

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 6.30p.m.**

**Present:**

**Councillor Joe Behan  
Councillor Rory O'Connor  
Councillor Grace McManus  
Councillor Dermot O'Brien  
Councillor Anne Ferris  
Councillor Steven Matthews  
Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy  
Councillor Melanie Corrigan**

**Also present:**

**Mr. Thomas Murphy, Director of Services  
Mr. David Forde, District Administrator  
Mr. Liam Bourke, District Engineer  
Ms. Triona Irving, Administrative Officer**

Cathaoirleach Steven Matthews requested that item 2 on the agenda be moved to item 4 to allow for the scheduled presentations to be made at the beginning of the meeting. This was unanimously agreed by the Members.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting dated 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019**

Councillor Anne Ferris proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019, Councillor Joe Behan seconded the proposal and they were unanimously agreed by all Members.

**2. To receive a presentation on the Bray Town Centre Health Check**

A spokesperson for Future Analytics addressed the meeting to give a presentation of their findings in respect of the "town health check" that was carried out in Bray on behalf of Wicklow County Council.

The Members heard that the objective was to identify the qualities of a healthy and vibrant town that Wicklow County Council wants to achieve in Bray. It aims to map out a path for positive change for the social, economic and environmental ambitions of the community.

Some of the strengths highlighted in the report included:

- Scenic setting
- Strong identity
- Good transport hub
- Good business services, schools, events etc.
- Strong social media presence

Some of the weakness identified in the report included.

- Traffic
- Derelict buildings
- Recreation facilities
- Sparse public places
- Footfall
- Retail attractions
- Hotel capacity

Some opportunities identified included the forthcoming Florentine centre, traffic calming measures, formation of a town team, supporting local business, encouraging town centre living and re-positioning the town centre.

Some threats to be aware of are allowing car dominance to be maintained, lack of strategy and investment, poor presentation of shop fronts and a risk of heritage buildings and fabric of the town being allowed to decline.

The report provided a series of 21 detailed actions to work on, and a suggestion that they be handled by town teams, led by champions.

The members were advised that during the public consultations, there emerged a clear theme, where stakeholders and community members in Bray greatly cherish the town centre and want to see it thrive, prosper and re-discover its identity as the heart of the town.

The Members thanked Future Analytics for their comprehensive report and asked that a progress report be made available at the December meeting of Bray Municipal District.

### **3. To receive a presentation from Bray Tidy Towns**

Members of the Bray Tidy Towns Committee Mimi Megannety and Mary Anne Parsons made the following presentation to the Members.

#### Bray Tidy Towns Community

Consider all residents and business in Bray as part of the Bray Tidy Towns Community

- 300 Volunteers on Mailing List
- Almost 1000 likes on Facebook
- 5-25 volunteers per working session
- Approximately 40 sessions per year (3 hours per session)
- About 10 volunteers per session (worth €11k per year on minimum wage)
- 9 members of committee

#### Philosophy: Making a Great Town Better

- To make Bray an even more attractive place to live
- To work with the community and resident associations
- To work with Bray business community
- To promote sustainability and biodiversity – tree planting
- Experts to make an execute plans
- Put Bye Laws in place for preservation and/or appropriate signage for town ASAP

#### Architectural Conservation Area

- Bray has a unique Victorian and Edwardian architectural Heritage
- Working to protect without hindering progress – More flexible than preservation orders
- Guidelines under ACA would protect look and feel of streets and roads.
- Bray Tidy Towns has submitted for three areas. Quinsboro/ Sidmonton Novara Meath/ Seafront. Quinsboro most under threat.
- A lot of towns have ACA's including Wicklow, Blessington and Greystones.

#### Tidy Town committee Resources

- Architect
- Expertise
- Engineers
- Archaeologist
- PR experts
- Environmental consultants
- Educational Consultants
- Volunteer Consultants
- A very good Brand

The Members thanked the Bray Tidy Towns representatives for their presentation and commended them for their continued hard work and dedication in improving Bray as a place to live and visit.

They also congratulated them on their recent success in securing a silver medal in national Tidy Towns competition.

#### **4. To consider the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Bray for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

District Administrator David Forde explained the process of the adoption of the draft budget, this was followed by a lengthy discussion regarding same. Mr Forde explained that as in previous years since 2014, if the Members do not adopt the budget the Chief Executive has the power to do so. The budget includes a sum of €73,500 discretionary funding for the district divided between items such as twinning, festivals or economic development. This does not include a separate schedule of municipal works, or public realm discretionary funding.

One of the members suggested that money be allocated from the twinning budget to sort out issues such as much needed road signage in the District. The Cathaoirleach recommended that rather than take money from the twinning budget, money for these issues such as signage for the school in Kilmacanogue should be provided for in the 2020 public realm budget.

Cllr. Anne Ferris proposed to adopt the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Bray for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 and Councillor Melanie Corrigan seconded the proposal. This was unanimously agreed by the Members.

## **5. To consider the housing Report**

### Kilbride Lane

Construction of the 42 No. social housing units at Kilbride Lane in Bray is progressing well. The contractor has provided an updated programme and at present they are hitting all dates to finish at the agreed completion date. The external render has been installed to 5 blocks of houses and the scaffolding is being dropped on all blocks with completed render. The scaffolding is still up on the three storey section to the front of the site due to a delay in procurement of the external render. The two bungalows to Cloverhill are currently being painted and are getting second fixing M&E installed. First fix M&E, plaster boarding and internal skimming is ongoing on 5 of the blocks of houses. Block layers are currently working on the final two ground floor bases, these were left to a later stage of the construction to allow for better access to tight sections of the site. The External mainline drainage and ESB connections are due to start in the next two weeks on Kilbride Lane road. Works on the road are due to be ongoing up to the Christmas period. Through the ER, Wicklow County Council has been pursuing the contractor to ensure safe egress from the site onto Kilbride Lane along with daily inspection of road conditions to ensure the road remains clear of mud and debris.

### Ard na Greine

Wicklow County Council submitted a Part 8 Planning Application in respect of a 31 unit housing development at lands north of Ard Na Greine for consideration by the Councillors at the July Bray Municipal District meeting. The scheme was approved by the elected members. The proposed housing scheme will comprise of 21 no. 2 bed houses (2 storey) and 10 no. 3 bed houses (2 storey). The project received Stage 2 approval from the Department on weekending Nov 1<sup>st</sup> and the Council have gone to tender.

### Kilmantain Place

The appointed contractor, Lisaderg Construction, commenced works on site on Monday 30th September. Thus far foundations have been excavated and poured with blockwork below damp proof course level having started.

### Jameson Heights, Kilmacanogue

Construction of 20 social houses. Piling has finished to 15 out of the 20 houses, rock breaking and strip foundations are still required to 1 house. External blockwork is finished on 7 of the houses and the roof installation is proceeding. This will allow internal first fixing to start for the winter months. External blockwork has started on another 4 houses and they will be ready for roof installation in the coming weeks. A crane has been installed on the site to help increase productivity.

Ms Triona Irving, Administrative Officer, Housing, presented Members with a detailed breakdown of the Bray Council estates and the areas they are in within the Bray Municipal District e.g. the different wards.

Following a query from Members Ms. Irving advised that the operation of Silverbridge halting site is a centralised function and under the control of Wicklow County Council.

Following a number of queries from a Member regarding the Bray Homeless forum, Ms Irving advised that she is a member of the Bray homeless forum and that she would enquire if it is possible for a Bray Municipal District Member to join the group. She said she would also enquire if a representative of the forum would be available to update the meeting on their ongoing work.

Following a query from a Member regarding the work on houses taking place in Wolfe Tone Square, Ms Irving advised that Energy upgrade work is being carried out centrally by Wicklow County Council. Work is currently taking place in Wolfe Tone Square West. Ms Irving said that she would keep the Members updated on the progress.

**6. To receive a report on Roads and Transport**

Due to time constraints this matter was not addressed

**7. To receive an update on the Florentine Centre**

Due to time constraints this matter was not addressed.

**8. Notices of Motion**

Due to time constraints this matter was not addressed.

**9. Reports and Recommendations**

Due to time constraints this matter was not addressed.

**10. Any Other Business**

Due to time constraints this matter was not addressed.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed:

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CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:

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DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated:

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