

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall,
Bray on Tuesday 5th September 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 Pat Vance
Also present:	Mr. David Forde, District Administrator Mr. Liam Bourke, District Engineer Ms. Triona Irving, Administrative Officer
Absent	Councillor Brendan Thornhill
Apologies:	Mr. Des O'Brien, Director of Services

A Vote of Sympathy was extended to the family of Councillor Thornhill whose mother Alice recently passed away and to the family of our colleague Kiara Kavanagh whose husband Conal recently passed away. A minute's silence was observed, as a mark of respect.

Congratulations was extended to Daina Moorehouse on her win in the European Youth Boxing Championships in Sofia Bulgaria.

It is a fantastic achievement and she is sure to be heading to the youth Olympics.
She has shown great dedication.
She is making a lot of headlines at an early age.
Daina is mature in her attitude and talks about the great team spirit.
She has a bright future in front of her.
We should have a civic reception for her.

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that a letter has been received from Enniskerry Boxing Club requesting if they could make a presentation to the members.

It was agreed by the members to receive a presentation and hold a civic reception for Daina at the same time.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting dated 4th July 2017.

Councillor Behan proposed confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray dated 5th July 2017 and Councillor Matthews seconded the proposal.

2. To Receive a Presentation in Relation to Public Participation Networks

Helen Howes made the following presentation to the members.

Wicklow County Council PPN's

International & National Background

- Aarhus Convention – adopted 1998 & entered into force Sept 2012
- Local Government Reform Act 2014 – Section 46 – Consultation with local community
- National Action Plan 2016-2018 – Commitment 2: Support PPNs

Local Background

- Community Fora first established around 2000 at the same time as County Development Boards and Strategic Policy Committees
- Wicklow Community Platform (social inclusion) & Wicklow Communities Networking

- County Wicklow Community Forum formed in January 2011
- 2014 Public Participation Networks

The PPN Role

- Provides a structure to facilitate the participation & representation of communities through the environmental, social inclusion & community & voluntary sectors on decision making bodies
- To act as a channel for information between various local & national bodies and community groups
- To support member groups to grow, develop, be informed and contribute in their community

Why

- Local knowledge & expertise is inputted into the decision making arena
- Development of local inclusive solutions to local issues
- Create opportunities for the wider community to contribute to the local authorities policies and plans
- Public participation will lead to improved quality of decisions

How Does It Work

- Community Groups Register with the PPN by:
 1. Their Municipal Area:
 - Arklow, Baltinglass, Bray, Greystones, Wicklow, Co-Wide Groups (work across more than 1 municipal area)
 2. Their College Grouping:
 - Social Inclusion, Community & Voluntary, Environmental
- All the groups together form Co Wicklow PPN
- Groups within each Municipal Area form the Municipal PPNs

The Secretariat

- The Secretariat is the Steering Committee of the PPN.
- It is a flat structure (no officers) whose role is to:
 - Facilitate the implementation of the needs & decisions of the PPN members in an efficient and appropriate manner
 - Coordinate activities of the PPN
 - Support the development & implementation of the PPN Annual Workplan
 - Support the Resource Worker to enable them to deliver the objectives of the PPN

Representation

Local Authority Structures Include:
 Local Community Development Committee (LCDC),
 Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)
 Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

County Wicklow PPN is the community's representative body for a number of Local Authority Structures and other structures outside of the Local Authority

Other Structures include:

Wicklow County Childcare Committee
 Co Wicklow Children & Young People's Services Committee
 Wicklow Local Sports Partnership
 Wicklow County Tourism Board
 Co Wicklow Volunteer Centre Board
 Wicklow County Community Directory
 Bray Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force

Some committees look for nominations through the colleges
 Some committees look for general nominations from the PPN body
 Some committees look for nominations from the geographical/municipal area which their committee works in

Linkage Groups

- Focus Groups for each Board or Committee that the PPN has representation on?
- Made up of groups with interest/expertise/experience in a particular area e.g. Childcare/Housing
- Identify key issues that should be addressed by the Board/Committee
- Discuss and advise the Representative on these issues, thus providing the Rep with a definitive community mandate
- Link in with each other & the Representative on a regular basis and especially before Board/Committee meetings (usually quarterly)
- Support the development of PPN policy positions.
- Elect the Representatives

The Role of the Representative

Representatives are required to represent Co Wicklow PPN and are accountable to the PPN membership. They are not representing their own organisation.

Specifically the Representative should:

- Lead and communicate with their Linkage Group, Municipal or College grouping as appropriate
- Make every effort to attend the meetings they were nominated to
- Bring issues of relevance from the above to the policy making arena
- Ensure that the diversity of the community views are reflected in their representation
- Give feedback to their Linkage Group, Municipal or College grouping as appropriate – Report Template

Benefits of PPN Membership

- Keeping informed of local government plans and decisions for your area
- Opportunity to influence and change local government policy through participating in consultations, feeding into submissions and linking in with PPN Representatives
- Opportunity to be part of a strong collective voice for communities
- Receive Representative reports from the Committees they sit on
- Opportunity to find out about and attend information sessions/seminars on topics of interest to member groups
- Opportunity to network – share experiences- mutual/peer support
- Receive information about upcoming funding opportunities
- Advertise your group's events & fundraisers through the PPN Network
- Receive support through the PPN Resource Worker e.g. networking contacts, policy templates etc.

PPN Highlights

- We're growing – from 60 members to 169
- We raised the community voice through:
 - Our Representatives
 - Written Submissions
 - Contributing to & Raising Awareness of Local Plans
 - Organising Seminars
- Participating Nationally & Networking Workers Network/Advisory Group
- Supporting Our Members policies, training, courses
- Information Provision Facebook 528-633 likes – Web Page

PPN Challenges

- Lack of Resources
- Awareness Rising, Growing Our Membership, Engaging groups
- Developing Linkage Groups
- Developing Municipal PPNs
- Demonstrating that community consultation is valued

The members raised the following points;

- I see that money is provided for groups, was the €300,000 just for the South County Dublin area?
- Thank you for the presentation groups have benefited greatly and I acknowledge your great enthusiasm.
- This a Local Government initiative, has any review been carried out and what County's are more successful?
- You can get snowed under with red tape, how are you finding the LCDC. Groups have given up drawing down funding they found it very cumbersome.

Helen Howes informed the members that the funding of €300,000 was just for the South County Dublin area. PPN's vary all over the country; they are at various stages as well as challenges. An annual review research document with lots of questions has been circulated and we hope to launch a document in October in Silgo at the national PPN event which will give us a baseline. We will be giving our first presentation to the LCDC shortly; there are 6 representatives on it. This is a learning curve for everyone.

3. To Discuss the Burial Ground Review 2017

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that this was discussed at the full Council, it was hoped that this would be a County Policy but there are elements that need to be agreed in the District.

The District Administrator informed the members that following the July Council Meeting in Wicklow County Council it was agreed that each Municipal District be requested to review each policy 12 in total as listed below for approval or amendment.

1. Definition of Local only
2. Advanced Purchase – double graves at time of burial/purchase only.
3. New extension – Lawn Cemetery Style
4. Headstones and Surrounds – Memorial Applications
5. Part Lawn Cemetery Graveyards – Requirements in relation to removal of illegal surrounds etc.
6. Pricing policy going forward
7. Signage Policy – Open Graveyards
8. Capital Programme over 10 years
9. Closed Cemeteries – proposal/rights of burial (possible 7 graveyards)
10. Health and Safety Programme – Users of graveyards – Undertakers, Grave Diggers, Community Programmes etc.
11. Municipal District minimum responsibilities for maintenance
12. Height/Depth/Location of Headstones/Memorials

The members raised the following points;

- The bone of contention is that the people who have erected headstones etc should not be asked to remove them and there should be no recommendation to go after people to do so.
- Lawn cemetery where is it at?
- This should have been enforced on day one, now it is very problematic.
- The rules should have been enforced from the beginning, they are hard to enforce retrospectively.
- The problem was neglected by the Town Council doing what was necessary at the time when people were allowed to put in surrounds. 90% of the graves are lawned at this stage.
- When a grave is opened the surrounds are removed and should be left off at that stage.
- I am of the opinion that 'we should let the hare sit'.
- The urn wall, the official name is the columbarium wall, money was provided by development levies, and many people are being cremated. What are the plans to erect one in Bray during this current year?
- This policy was agreed by the burial ground subcommittee, on which there were representatives from the five Municipal Districts and then to the SPC. The SPC made a recommendation to the full Council. This is a highly sensitive issue and it is best done slowly to bring people along with you.
- A plan was made a number of years ago for the urn wall, planting and a reflection area and we should move ahead with this.

- How much does a grave cost in Springfield?
- Why is Bray more expensive?
- Bray is more expensive so it did not make it more attractive to people outside of the County and to ensure there was enough space for the residents in the area.
- Bray is way cheaper than Dublin.
- Old Conna etc should be included
- The funding element does it come from Wicklow County Council or the Municipal District?
- How much time/life is left in this cemetery?
- We should enforce the lawned cemetery from now going forward.
- How much have the maintenance costs increased by the cemetery not being lawned?

The District Engineer informed the members that the graveyard is totally managed by the Environment Section. The maximum height is 6 feet and is currently 3 feet 7 inches in Springfield.

The urn wall was agreed a number of year ago and the issue was finding suitable urns that would be robust.

The District Administrator stated that the plans for Springfield have been given to the Environment Section. There is approximately 10 years left in the cemetery, there are gaps between graves (excluding family plots) and these allocated in time. Wicklow County Council advertised for a Registrar for Springfield and interviews will be held shortly.

The following was agreed by the members.

1. Definition of Locals for Bray Municipal District should also include that locals are defined as living in the district.
2. No Change
3. No Change
4. No Change
5. No Change
6. It was agreed to leave the current pricing policy for Springfield
7. No Change
8. No Change
9. No Change
10. No Change
11. No Change
12. Amended to state max height of headstone including base is 3ft 7inches

4. To Consider the Housing Report

The members raised the following points;

- I welcome the next stage regarding Murphy's Land but am disappointed that it is not until next Spring 2018.
- There are huge constraints on Local Authorities getting funding from the Department; there is a lot of bureaucracy.
- We need to increase the number of social units in the District; it is impossible to rent in the Bray area. One landlord stood in front of a group and said that he wanted one month's rent in advance, one month's deposit and €200-300 non refundable deposit.
- It is a horrendous situation in Bray.
- Sa Bhaile has done a lot of work and the Municipal District also needs to be involved in homeless provision.
- The staff in Wicklow are doing their best, we also have the Homeless Action Team in Bray.
- Kilbride was raised at the Corporate Policy meeting yesterday and I could not believe the stages it has to go through.
- The Department want to get the maximum benefit because of the cost of the site.
- There is a huge demand for affordable housing; builders will not build if they can't make a profit. Margins are small because of restrictions.
- I flagged this housing crisis in 2011, this is the worst it has ever been.
- There is not a great amount of land in the Bray area.

- Houses in Oldcourt are getting €1,600 a month in rent, this can't continue forever.
- This is all about supply, builders have to be given an incentive for a short period of time.
- The effort of the State is pathetic.
- The State has a right to ensure that things are done right; building regulations are to ensure that things are done right you can't lower standards it is not acceptable.
- Rents are high the Authorities need to do something; the lack of infrastructure is holding things up.
- Irish Water need to give guarantees that the infrastructure will be in place.
- There is a need for social housing but also there is a huge problem of affordable housing for people on middle incomes.

5. To Receive a Report on Roads and Transport including Traffic Calming Proposals 2017

The members raised the following points;

- What is the current situation with the traffic calming for Deepdales and Raheen from the discretionary funding, we are nearly at the end of September.
- Has the barrier at Glenwood been removed?
- Why were the road works at the Vevay not carried out when the kids were on holidays?
- It looks bad, residents suffer, it is a major job, an awkward job, not to be carried out when traffic is at its peak.
- The cycle works at the harbour seen to have ground to a halt; it is encumbered on us to finish this quickly. It has been handled badly; we need to double our efforts to get this finished.
- The Dublin Interchange can we see the plans?
- The cycle path at the Aquarium can we see the plans to see what it will look like?
- There is an issue with the filter light at the junction of Schools Road and Boghall Road. This could affect the Fire Station.

The District Engineer responded that the works/ramps are being tendered in the next week and all packages are included. There was an issue with the stone plinth at Glenwood and this has been resolved. The tender for the road works was awarded in June; we did not want to carry out the works in July because of the festivals and the contractor did not arrive on site in August. If a deadline is given to a contractor has to fill the slot.

A consultant has been appointed for the area at the Aquarium. The plans for the interchange at the Dart Station were circulated to the members at a previous meeting.

A change in procurement, the ESB require payment up front and this caused a delay in the works in the harbour area. The area will be cleared quickly.

The NTA are providing funding to finish work on the Boghall Road, we have identified a few things that we want to change and hopefully they will allow funding to be used for these works. Filter lights can cause delays and we need to get a balance.

Traffic Calming

The District Engineer had previously circulated the following to the members.

Strand Road and Bray Harbour Traffic Calming

Funding has been allocated by means of development contributions to provide a safe pedestrian and cycle route from the Strand Road, Bray via the harbour and rail underpass to the two new schools on the Dublin Road. As part of the detailed design of the cycle/pedestrian route, which was the subject of planning reference for the two new schools, three traffic calming measures were proposed at locations where pedestrian and cycle crossings of Strand Road and the Harbour Road will occur.

On Strand Road, adjacent to Martelo Terrace, the public road has been realigned into a verge and by removal of footpath on west side so as to accommodate a planned two-way cycle track on the east side of the road. Nearer the North Promenade car park entrance, a road narrowing is required to fit the cycle track without the need for land acquisition. The removal of footpath on one side creates the need for a pedestrian crossing point at this location.

To address these requires and ensure safe traffic speeds on the approach to a sharp bend in the road and in the vicinity of pedestrian and cycle movements, a traffic calming measure is proposed where the road is narrowed to 3.6m, which will force traffic for each direction to take turns passing through a short one-way shuttle. This would also incorporate a raised speed table with a level access zebra crossing

On the Harbour Road, the proposed traffic calming comprises pavement build-outs at the entrance from Seapoint Road/Strand Road junction and immediately north of the Dockyard 8 Premises, which would reduce the roadway width to 6m at these locations. Between the buildouts a raised speed tables are included. These would be designed to provide for level access pedestrian and cycle crossings. New upgraded public lighting is planned at the Harbour Road that will provide adequate lighting of the ramps.

For the three speed tables a Hot Rolled Asphalt pavement construction with coloured stone chippings is proposed. For improved visibility, retroreflective white sharks teeth markings on each approach ramp will be provided. Additional markings to designate pedestrian/cycle crossing locations will also be included. The proposed speed table height of 80mm is proposed. Ancillary drainage work will be required.

Adelaide Road Traffic Calming

The junction of Adelaide and Florence Road has been the scene of many road accidents over several years. Funding has been allocated for Low Cost Safety Improvement grant for traffic calming at this junction. The proposal comprises the narrowing the approach roads to 6m, reducing kerb radii at the corners and the provision of a speed table over the entire junction. A zebra crossing on the northern arm of the junction is also proposed.

The proposal will complement draft proposals for an enhanced Bray Dart Interchange. This includes the provision of a cycle lane into the Dart Station along Florence Road. To improve visibility for traffic entering Adelaide Road from the Dart Station direction, it is also to provide pavement buildouts on the east side of Adelaide Road at the junction and move all parking on Adelaide Road to the east side.

At the junction of Quinsborough Road it is proposed to narrow the approach to 6m and reduce the kerb radii at the corners. A raised speed table at the Adelaide approach to the junction only is proposed. It is proposed that this will facilitate a level access pedestrian crossing for pedestrians on the south side of Quinsborough Road.

For the two speed tables a Hot Rolled Asphalt pavement construction with coloured stone chippings is proposed. For improved visibility, retroreflective white sharks teeth markings on each approach ramp will be provided. Additional markings to designate pedestrian/cycle crossing locations will also be included. The proposed speed table height of 80mm is proposed. Ancillary drainage works will be required.

Briar Wood Traffic Calming

The entrance to Briar Wood has a wide entrance from a roundabout without a deflection island leading onto a roundabout on the busy Vevay Road. There is also a risk of substantial volumes of water entering the estate from the Vevay Road and overpowering the drainage system adjacent to low lying properties in the estate. To address both issues it is proposed to provide a traffic calming ramp across the entrance to the estate.

The proposed ramp will comprise a 3.7m long round top segment reaching a maximum height of about 80mm. It will be over the full width of the entrance. A Hot Rolled Asphalt pavement construction with coloured stone chippings is proposed. For improved visibility, retroreflective white sharks teeth markings on each approach ramp will be provided. Ancillary drainage works will be included.

The members raised the following points;

- I am glad to see the proposals to the junction at Adelaide Road, there have been a number of accidents at this location.
- There has been flooding issues at Briar Wood.
- I am in favour of anything that improves safety in the harbour.
- I am delighted to see that an agreement has been reached with the Church regarding the Herbert Road car park; can parking in the town be placed as an item on the agenda given the fact that the Florentine Centre is close to starting?

- Will there be a loss of parking spaces at the Florence Road Junction?

The District Engineer stated that we hope to fund the works at the Adelaide Junction as part of the Dart Interchange works funded by the NTA. There could be more parking at the Florence Road Junction in fact we may gain a space or two.

It was agreed by all to place 'Parking in the Town' as an item on the agenda.

6. To Receive an Up Date on the Florentine Centre

The District Administrators informed the members that we are currently in the second stage of the tender process known as the Invitation to Participate in Competitive Dialogue. We are finalising all documentation such as the Contract for Sale and the Development Agreement with the remaining tenderers in the process. We would be hopeful that we will be in a position to issue the Invitation to Tender within the next month.

7. Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion In The Name of Councillor John Ryan (04/07/2016)

That Bray Municipal District investigates the possibility of erecting a mirror on the wall (or suitable place) opposite King Edward Road at its intersection with the Herbert Road to ensure drivers can see traffic coming from the left as this is a dangerous piece of roadway.

Response

Mirrors are unsuitable for public roads as motorists cannot judge distance and speed of other vehicles with them. Mirrors are only suitable at private entrances where the regular user is familiar with their limitation. There is a traffic calming proposal for this location that was approved in 2016 but as yet is unfunded.

The members raised the following points;

- This is a really dangerous road and works were approved last year. The access at Schools Road maybe funded by the NTA, Briar Wood by discretionary funding is there no specific traffic calming budget?

8. Correspondence

Festina Lente

The District Administrator informed the members that a request was received in Wicklow County Council from Festina Lente and following a protocol meeting Members considered the contents of the letter which outlines the extent of the services that they provide to young people, teenagers and adults from the Wicklow area and the employment which it provides to some 60 persons as a social enterprise. Members noted that the current lease expires in 2024 and the group are seeking to highlight to the elected members the challenges involved in finding a new location. It was agreed that Festina Lente should make a presentation to the Bray MD in the first instance.

This was agreed by the members

Minister for Communications, Climate Action & Environment

A letter has been received for Mr. Denis Naughton, TD, Minister for Communications, Climate Action & Environment acknowledging receipt of our letter in relation to refuse charges and waste management.

Enniskerry Boxing Club correspondence was dealt with at the beginning of the meeting.

9. Any Other Business

Communities Facilities Scheme 2017

The District Administrators informed the members that the Community Facilities Scheme 2017 for Bray Municipal District has been referred for their approval by the Community, Cultural & Social Development Section in Wicklow County Council. Only five applications were received one from the Bray Literary Festival was ineligible. The following groups have each been allocated €1,000.

- Ballywaltrim & District Recreational Park Management for the upgrade of playing surfaces in the park
- Enniskerry Boxing Club for provision of equipment for disadvantaged families
- Bray Travellers Community Development Group for the purchase of a desk and wall mounted projector screen for the meeting room.
- Common Ground/Edible Bray for the purchase of tools and equipment.

The members raised the following points;

- We can't argue that Bray did not get its share as there seems to be a problem with only 5 groups applying.
- The money should be allocated to each Municipal District who can then decide who gets the grants. This would put more funding our way.
- There is resistance in Wicklow County Council they want this centralised.
- Rural areas are much better at applying
- We are missing out on a lot of funding, there is not much coming back to the District.
- This should be promoted by the District.
- There seems to be a problem with public consultation in general.
- We should push to get more funding.

The members agreed.

Peoples Park

The members raised the following points;

- When will the people's park be finished we have been contacted by a resident in relation to the gate and railings?
- When will the work be completed?

The District Engineer stated that there was a safety issue with the gate/opening adjacent to River Lane. We have consulted with the residents and are meeting with them again tomorrow. They have thanked us for consulting with them on this issue. We hope to have the work finished and the area cleaned by the end of the year.

* * * *

This concluded the meeting.

Signed:

CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated:
