

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held
in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday
3rd March 2020 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present:

- Councillor Rory O'Connor**
- Councillor Anne Ferris**
- Councillor Grace McManus**
- Councillor Dermot O'Brien**
- Councillor Erika Doyle**
- Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy**
- Councillor Melanie Corrigan**
- Councillor Joe Behan**

Also present:

- Ms Lorraine Gallagher, A/Director of Services**
- Mr. David Forde, District Administrator**
- Mr. Liam Bourke, District Engineer**
- Ms. Triona Irving, Administrative Officer**

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting dated 4th February 2020

Councillor Rory O'Connor proposed the confirmation of the minutes of 4th February 2020, Councillor Melanie Corrigan seconded the proposal and they were unanimously agreed by the Members.

2. To consider the election of Cathaoirleach as a result of the casual vacancy caused by the election of former Cathaoirleach, Councillor Steven Matthews to Dail Eireann (section 38(1) of the Local Government Act , 2001)

Councillor Aoife Kennedy Flynn proposed Councillor Anne Ferris as Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, Councillor Rory O'Connor seconded this proposal and it was unanimously agreed by the Members.

The Members congratulated Councillor Ferris on her election as Cathaoirleach and also welcomed Councillor Erika Doyle who was recently co-opted as a Member of Wicklow County Council.

3. To consider the Housing Report

Kilbride Lane

The construction of 42 social housing units in Kilbride Lane Bray. Footpaths are being shuttered and poured to the front of the house blocks on Kilbride lane. The boundary wall to the front of block 2 has started and the stone facade will be started when the site sign has been approved.

The ESB substation installation has been delayed due to the ESB additional workload associated with storm Ciara and Dennis. This is having a knock-on effect on the programme. MDY has not been able to secure a date to pull wires and install the substation from the ESB.

Excavation works proceeded to Cloverhill to install the ESB/Water connections on 10/02/20, which caused the residents to form a protest to stop work and block the road with cars. We spoke to the residents but could not meet on any of their demands. The residents were told that the Gardai would need to be called if they continued to hamper works. The Gardai were called on the 11/02/20 and the Gardai informed the residents that they could be arrested if they continue to obstruct works. Since the Gardai intervention, the residents have not tried to stop the works in Cloverhill.

Excavation works for the storm and foul drainage on the Kilbride road have not continued due to the number of services in the road. MDY and WCC water services are in discussions on the correct method to perform these works while also decreasing the inconvenience to local residents.

Internally, 9 house blocks are being 2nd fixed, along with kitchen and tile installation. Footpaths and finishing to boundary wall works have started. The final two house blocks are getting their roof installations finished. Windows/doors and render are due to these house blocks within the next 2 weeks.

Due to delays with the ESB and the drainage connections, the programme completion date is now 21/04/20.

Jameson Heights

The site consists of 20 houses. 15 of the houses have their roofs installed, blockwork is up to joist level on the remaining 5 houses. 6 houses are skimmed internally and are drying out before painting starts. First fixing is ongoing in the remaining 9 houses and plasterboarding is due to start on these next week. Watermain laying has started to the site. The contractor is confident at the present time that they can finish the houses on programme.

Ard na Greine

The proposed housing scheme will comprise 21 no. 2 bed houses (2 storey) and 10 no. 3 bed houses (2 storey).

The Contractors tenders have been assessed and a recommendation has been made.

A Stage 4 submission was issued to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government on 30/01/2020 and we await approval.

Kilmantain Place

The appointed contractor, Lisaderg Construction, commenced works on site on Monday 30th September. Work is progressing with first floor slabs having been installed last week. The project has experienced some delays due to inclement weather however at this stage these are not expected to impact the target completion date.

Administrative Officer, Triona Irving advised that the Estate Development Officer was compiling an up to date estate development report for the Members and that it would be presented to them at the next Municipal District meeting.

The Members expressed their concerns and frustrations that the completion date for the works at the development at Kilbride Lane has been further delayed. They advised that they have received numerous representations from residents of the nearby estates regarding traffic congestion, noise from site and irregular working hours, etc. They felt that the developers are not adhering to the planning conditions that were issued relating to the development and that Wicklow County Council should intervene to ensure that these conditions are met.

The Members requested figures and statistics relating to the Homeless figures in Bray. Administrative Officer, Triona Irving advised that she would request these figures from the Director of Services, Housing, Wicklow County Council and present them to the Members at the next Municipal District meeting. The Members also expressed their concerns at the number of people who present themselves as homeless in the District and then have to leave the jurisdiction in order to avail of the services provided.

4. To receive a Report on Roads and Transport

Roads Programme

A three year roads plan for road restoration improvement (RI) work was submitted to the Department for the period 2019 to 2021 based on a budget of €579,800. There has been a significant increase in the grant allocation to County Wicklow and the 2020 allocation for Bray has recently been confirmed as €765,400. Tenders have been received for most of the proposed roads programmes and the status of the programme is as follows

Road Number	Road Name and/or Townland Name	Length of work (m)	Comment
2020	Restoration Improvement		
L-1011-57	Glencree Road	145 0	Drainage preparation started, reconstruction proposed April/May
L-5014	Lackandarragh-Hostel Road	300 0	Drainage preparation started, reconstruction proposed April/May
R-117-37	Bray Road, Enniskerry (21 bends)	304	Substantially completed –further minor drainage and surfacing works
R-761-13	Vevay Road Putland-Church Rds	560	Surfacing completed – lining progressing
R-766-155	Meath Road, Bray	110	Planned for late March
L-1970-2	Convent Ave, Bray	80	Planned for late March

L-19641-0	Raheen Park	160	Planned for late March
L-19562	Richmond Park	323	Contract awarded for surfacing
L-19654-0	Charnwood	187	Completed on reduced area
L-19630	Glenthorn	162	Contract awarded for surfacing
	Sugarloaf Crescent	110	Surfacing completed
L-1013-57	Waterfall Road Bahana	820	Reconstruction proposed
L-1031-0	Red Lane	265	April/May
L-5035-0	Killough Lower	112	Contract awarded for surfacing
Road Number	Road Name and/or Townland Name	Length of work (m)	Comment
2020	Restoration Maintenance		
R-760-34	Ballybawn-Killough Lower	130	Surface Dressing proposed
		0	May/June
L-1035-0	Old Long Hill	160	“
		0	“
R-760-0	Ballyorney-Tinnahinch	110	“
		0	“
L-5029-0	Quill Road	195	“
		0	“
L-1007-0	Monastery Road	120	“
L-50291	Glencap Road	0	“
L-1013-57	Waterfall Road Ballinagee	425	“
		197	“
		0	

Substantially less surfacing was carried out at Charnwood than planned as the contractor could not get cars removed. However an old defective trench reinstatement was repaired so the essential surfacing has been completed. Due to competitive tenders received and reduced area at Charnwood there may be scope for additional areas of restoration improvement works. This will be reviewed after Easter.

Road Patchwork Repairs

Patchwork repairs to defective areas of road have been carried out at the following locations:

Old Connaught View
 Old Connaught Grove
 Rowan Grove
 Dargle Heights
 Ashleigh Heights
 Ard Chualann

Hazelwood,
Boghall Road
Killarney Road
WTS Middle
O'Byrne Road
Wurtzburg Road

Footpaths

A tender was awarded for 600 sqm of local footpath repairs throughout the Bray area. Footpaths patchwork completed at:

Old Connaught View
Old Connaught Grove
Rowan Grove
Dargle Heights
Ard Chualann
Boghall Road

Footpath grinding completed and includes:

Seapoint Road
Seapoint Court
Strand Road and Promenade
Wyndham Park
Meath Road
Sidmonton Road
Florence Road
Sidmonton Ave
Galtrim Road and Park
Albert Ave
Kingsmill Road
Newcourt Road and Ave
Cuala Road
Edward Road
Camaderry Road
Raheen Park
Seacrest
Loretto
Sans Souci
Charnwood
Lauderdale
All Fassaroe Estate and Little Bray
Killarney Road

There is a reduced budget of just €25,000 in 2020 for footpath renewal. In Bray, this budget is usually dedicated to new footpath construction or extensive upgrade works. The requirement for three new sections of footpath had been identified at Pinewood Close at turning area, at Herbert Road beside Rectory Slopes and the Balyorney Road. In view of the inadequate footpath budget to carry out these works, it is proposed that an additional amount of €70,000 of public realm funding that was not allocated to projects, be assigned to carry out these new footpath works instead.

Capital Works

The Bray Public Transport Bridge: This is a URDF scheme. Tenders have been received for the GI works (currently been assessed). Design ongoing with bridge and link roads. It is envisaged that Part 8 application will be made towards end of Q1 of 2020.

Bray Bus Priority & Congestion Mitigation: At a meeting with the NTA today, funding approval was given to proceed with a traffic management scheme this year that aims to reduce congestion of north bound traffic on Bray Main Street and thereby allow for increased priority for buses. The works entails new signing and new and modified signalling, including bus detection, with only minor civil works. Through traffic northbound will be discouraged northbound as they will be diverted to the Herbert Road. The proposal is considered essential in preparation of the opening of the Florentine, which will generate additional town centre traffic. The scheme will also help with calibrate traffic models and help determine future traffic management improvements. The costs involved for this proposal are modest and can easily be amended in response to changing traffic demands.

Killarney Road & Vevay Road Cycle Scheme: This scheme has been on hold for the last few years over concerns by the NTA on related town centre traffic issues. In view of the agreement to advance with the Bray Bus Priority & Congestion Mitigation Scheme, the NTA have agreed to the council proceeding with the detailed design of these schemes.

Fran O'Toole Pedestrian Bridges: A draft options report issued by the consultants last year recommended that Seapoint Road be made one-way west bound in order to resolve cycle conflicts on the bridge. The NTA have agreed with the council that this needs to be reviewed having regard to the wider road network impact and the scheme must therefore include for the upgrade of Seapoint Road. A meeting with the consultants has been arranged to review scope of scheme.

Seafront Plaza: The detailed design and construction tender documents are substantially complete and it is expected that they will be issued with the objective of commencing works in September .

Bray Transport Interchange: Site investigation contract is due to commence shortly. It is proposed to have the detailed design and tender document issued with the objective of commencing works in September.

Other Works

Public realm funded work for a zebra crossing at the R755 Rocky Valley Road, Kilmacanogue is progressing.

The rail underpass north of Bray Harbour is now opened for an hour in the morning and afternoon for pedestrians and cyclists only under the school management. It is proposed to obtain an agreement for 24/7 access for pedestrians and cyclists from Irish Rail.

Grants have been obtained by both the Municipal Districts of Greystones and Bray for the provision of a pedestrian crossing at Windgates. A proposal will be prepared for public consultation in accordance with Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 shortly.

Bray Bus Priority & Congestion Mitigation

A discussion took place regarding the proposed “Bray Bus Priority & Congestion Mitigation” The Members were advised by the District Engineer that following a meeting with the NTA, funding approval was given to proceed with a traffic management scheme this year that aims to reduce congestion of north bound traffic on Bray Main Street and thereby allow for increased priority for buses. The works entails new signing and new and modified signalling, including bus detection, with only minor civil works. Through traffic northbound will be discouraged northbound as they will be diverted to the Herbert Road. The Engineer said that this proposal was essential in preparation for the anticipated increased volume of traffic as a result of the opening of the new Town Centre shopping centre.

The Members expressed their concerns with the proposal and felt that an outside agency should not be dictating what to do with the town and they felt the plans should come before the Members before any decision is made.

The District Engineer advised that there will be public consultation regarding the diversion of traffic and before that they need to gather more information regarding traffic flows in the area.

Projects re: Irish Water refund funding

An extra €70,000 funding was allocated to Bray Municipal District as a result of a refund from Irish Water. District Engineer Liam Bourke advised that there was a reduced budget of €25,000 for the 2020 footpath renewal works. Mr Bourke recommended that the extra € 70,000 be allocated to the following footpath projects

- *Pinewood Close/Belmont*
- *Herbert Road*
- *Balyorney Road*

Following discussion by the Members on which public realm projects the funding should be allocated to, they decided to accept the District Engineers recommendation and proceed with the above listed footpath works.

The members also raised the following issues/queries with the District engineer

- *Clover Hill to N11- road repairs urgently required – agreed by District Engineer*
- *Richmond Park- potholes need repair*
- *Vevay Road/Killarney Road – traffic congestion*
- *Accessibility works required on footpaths at Palermo, Killarney Park and Ardmore Park*
- *Bray public transport bridge – update requested – District Engineer advised that there will be an upcoming meeting and will advise Members of the outcome*
- *Enniskerry Road Markings including disabled parking spot – upgrade request – District Engineer advised that the upgrades on line marking in Enniskerry would be done within the coming months.*

- *Glencree Road – road markings – District Engineer advised there was never a white line on this road as the road is not wide enough in order to have a white line.*
- *Walkability Study – missing out on services*

5. To receive an update on Bray Town Centre

A report from Oakmount on the Florentine Centre was circulated to the Members prior to the meeting.

The District Administrator, Mr David Forde, advised that Savills estate agents have been continuously working on securing the most suitable anchor tenants. He also advised that they are actively looking for tenants for the other available units, he advised there has been a very positive response regarding this matter. The Members again stressed the importance of naming an anchor tenant as soon as possible.

A Member asked when the centre would be opened and if there were any penalties being applied due to the delay in completing the works on the centre.

District Administrator, David Forde, advised that the expected practical completion date would be June 2020 with an expected further eight weeks for the fitting out of the units. He also said that there is no penalty in place as the penalty clause only comes into place whereby the contractor walks off site. Mr Forde said this has not been the case and the delays were caused due to unforeseen reasons.

6. Town Centre Health check update

An update report on the Town Centre Health check was circulated to the Members prior to the meeting. The Cathaoirleach gave a brief update on the Town Centre Health Check.

Cllr O'Connor advised the Members that the google spreadsheet was now fully operational, he advised that he would forward emails to the Members regarding the set up of the spreadsheet.

It was agreed that this item would remain on the agenda for the next meeting.

7. Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion in the Name of Councillor Joe Behan (03/12/2019)

That this Council undertakes a traffic speed survey on Herbert Road with a view to placing speed warning signs and speed reduction measures where necessary along the road.

Response:- *The Herbert Road is 4km long and a more precise description of locations where speeding is perceived to be a problem is required for organising a speed survey. There is already vertical traffic calming measures in place on sections of the road. The Council are waiting on the installation of a vehicle*

reaction warning sign on the Glenwood bend and the repair of chevron signs at the hairpin bend near the N11.

Notice of Motion in the Name of Councillor Joe Behan (03/12/2019)

That this Council works with the Gardai to discourage excessive speeding in the town centre area as requested by local residents who experience this problem on a daily basis.

Response:- *This matter was referred to the Road Safety Together Committee for their attention. The Gardaí are also aware of speeding complaints in the town centre, this matter has also been discussed at recent JPC meetings. It is very difficult for AGS to carry out speed checks in an urban area as they need 90-100m of space to carry out same. It has been suggested that the speed limits could be examined during the review of speed limits for County Wicklow which is due to commence shortly. However it would be helpful if specific locations where speeding has been perceived to be a problem can be described.*

Notice of Motion in the Name of Councillor Joe Behan (03/12/2019)

That this Council receive a progress report on the consultant's report on the landslide at the rear of Herbert Road and The Maltings.

Response:- *A geotechnical consultant has not yet been appointed to prepare an options report on the Herbert Road Slope Stability Improvement. A brief and tender documents for an appointment have been prepared by the Transport and Roads Department and will be issued shortly. When this report is finalised it will present options and costings of viable measures to address the bank stability to the property owners.*

8. Reports and Recommendations

Cllr. Dermot O'Brien who is a committee member of the Bray Drugs and Alcohol Task Force informed the Members that the Task Force are currently doing a review of all stakeholders and funded bodies. He said as part of the review they will talk to the people working on the ground in attempt to establish what the emerging issues are. It is hoped the research will uncover the issues, needs and trends. The task force then plans to hold a public event so that all share holders can share information. The Cathaoirleach who is also a member of the task force commended the group for the work they do in the community.

9. Any Other Business

Bray Head cutting back overgrowth

A discussion took place regarding the clearance of overgrowth at an area on the lower slope of Bray Head. Concerns were raised by Members that some trees may have been damaged as part of the process. It was felt that the Council should establish a specific policy regarding areas of biodiversity.

The Council advised that they cut back overgrown scrub and tidied up hedge rows in the area.

Wall at Herbert Park

A discussion took place regarding a former wall at Herbert Park. The wall was taken down by the Council due to safety concerns. It had previously been requested by some Members that the wall be rebuilt by the council. District Engineer advised that it is not the responsibility of the council or is it council policy to build walls on private property.

Richmond Park

A Member requested that an open space in Richmond Park be reseeded where a tree has recently been removed.

Peoples park – Dargle Road

A Member asked if it is possible for the toilets at the pavilion in the Peoples Park to be opened for public use. District Engineer, Liam Bourke advised that the opening of the toilets was the responsibility of the user groups of the park.

Accessible Toilets

Following on from a notice of motion at a previous Municipal District meeting it was agreed that public accessible toilets will now be open during regular toilet opening hours. District Engineer said that if it was the wish of the Members that the accessible toilets remain open, this could be arranged.

Bray Skaters Park

The Members asked for an update on the proposed Bray Skaters Park.

Rails at Sidmonton Park

A Member reported damaged rails at Sidmonton Park. District Engineer said he was unaware of the damage but would check this matter out.

Funding sources for projects

A discussion took place regarding to identifying potential projects in the District and how best to source the appropriate funding for these projects.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed:

CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated:
