

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 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. Stephen Fox, Executive Engineer  
Ms. Triona Irving, Administrative Officer

**Absent**

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

Congratulations were extended to Bray Tidy Towns on their recent win of a bronze medal at the Tidy Towns Awards Ceremony. It was an exceptional achievement and shows what can be achieved when a community comes together. Councillor Matthews was also acknowledged on his contribution to Bray Tidy Towns.

Congratulations were also extended to Bray Emmet's Under 17's hurling on their recent performance; and to golfer Paul Dunne on his recent win at the British Masters and his caddy Darren Reynolds.

It was agreed that Bray Tidy Towns would make a presentation to the members at the December meeting.

A Vote of Sympathy was extended to the family of Councillor Gail Dunne whose brother Jimmy recently passed away. A minute's silence was observed, as a mark of respect.

Councillor O'Brien requested a suspension of Standing Orders to discuss Ballywaltrim Recreational Park.

It was agreed to take this item at 9.45pm.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting dated 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017.**

Councillor Matthews proposed confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray dated 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and Councillor Thornhill seconded the proposal.

**2. To Receive a Presentation from Enniskerry Boxing Club.**

The following presentation was made to the members by Club Secretary Eamonn Carr and Head Coach Paul O'Toole.

**About Us:**

**Enniskerry Boxing Club**

Founded: 2013.

Affiliated members: 68 (15 girls/ 53 boys).

Qualified coaches: 4 male, 2 female .

Members from age 6-30 years

Fully insured and affiliated to the IABA. All coaches Garda vetted/ Child Protection courses completed.

**Mission Statement:**

“Enniskerry Boxing Club is a totally voluntary organisation that provides boxing training in an inclusive, enjoyable, respectful environment.

**Subsidiary Objectives:**

- To promote a healthy lifestyle among young people in our community.
- To provide open membership to male and female members.
- To offer inclusivity in terms of membership. Social inclusion is a central tenet of the Club Constitution.

**Achievements To Date:**

- 15 Michael Andrews gold medals.
- 14 Leinster gold medals.
- 2 All Ireland gold medals/ 5 silver medals.
- All Ireland Cadet Champion.
- Junior European Champion (female) 2017.
- A number of our members have and continue to represent Provincial and National Teams abroad in Sweden, Latvia , England, Germany, Poland and Bulgaria.
- Female boxer and a female coach on the High Performance Irish Team.
- Two of our coaches have been selected to take the AIBA One Star Coaching Badge in October 2017

**Training:**

- 3 nights weekly (Monday/Wednesday/Friday).
- Times : Juniors 6-10 years (6pm-7pm) .
- Seniors 11+ years (7pm-8.30pm).
- Spars/Travel: Tuesdays and Thursdays .
- High Performance Training Female: Saturdays 10am-4pm .
- Leinster Male Squad: Saturdays 10am-4pm.
- Girls Development Squad: Alternate Sundays 10.30am-3pm.

**Income:**

- The club receive no funding from the IABA or Government.
- The club rely solely on available Wicklow County Council grants, annual membership fees of €20 (€15/€10 for families), nightly subscriptions of €3, bag packing in Dunnes Stores 2 / 3 times a year, donations and individual assistance.

**Priority Issues:**

- The club has no permanent home.
- The club has had a number of different rented premises since 2013.
- Currently we rent a premise in the Egan Centre, Bray at commercial rents.
- Whilst the club is hugely grateful to the Egan family it can not sustain commercial rental rates medium/long term.
- Commercial rents mean ‘dead funds’ which could be better used for the provision of:
  - Training gear and equipment.
  - Travel to competitions and spars.
  - Provision of community links i.e BoxFit for schools / elderly etc.
  - Further coaching/ development courses.

**A Search for a Home:**

- The club has lobbied tirelessly for a permanent, subsidised premises.
- Many emails/meetings with Councillors/TD's have been exchanged/had since 2013.
- We have worked with the Enniskerry Forum Residents Group to lobby the Council to upgrade The Bog Meadow site in Enniskerry in a shared facility arrangement with other local sports groups.
- This is with the Law Agents at Wicklow County Council we gather.
- In an ideal world our longer term aim is to have our own stand alone premises as a community boxing/sports facility available 7 days a week to the club and the community.

### **A Search for a Home Contd. :**

- The drive to fundraise with the support of Wicklow County Council and Bray Municipal District to develop a club of excellence.
- We believe we provide an outstanding, inclusive, voluntary, community focused facility and service and as such seek the support of Bray Municipal District in finding a home for our vibrant and flourishing club. We encourage you to have a look at our Facebook page 'Enniskerry Boxing Club' to witness the wonderful family atmosphere within the club.

### **To Conclude:**

We thank Bray Municipal District Council for giving us this opportunity to present ourselves and our aims .

- A boxing club does not require huge space or expense relative to other sports and we hope we can attain a suitable facility with your support.

The members raised the following points;

- Thank you for your presentation, the clubs achievements to date are amazing. You know the work that is taking place at Bogmeadow and I think it is almost over the line. A fixed home and security of tenure is hopefully closer and leaves you open to securing grants. You have our ongoing and continued support.
- I empathize with you we had a similar situation in Ballywaltrim. The voluntary work you are doing is saving the government millions. The value of your work should be recognized. Sports should be free, it helps create a balanced society.
- In 1985 there was a lack of sporting facilities in the town and we have made great progress since then. The town has grown and we are running out of space. I will always support anyone involved in sports and will continue to do so as much as I can. Not only with temporary solutions but in the long term as well. There is land put aside in the development plan in the Old Fassaroe area and hopefully this will include a major regional centre for sports.
- Thank you for the time you have given to the club it is making a huge difference to the lives of the children and it is important that we acknowledge this.
- Boxing has the unique ability to reach children that no other sport can reach. It can transform them, it is immeasurable. The long term solution would a complex on the Fassaroe lands. Is it your aspiration to stay in the Enniskerry, North Wicklow area? Is Bogmeadow suitable, have you spoken to other users?
- It is important to keep children busy and off the streets. It is important for the future of the youth.

Eamonn stated that they have been in contact with the other users of the Bogmeadow. We have members from Bray, Greystones and Dublin and we would rather not go outside Bray or Enniskerry.

The presentation was followed by a presentation to Daina Moorehouse on her winning a gold medal at the European Youth Boxing Championships in Sofia, Bulgaria. The members acknowledged this achievement stating that Daina showed many qualities of character as well as being talented in sports.

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

#### Kilbride Lane

The members raised the following points;

- I am deeply concerned on the information from Wicklow County Council that the Department are dragging out the approval process for the housing units on Kilbride Lane. The reality is they are holding up this project.
- We have not built any houses in this District for a long time and there are over a 1,000 on the waiting list. We should seek clarification from the Department on when we can expect work to begin.
- I agree we have built only 3 houses in 6 years; I highlighted this issue in 2011. Not a lot of people are taking notice of this. It is a tragedy that over 3,000 children are sleeping in hotels. People are on the list for up to 12 years it is scandalous. I thought this project was starting a year ago; it is unbelievable what is happening in this country. It is taking years to build anything.

42 units won't make a bleep in the scheme of things. The Minister would want to get serious about this, it is taking far too long.

- It is a drop in the ocean but would provide accommodation for 42 families; the Minister needs to get his act together.
- During the boom thousands of units per year were being built and it was the exact same planning permission laws. Part of the problem is that developers are sitting on land. The derelict sites levy is weak. We need to encourage people to buy back into the housing system. Banks lending, builders sitting on land, there are a raft of issues that need to be addressed by the Government.
- I have received a flood of emails asking when the units will be built. Banks are controlling everything, lives are being destroyed. We need to sort the whole system.
- Fundamental this scheme is in the control of the Department and it should be processed quickly. The Chief Executive did meet with the Minister. The Director of Housing in Wicklow County Council did state that the speed is too slow and there are a lot of hoops and stages.

Triona Irving Administrative Officer informed the members that we had no difficulty in writing to the Department, we depend on the information we receive. It is frustrating and there is not a lot we can do at the moment.

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

The members raised the following points;

- Thank you for the work that was done at Glenwood.
- A number of projects were approved at Deepdales/Raheen Park/Sidmonton and Galtrim Road, I am worried that the funding will be withdrawn at the end of the year if it is not spent and that Wicklow County Council could take the money back. We followed the guidelines given in relation to these proposed projects.
- What about the Briar Wood project?
- This was approved at last month's meeting.
- Is there any update on the harbour scheme, I allocated my money towards a pontoon in the harbour area?
- What is the delay on removing the bad bend at Calary on the R755?

The Executive Engineer stated that the District Engineer is actively progressing the traffic calming proposals, as far as I am aware the delay at removing the bend on the R755 is a funding issue.

#### **5. To Receive an Up Date on the Florentine Centre**

The District Manager informed the members that we are waiting for private sector lawyers to provide documents. When we receive them we will send them to the shortlisted candidates. We are hoping for a 2-3 week turn around. Time is of the essence. The tender will be brought straight to the Council Meeting and is the members wish we could have a Special Council Meeting.

The members raised the following points;

- I would be agreeable to a special meeting. This is a two year programme are we looking at Christmas 2019?
- Will Wicklow County Council be making the decision, it can't come quick enough.

The District Manager stated that this was correct.

#### **6. To Discuss Alternative Parking Locations in the Town Centre.**

The following report from the District Engineer was circulated to the members

One of Wicklow County Council strategies should be to improve car parking on the periphery of the town centre on routes where the private car is encouraged to avoid the Main Street. It is proposed to enlarge the Herbert Road car park, which can be accessed from the south by avoiding the town centre. The Florentine site in the centre of the town will have reduced parking capacity when developed. A new car park could be developed on the old golf club lands close to the river with improved pedestrian linkage across the river but vehicle access from Castle Street-Ravenswell Road has to be closed. Extended parking at BIFE, with pedestrian linkages to the

Vevay Road schools, would reduce traffic congestion on the Vevay Road at school times and provide alternative parking for the seafront on busy weekends.

The members raised the following points;

- Why has the access i.e. Ravenswell Road to the Golf Club Lands to be closed?
- This would be a great car park for people working in Bray.
- We need to keep on looking to identify areas. What killed this town was when the Florence Road car park closed a number of years ago.
- We need an in-depth report on the number of spaces that will be lost and gained.
- What about extended parking at BIFE, one advantage would be a pedestrian access/safe walking route for schools. It would reduce huge traffic congestion on the Vevay Road. The NTA put up funding for a study on this a number of years ago.
- Retailers are concerned; I have received emails from residents in relation to the Herbert Road car park. They have concerns in relation to diesel emissions and the future of the car park.
- We need car parks, I would like to know what the planners have in mind.

The District Manager stated that any proposals would be a Part 8 process and would come before the members. 220 car parking spaces would go when the Florence Road car park closes.

The Executive Engineer stated that he would ask the District Engineer to clarify why Ravenswell Road access would be closed.

#### **7. To Agree Projects for Tourism Fund from CCSD.**

The District Administrator informed the members that he was informed that at the Community, Cultural & Social Development SPC the members raised concerns regarding the non submission of an alternative to our original proposal for the spending of the €10,000.00 under the above scheme.

They wish the alternatives to be more tourism focused projects and requested that I highlight to you that the spending of this money for the Bray Municipal District is not yet approved. Out of the four projects put forward only the lighting of the war memorial on Quinsboro Road and the provision of the car park at Kilmacanogue were approved.

The members raised the following point;

- We need to get the money back into the District.

It was agreed by the members that Councillor Thornhill who is a member of this SPC would push this issue at the next meeting in December.

#### **8. Correspondence**

##### Bray Tidy Towns

The District Administrator informed the members that a request has been received from Bray Tidy Towns to make a presentation to members at the meeting on 5th December.

This presentation would be outline Bray Tidy Towns projects and achievements of past two years and an outline of proposed projects

This was agreed by the members.

##### Easi Cabs

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he was contacted by the new Chief Executive of Easi Cabs, who has requested if he can attend the November meeting to make a presentation to the members on the service they provide.

This was agreed by the members.

## 9. Any Other Business

### Ballywaltrim Recreational Park

The following was presented to the members by Councillor O'Brien

- Works necessary in the field between St. Kilian's and St. Fergal's Schools be done – sanding and draining, cutting back of trees which are affecting floodlight effectiveness. Foul and water connections. Container for equipment be provided. Top soil be provided for part of pitch which is flooding in wet weather. Ball barrier at factory end be fixed. Paving inside gate.
- The restructuring of the present Users Committee to help ensure all users are treated fairly and in a manner that suits their needs. Fees structure. Council contributions. Two pitch co-coordinators. Pitch usage. Reports to Bray Municipal District meetings. Parking fees etc.
- The issue of dog fouling and dangerous dogs being allowed to run freely off leash be dealt with and sorted once and for all. A dog park.
- Seating restored to the park – health benefits. Elderly and young people.
- The pavilion be opened as a drop in centre.

The members raised the following points;

- I have found that what is reflective of most users is that one club can become a dominant member.
- Have specific works been identified? It is important that pitches are not left to fall into disrepair.
- The pitch between the schools is neglected.
- Since Ballywaltrim playing fields were established very little public funding has gone into maintenance over the years. It has suffered from a lack of investment.
- People have given their time and money to have the fields fertilised.
- The pitch is used by the school; no piece of ground was ever to belong to a private club
- There should be proper consultation among all the users; we have to resolve this, it should be prioritised.
- I agree that the seating encouraged drinking and glass being smashed. Until we have assurance that the area would be supervised on a daily/nightly basis I would not be in favour of the seating.
- How do we deal with the dog fouling issue? Are people breaking the law?
- The issue of a provision of a dog park is coming up more and more. Can we allocate a small dog park as a starting point?
- Initially €50,000 that came from the lease from Bray Wanderers was used for these fields. The dressing rooms came later on. From a distance the fields look in good condition.
- It is essential to ban dogs from the sports fields; we need to send out this message.
- It is not a good idea the Council getting involved in running sports fields, it is not successful. It is better left to the Users Committee.
- We have a lack of facilities in the town and this is creating pressure on existing facilities. We need to look at a long term solution.
- Is it possible to invite the Ballywaltrim Users Committee in here?
- We need to be happy that the committee is reflective of all users

The Executive Engineer informed the members that the Users Committee are approached every year with a schedule of works which are partially funded by the budget and partially by sports capital funding. Niall Benson is the committee representative, I don't attend committee meetings. Seating was removed because of anti-social behaviour. There is a problem with glass and broken bottles in the goal mouth. I have had no complaints since the seats were taken out.

### Bonfires

Councillor Behan stated that he has been contacted by residents concerned about bonfires on green spaces in their estates that have not been sanctioned by them, nor do they contribute to the problem. Can you email the letter that has issued in the past few years to the members informing residents that they may be breaking the law by facilitating bonfires. Many are not aware that they are breaking the law. There is already a large build up of material in Oldcourt Estate at the back of Oldcourt Grove.

Ramps on the Dargle Road

Councillor Vance requested that now the River Dargle Scheme was coming to an end, the ramps on the Lower Dargle Road were in a bad condition and could they be replaced with tables.

Swimmers on the Seafront

Councillor Thornhill asked if there was on update on the swimmers hut.

The District Administrator stated that we are still awaiting the report from the Water Safety Officer. Bray Municipal District Wicklow County Council has a duty of care and there was also an insurance issue.

Tents on Bray Head

Councillor Thornhill enquired about the tents on Bray Head.

The District Administrators informed the members that the matter was in hand.

\* \* \* \*

This concluded the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**Signed:**

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

**Dated:**

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