

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 4th April 2017 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. David Forde, District Administrator
Mr. Liam Bourke, District Engineer

Absent

Apologies: Ms. Triona Irving, Administrative Officer

A Vote of Sympathy was extended to the families of Nell Crinnon, Donnie O'Connor, Dara Fitzpatrick and Martin McGuinness who recently passed away. A minute's silence was observed, as a mark of respect.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting dated 7th March 2017.

Councillor John Ryan proposed confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray dated 7th March 2017 and Councillor Pat Vance seconded the proposal.

2. To Receive a Presentation from Laura English Disability Officer Wicklow County Council

The members received the following presentation from Laura English Disability Officer, Wicklow County Council.

DFI is the national support organisation for (130+) voluntary disability organisations in Ireland who provide services to people with disabilities and disabling conditions.

Facts and Figures

595,355 / 13% Of the population (CSO, 2011)

At least 1 in 10 adults of working age have a disability (15-64 years).

Disability is age-related and increases sharply with age. Just 5% of children between 0-14 years have a disability compared to 38% of adults over 65 years (census 2011).

Disability does not discriminate – anyone can acquire a disability at any stage of their life

People with Disabilities in Ireland

- Historically institutionalised, segregated from the community and 'cared for' under the charity model
- From the 1990s onward legislative change, activism and external factors (e.g. EU) have created a shift in thinking
- People with disabilities are demanding their rights and are increasingly viewed as equal citizens

Disability: The last acceptable prejudice?

- ▶ Almost 13% of people with disabilities live in consistent poverty compared to 2% of people at work
- ▶ 66% of people with disabilities are unemployed
- ▶ 16% did not progress beyond primary school, compared to 4% of people without a disability
- ▶ Ireland is the last country in the entire EU and one of the last in the world to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities (UNCRPD)

- ▶ 24hours notice to travel with Irish rail & assistance needed to disembark
- ▶ 5% of taxi's are accessible
- ▶ Waiting Lists - April 2015 -21,821(SLT) 15,300 (OT) 28,749 (PT) 207 (PA) 296 (Home help)

Employment

Spinal Injury in Ireland (Spinal Injuries Ireland, 2014)

- ▶ 76% of people are unemployed
- ▶ 40% are living at or below the poverty line

Case study: A woman who is blind completed her Arts degree, using AT to the value of €5,800. She was assisted by an Educational Support Worker at a cost of €14,500. The total cost of supports over 4 years =€20,300.

On graduating, she secured a graduate position in an IT firm at a starting salary of €36,250, with a projected income over 5 years of €181,000. Without she could have been dependent on Disability Allowance. The cost to the State (over a five year period) would have been €49,000.

The Current State of Play

The latest Programme for Government commits to:

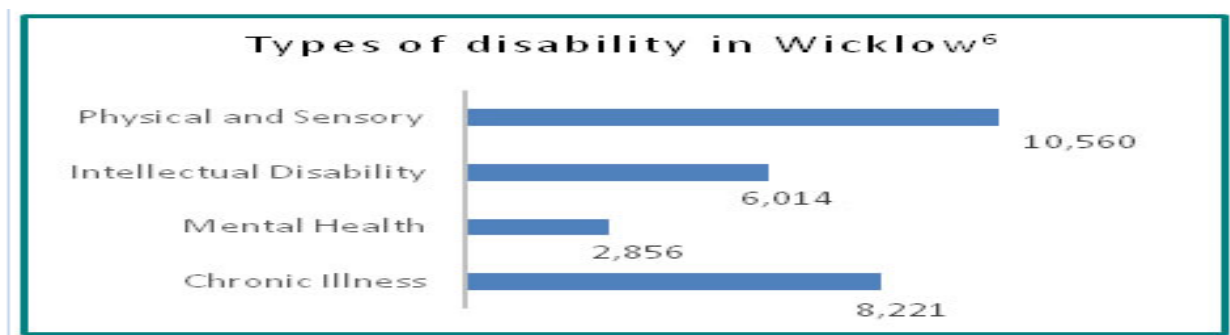
- ▶ Ratifying the UNCRPD before the end of 2016
- ▶ Establishing a Taskforce on personalised budgets
- ▶ Progressing the implementation of the Comprehensive Employment Strategy for People with Disabilities
- ▶ Ensuring that the needs of people with disabilities are incorporated into all future housing policies
- ▶ Reducing the number of people currently living in a congregated setting by at least one-third by 2021 and to ultimately eliminate all congregated settings. Effectively, moving 900 people from institutional care into the community.

What does this mean for pwd's & communities?

- ▶ *Big difference between living in the community and being part of it*
- ▶ *Building natural supports – family, friends and neighbours*
- ▶ *Accessibility challenges*
- ▶ *Education and Awareness Raising*
- ▶ Opportunities for all to benefit

Focus on Wicklow

- ▶ Wicklow has a total population of 136,640 people. 13% of these, or 17,616 people, have a disability



The members raised the following points;

- Thank you for your excellent presentation; there are a lot of talented hidden people and they need to be treated as equal.

- They make us human and more caring and the country a far better place.
- It would be difficult of overestimate the importance of your work.
- There was a disability access audit carried out in Baltinglass, what were the impediments?
- I would like to see this rolled out to other villages and towns in Wicklow. Is this on the agenda, can we get an audit done in Bray Municipal District?
- The figures presented are staggering, 16% of those with disabilities did not progress beyond Primary School. Parents need to be aware of a new 'simpler system' that is being brought in under the radar regarding the provision of resources. It relates to the hours given to a school being divided between pupils. If a child is later diagnosed with a disability extra resources are not provided. This will create problems later on.
- This subject is coming to the fore, when people are healthy they take it for granted.
- We need to stand up and promote the interests of people with disabilities.
- Why are we the last country to ratify the rights of people with disabilities?
- It is important that we look after people with disabilities; for the first time we have a Minister of State for Disabilities Issues Finian McGrath.
- Action is what is needed; we had a Disability Officer in the past but the contract was not renewed.
- It is incumbent upon us all that funding is provided; we need to take the lead.
- Employing a Disability Officer two days a week to cover the county is a partial step in the right direction.
- We are the first County to do this; we need to act as an advocate for disability groups.
- We need to promote this through the bray.ie website.

Laura English informed the members that not enough is being done for people with disabilities we need to do more. There has been no increase in PA's since 2008. There is no money to make the community disability aware; there was an implementation plan for all Local Authorities to carry out a disability audit but then the crash came and there was no money. There is an access officer in the Council Helen Purcell but she has many hats.

Legislation is not compatible with the U.N. Convention; human rights delayed are human rights denied. A holistic view needs to be taken for example different supports for employers.

3. To Receive a Presentation from the Bray Harbour Action Group

The following presentation was given to the members by Ger Crowley and Ronan Laffin from the Bray Harbour Action Group.

Who we are

Organisation	Membership
Bray Adventures	500 plus participants per annum, 5 instructors
Bray Harbour Mooring Association	50 members
Bray Head Fishing Holders Association	250 members
Bray Sailing Club	200 adults, 130 juniors, 12 instructors
Bray Sea Anglers	50 members
Bray Sea Scouts	260 scouts, 74 leaders
Bray Veteran Kayakers	25 members
Bray Youth Services	350 children, 5 instructors
Row A Round	25 members

Our Mission

To work as a group to **maintain, improve & enhance** the potentially **vibrant harbour** as an **amenity for all** to use and enjoy and to **ensure its future** as an area of **leisure and commercial** water activities.

Our harbour a major amenity

Casual Leisure Activities

- Feeding the swans
- Walking the pier and prom
- Pier fishing
- Boating
- Stand up paddle boarding
- Kayaking
- Diving
- Drinking coffee

Businesses

- Bray Adventures
- The Harbour Bar
- Dockyard No. 8 Café
- The Harbour Trading Company
- PEMCO
- Bray Civil Defence

Sporting organisations

- Bray Sailing Club
- Bray Sea Scouts
- Bray Sea Anglers
- Bray Head Fishing & Social Club
- Bray Boxing Club
- Bray Skiff Rowers
- Organised Sea Swims

- An average 800-900 people use Bray Harbour for water based activities every day in the summer season

The sand

- A massive **threat to viability** of water activities
- We support addressing local **beach nourishment** requirements using the **uncontaminated sand** that has built up in the harbour during the **river works**

SWOT Analysis for Bray Harbour

Weaknesses

- Lack of depth due to various factors
- Dangerous lack of protection from East/North East
- Lack of parking
- Lack of storage for boats and equipment
- Lack of commercial marine activity – coastal trips, boat hire etc
- Occasional poor water quality during river works
- Poor fishing off Bray at present

Strengths

- Large number of users with huge growth potential.
- Significant existing built assets – walls, slips, landing stages...
- Easy public access from all sources including new river walk
- Close proximity to town and promenade
- Very strong connectivity to Dublin/Wicklow - DART, M50...
- River channel provides some access to deep water
- Already an amenity centre for walkers, swan / wildlife watchers
- Spectacular backdrop of Bray Head, Wicklow Mountains, Killiney, Bray Seafront

□ **Threats**

- Ongoing degradation of harbour with build-up of sand Flight of boats to safer water – to Greystones, Dun Laoghaire
- Road planners proposing roadway through harbour
- Lack of official interest/action in the harbour
- Commercial development that is unsympathetic to marine/leisure potential and harbour users.
- Insurance availability becoming more difficult for boats
- Integrity of harbour walls
- Flooding caused by overtopping,
- Climate change

□ **Opportunities**

- Create focus on Bray as East coast leisure activity capital
- Complementary to amenities and businesses of Bray seafront and town
- High amenity value for new residential & commercial development on golf course and adjacent lands
- Ribbon of East coast harbours for Irish and visiting boats
- Hotels and B&Bs providing accommodation for visiting users
- Amenity for large population in greater Dublin area – 1 million people within 30 minute drive
- Ideal port for visiting boats from west coast of UK

Our vision for a Harbour Master Plan

Marine Facilities – Issues

- No facilities for commercial and voluntary marine groups
- Limited access to the water at low tide
- No suitable boarding points for commercial vessels

Concerns

- Need basic toilet, changing and storage facilities for commercial and voluntary organisations
- Employment directly at risk
- Potential of harbour for commercial activity not being fully realised

Protection - Issues

- No shelter from E/NE winds
- Many boats damaged or lost
- Slipway often unusable

Concerns

- Boats moving away from Bray
- Risk harbour becomes uninsurable
- Cannot launch rescue boats in Easterly conditions
- Public safety concerns
- Exacerbated by sand build up

Shoreside Environment – Issues

- Parking & congestion problems
- Lack of walkways
- Inadequate seating
- Public lighting

Concerns

- Road safety for harbour users
- Access to slipways often blocked
- Stability of North Pier
- Impacts of future town developments on the harbour area

- Public safety issues with growing demand
- Bray harbour is missing link between thriving seafront and new Dargle river walk

The Harbour's Potential

- A major amenity for all of our community
- A place for increased leisure activities
- Significantly greater commercial maritime activity
- Additional tourist and visitor potential
- A link between town, river and seafront
- Maintain the existing diverse habitats and environment

What we want

1. Action on the issues affecting viability of Bray Harbour
2. Work in collaboration with council to explore options
3. Development of Bray Harbour Master Plan

Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022

- TR39: To promote and facilitate through appropriate transport planning and land-use zoning the expansion or development of recreational facilities and marinas at Bray, Greystones, Wicklow and Arklow harbours.
- CZ1: To enhance the visual, recreational and natural amenities of the Bray coastal area, in accordance with the policies and objectives set out in the County Development Plan and Bray Local Area Plan.
- T34: To promote and encourage the recreational use of coastline, rivers and lakes and the development of 'blueways'10 in the County subject to normal environmental protection and management criteria

The members raised the following points;

- It is sad to see the decline of this area, is there any feasibility study on costs on the external wall?
- Would this have an impact on the water level in the harbour?
- It is never full of water all the time.
- You stated that you did think that the river works contributed to the silting; when Simon Harris was in the O.P.W. we missed an opportunity to put in an application for funding. We were extremely slow.
- This work will take investment; there is land at the north end of the beach which is zoned industrial, this should be residential. There is potential to make something amazing.
- In the past a liaison committee met but this suddenly stopped; the committee needs to be re-established. I am fully supportive of the development of the harbour but a survey needs to be carried out before we put money in.
- I think the problems are not 100% caused by the river works but a significant amount has.
- This area is badly neglected and we need an audit carried out.
- We have spent a lot of money on the boxing club and more people are using the harbour facilities.
- If we don't need to dredge then the cost element is a lot less. Also if we can use the silt to replenish the beach and not landfill this will also reduce costs.
- The de-silting needs to happen soon and we need to draw up a master plan over a period of time.
- This area has so much potential and this issue needs to be tackled urgently.
- Has there been much communication with officials?
- The harbour progress has been backwards; we need decent facilities. It is a 'back to the future situation'.
- A lot of work is required and unity between groups.
- We need a realistic discussion about what is possible.
- As a lay person it looks like the silting was caused by the river works.
- There is a new development plan being prepared of the Municipal District and I would urge you to make a submission.
- There are better uses for existing structures.

- We are looking for a skateboard park at the moment and there will be more movement of young people in this area going from the new schools to the seafront.
- It was my understanding that the O.P.W. should contribute to the dredging, have any officials been in contact with the O.P.W?

The Cathaoirleach stated that we need to get action on this, there are two Councillors here who would be willing to join the group and he will approach Paul Ivory and Marc Devereux from Wicklow County Council. We need to get a foreshore licence application submitted and he will talk to the District Manager on how this can be progressed.

The District Manager informed the members that there was no line in the budget or no offer from the O.P.W. to dredge the harbour. We need to investigate ways of doing this. I will talk to Marc Devereux regarding the foreshore licence. The material has been tested and it is clean material. Costs can accumulate massively this has happened in other area. We need to investigate the chances of a foreshore licence before we spend money. We did have a landfill site but this was turned down by the members. Maybe it could be used to protect the cliff face at the old dump.

The members raised the following points;

- No offer was received from the O.P.W. because they were waiting on an application from the District.
- At the time of the beach nourishment scheme the O.P.W. stated that we would need to carry out replenishment in the future; now is the time to go back to them and say we need to do this work.
- There are materials there, we need a source of funding from the O.P.W. it is the key.

Ger and Ronan informed the members that no cost was done regarding the feasibility study. If the clean sand was removed at low water using basic mechanical extraction it would probably cost under €100,000. We estimate the total plan of the wall would be under 1 million.

There are opportunities if we have a plan in place when funding becomes available. It becomes an abandoned harbour if it is not an active harbour. We made a submission to the Municipal District planning process last year on behalf of the sailing club. There will be a large population on our doorstep when the golf club lands development occurs; we need to provide facilities for the youth of Bray. If sand could be piped over the wall it could cheapen the process.

4. To Receive the Housing Report

The members raised the following points;

- When do officials see when people can move into the 8 vacant properties in Oldcourt?
- 3 homeless people were removed from the seafront by the Gardai, is emergency accommodation being provided? What is being planned?
- All the members know what is happening it is not the Councils fault; the Department slowed/delayed things by not providing finance as quickly as they should. I have been told by residents in the area that the refurbishment works have made a huge improvement on their living conditions.
- There was a lot of going backwards and forwards to the Department.

The District Engineer informed the members that the vacant property in Oldcourt was being used for turnover for the refurbishment works and would be allocated when the works were completed. He was aware of the details relating to the removal of the homeless on the seafront.

The Cathaoirleach stated that homelessness was a matter for Wicklow County Council and should be referred to them.

The District Manager informed the members that the Administrative Officer for the housing section had previously explained before that the properties in Oldcourt were required for the refurbishment works and Bray Municipal District is not deliberately holding houses.

5. To Receive a Report on Roads and Traffic

The members raised the following points;

- Road marking needs to be carried out in several areas.
- Ramps around the town are in a poor condition, there are several of these on the seafront. Have we got a plan in place some are in a dangerous condition?
- Some of the pedestrian lights at these are not working.
- How soon will work be carried out?
- The road lining on the Southern Cross Road needs to be carried out; it could lead to a potential accident.
- With a budget of €30,000 we won't get them all done, they are all in a diabolical condition.
- Most are in highly trafficked areas, what has gone wrong? Was the material defective?
- What is the progress on the outstanding discretionary projects?
- Is the funding this available for the previous discretionary projects?
- How long will the work take on Church Hill, Enniskerry? Will there be a one way system after the works? Legal parking on Church Hill is causing difficulties.
- We have approval for the next phase of works on the R755 Calary, when will the archaeologist study take place and will it delay work?
- It is difficult to cross the road in Kilmacanogue to get to the village, can the footpath be dished?
- What is the situation with the Vevay Road?
- When are we going to get a workshop dated regarding traffic jams?
- We should have the TII report in two weeks and it is important to involve the Gardai.
- Can we look at a date say in 4 weeks?
- We need to involve Dun Laoghaire as well.

The Cathaoirleach said he would contact all parties and would look for ideas/items for the agenda.

The Executive Engineer informed the members that €30,000 was agreed for ramps at the last meeting, after initial costing we would probably be only able to do 4 or 5. We could look at an alternative finish and look at funding some next year. There is no issue with the material used for the ramps some are over 15 years old. Lights are not operating at two of the pedestrian crossings, it could be a wiring fault and the contractor has been notified.

Funding is still available for the works at the Aquarium and north of the Aquarium.

I am having a meeting with the residents of Raheen Park; we have to carry out a speed survey. Someone interfered with the counter system so we did not get proper readings with the original survey.

We are having a similar meeting with the residents of Deepdales and Avondale Park.

There was a fatality at the crossing on Killarney Road and this work is on hold while the investigation is taking place.

We will consult with the residents, businesses and the Gardai on the best alternative for Church Hill.

The archaeologist will be carrying out their study on the R755 Calary this week.

Prices are currently being sought for the upgrade of the Vevay Road/Putland Road traffic signals and for pedestrian signals on the Upper Dargle Road at Fassaroe Estate and James Everett Park from the 2017 Realm funding. The Castle Street pedestrian signals upgrade has been completed from the 2016 Discretionary Public Realm funding.

We have instructed a contractor to carry out lining at the entrance to the industrial estate on the Southern Cross Road.

6. To Adopt the Public Realm Expenditure

Councillor Ryan proposed the adoption of the Public Realm Expenditure and Councillor Vance seconded this proposal.

7. To Receive an Update on the Florentine Centre

The District Manager informed the members that we have got legal advice on the best approach on drawing up the lease. We are endeavoring to shorten the time for to progress this.

The members raised the following points;

- Is there a legal issue again, what does shortening the time mean?

The District Manager stated the European Procurement Directives had to be understood. We are being prudent. We don't want challenges to the outcome. A PIN (notice) is on etenders this is happening to let people know and reassure those who have an interest in the site and show some bone fide on our part. It is a two stage process; stage one is making the lease and stage two is having a panel of 2/3/4 parties to tender. Stage two should start in September/October and should come before the members in September. The first phase will be advertised by the end of this month.

8. To Discuss the Skateboard Park

The Cathaoirleach stated the it might be worth exploring the suggestion of the harbour area for the Skateboard Park.

The members raised the following points;

- Can we get clarity on what lands we own in the area?
- This is a serious matter we have been neglectful.

9. To Discuss a Review of the Seafront Bye Laws

Due to time constraints this matter was not addressed

10. To Discuss the Voluntary Contribution Scheme

Due to time constraints this matter was not addressed

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

Due to time constraints this matter was not addressed

12. Reports and Recommendations

Due to time constraints this matter was not addressed

13. Notices of Motion

Due to time constraints this matter was not addressed

14. Correspondence

Due to time constraints this matter was not addressed

15. Any Other Business

Issue with land bank at Mount Herbert

The members raised the following points;

- There is an issue with the bottom of the bank at Mount Herbert.
- This is a serious issue and can't be bundled into a minute.
- This should be an item on the agenda, this needs time.
- I have concerns where the Council does not own lands.
- We could be proactive and bring the relevant parties together.

Civic Reception Bray Lions Club.

The Cathaoirleach stated that he has received a request to hold a civic reception for the 30th Anniversary of Bray Lions Club and suggested the June meeting.

The members agreed

* * * *

This concluded the meeting.

Signed:

CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated:
