed to include repairs at Sugarloaf View in the 2017 roads programme.

The members raised the following point;

- I would appreciate it if something could be done.

Notice of Motion In The Name of Councillor Joe Behan (21/06/2016)

That this Council paves the small patch of green area opposite house number 10 Rectory Slopes.

Response

There appears to be no community benefit from the removal of green space in a housing estate that would justify the utilisation of scarce resources.

The members raised the following point;

- It is a few square feet, dog fouling is taking place, it is a health and safety matter. Can this area be examined again by the engineer?

Notice of Motion In The Name of Councillor Joe Behan (21/06/2016)

That this Council cuts back the tree and bushes adjacent to house number 18 Fáilte Park.

Response

Routine trimming of shrubbery was carried out at Fáilte Park this week that included trimming of bushes opposite no.18. No requirement for further trimming is evident.

Notice of Motion In The Name of Councillors Michael O'Connor and Oliver O'Brien (05/07/2015)

That the members of Bray Municipal District call on Wicklow County Council to provide distance marker buoys off the beach in Bray for long distance swimmers to use.

Response

The request has been forwarded to the Water safety Officer for his consideration.

Notice of Motion In The Name of Councillors Michael O'Connor and Oliver O'Brien (05/07/2015)

That the members of Bray Municipal District call on Wicklow County Council to provide a permanent changing room for swimmers at the beach in Bray

Response

The Council has no building available for this function. A life guard hut was provided to the swimming club outside of the summer season last year and will be provided again this September. The request for funding for a permanent facility has been forwarded to the Community and Enterprise Department. It should be noted that the life guard huts are due for replacement, which also requires funding.

10. Reports and Recommendations

There were no reports and recommendations at this time.

11. Correspondence

The District Administrator informed the members of the following correspondence.

SWAP

'SWAP a community group from Little Bray who have been campaigning now for eleven years to 'swap' the proposed development on the floodplain of the old Bray Golf Club lands with the equivalent acreage on the upper ground.

We wish to ask permission to address Bray Municipal District Group as soon as possible with regard to re-zoning 8.6 acres of land on both the upper and the lower ground – allowing the lower land to be used as a linear park with playing pitches, and the upper ground to compensate by building there, overlooking the high flood defence walls.

You may have read the article in the North Wicklow Times of the 16th August, describing how we have intensified our campaign, including engaging with NAMA, and Ministers Noonan and Canney to this end.

The excellent flood defences which are in place and almost completed, have proven already how invaluable they are and will continue to be. However, this will all be in vain if the plans go ahead for building on the lower ground, particularly for a very vulnerable community such as ours.

A delegation from SWAP visited Leinster House in July and a number of TDs attended, we were pleased with the feedback we received.

We look forward to your prompt reply, hopefully with permission for us to address the Bray MD meeting’.

The members raised the following points;

- We are not doing any re-zoning at the moment; can they make a submission in relation to the Town Development Plan?
- There was existing planning permission there.
- There are concerns that development could take place on lands that are prone to flooding.
- I don't have a problem they are a community group.
- They should be allowed they have an important issue to discuss.

The members agreed to place this item on the agenda for the meeting in October.

Würzburg

A letter was received from the Mayor of Würzburg thanking us for the letter we sent in relation to the incident at Würzburg-Heidingsfeld Station.

Letter from Minister Coveney's Office

A response was received from Minister Coveney's office to our letters regarding the pay by weight refuse charges.

The letter stated that *'as this matter was more appropriate to the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, I have forwarded your letter to my colleague Minister Denis Naughton T.D., for his attention and direct reply to you'.*

12. Any Other Business

Community of Failte Park

The members were reminded of the upcoming afternoon tea reception to be held in the Wilton Hotel on the 15th September to recognise the value of the community in Failte Park and to celebrate three of the tenants becoming members of the Nonagenarian Club.

Danish Embassy.

The members raised the following points;

- A planning application has been lodged on the former Danish Embassy site on the Herbert Road. It is proposed to remove 400 trees from this site.
- There are traffic implications also.

- There is a lack of sewage facilities on this area of the Herbert Road.
- We need to support what the residents are saying directly to Wicklow County Council.
- There are concerns expressed by residents that the Council want to remove trees in the area to make room for a footpath.

Audio Visual Events

The members raised the following points;

- What is the tendering process in relation to audio/visual events?
- What money is involved?

The District Administration that this is done through Wicklow County Council.

Signage

The members raised the following points;

- Can we have a look at the signage and road marking at Kilmantain Park, Fatima Terrace and Father Colohan Terrace? People are parking all day, what plans have we to control this?
- Two parking spaces are proposed to be removed on the Main Street near the lights.
- There are very few spaces left on the Main Street.

Pumping Station

The members raised the following point;

- Can we write to Irish Water regarding the pumping station at Seapoint Court requesting that they carry out a clean up to the entrance?

Fire Service

Councillor O'Connor stated that it is fair to say that the Fire Service has suffered more their fair share of tragedies. I and Sinn Fein in Wicklow would like to be associated with this. We should look into approaching the appropriate Department seeking funding for a fire service.

This was seconded by Councillor Behan who stated that the proposal should go to Wicklow County Council

Katie Taylor

The members raised the following point;

- Can we write a letter to Katie Taylor expressing our pride in her and her achievements?

* * * *

This concluded the meeting.

Signed:

CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated:
