



**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of
Bray held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday
10th January 2023 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present:

**Cathaoirleach Councillor Erika Doyle
Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy
Councillor Joe Behan
Councillor Rory O'Connor
Councillor Dermot O'Brien
Councillor Grace McManus**

Also in Attendance:

**Ms. Lorraine Gallagher, District Manager
Mr. Garvan Hickey, Administrative Officer
Housing
Mr Stephen Fox, Executive Engineer
Mr Derry O'Leary, Transport Consultant with Go Ahead
Ireland
Mr Bradley Faithfull, Acting Operations Director, Go
Ahead Ireland.
Ms. Audrey Bowen, Minute Taker**

Apologies:

**Councillor Anne Ferris
Leas Cathaoirleach Councillor Melanie Corrigan
Ms Linda Healy, District Administrator
Mr. Liam Bourke, District Engineer**

Item 1.

**Confirmation of minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of
Municipal District of Bray dated 6th December 2022**

Councillor Flynn Kennedy proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held 6th December 2022. Councillor O'Connor seconded the proposal and they were unanimously agreed by the Members.

Item 2. To receive a presentation from Derry O’Leary Transport Consultant with Go Ahead Ireland and Bradley Faithfull Acting Operations Director, Go Ahead Ireland.

Members received a presentation from Mr Derry O’Leary, Transport Consultant and Mr Bradley Faithfull, Acting Operations Director on Go Ahead Ireland’s services in the Bray area.

The Elected Members raised the following concerns and observations

- Numerous complaints in relation to the service of the 185 route
- Issue of fines in relation to schedule not being achieved – will these just be absorbed as KPI’s can’t be met
- Effect of delays and no show buses on the public
- Recruitment & retention of drivers
- Data on KPI’s for the three routes in Bray M.D.
- Scale of fines imposed on Go Ahead Ireland in relation to Bray and Enniskerry routes
- Disability access
- Benefits of a fully free public transport system
- Traffic in the Vevay causing significant delays
- Adequate service currently not being provided to the public
- Importance of good communication with public
- Who will operate any new routes established
- What proportion of commuters have travel passes
- Fully functioning public transport system becoming increasingly important in light of many new planning permissions not providing parking spaces
- Transport systems have to be reliable and trusted by the public
- How are complaints recorded
- Privatisation

Members thanked Mr O’Leary & Mr Faithfull for accepting their invitation to make a presentation on behalf of Go Ahead Ireland. They acknowledged the company’s previous public apology in relation to delays & cancellations on their services and hoped that this would be the start of better communications in relation to same.

Mr O’Leary informed members that Go Ahead Ireland (GAI) had tendered for the National Transport Authority (NTA) Outer Dublin Metropolitan Area (ODMA) routes of which there were 24 in total. They were successful in their tender in 2017. A new bus depot in Ballymount commenced operation in Dublin in 2018.

Key Elements of the contract with the NTA:

- Routes, timetables, fares and running times for operators specified by the NTA.
- Operator required to provide services on this basis

- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
- Any lost mileage = fines
- Every single bus stop needs to be served no more than 5:59 minutes late or 01:00 minute early
- Penalties and incentives depend on performance
- ODMA Contract for up to 7 years.
- All buses provided by NTA and maintained to agreed standard.
- WiFi and data systems operated by NTA.
- Buses tracked in real time at every stop for punctuality & reliability purposes.

Mr O’Leary informed members that GAI had experienced passenger growth of over 5% pre –COVID and they were now back to those numbers. Their reliability performance was good up until 2022. Issues arose at that point due to periods of very high sickness during COVID, challenges with bus driver shortages after COVID as people left, changed industries or went back to old industries. He advised members that driver shortage was a worldwide problem, not just in Ireland. September 2022 was particularly challenging when GAI group had a cyber security incident and had no systems for four weeks, but acknowledged that things did go wrong for the company and they have apologised on record for this.

He explained that on peripheral routes such as the 185 they do not have the option of a bus every 10 minutes and acknowledged that a missed/delayed bus on these routes has a significant impact on people. He stated that every bus leaves a footprint of its route and all data systems are operated by the NTA so they have all data they require readily available to them.

The nature of traffic is that at times due to volumes timelines can be missed. GAI aim to be a quality operator and do not want bad publicity of fines and delays. It is their intention to improve their service and meet the tough standards set by the NTA.

Mr Faithfull informed members that a recruitment drive that commenced in Q2 of 2022 has proven to be successful. He outlined elements of the campaign below:

- Partnering with online recruitment companies
- Brought in experienced recruitment manager of 30 years from UK and increased the recruitment team significantly
- Worked closely with the NTA
- Worked closely with the RSA to get more tests and support with various stages of the training process
- Retention awards for colleagues

He informed members that their training school is very full with regularly 100 people in various stages of training. It takes approximately 10-11 weeks from when a driver joins the company to when they can operate a bus with all the required paperwork in place. Delays can occur in this process as they wait for this paperwork from the Road Safety Authority (RSA) who process applications for all bus operators. GAI have worked closely with the RSA to get more tests and support with various stages of the training process.

Mr O'Leary acknowledged that there is still work to do and that GAI are committed to doing this. He outlined outcomes of recent initiatives:

- Route 184 and 185 regularly operate above within the reliability KPI.
- Route 45a has improved significantly, with some areas of further improvement.
- But congestion undermining reliability of route 45A in particular.

He further outlined other challenges they were experiencing:

- Congestion and delays on Bray Main Street, Castle St, Vevay Road.
- Unrelenting delays not limited to the morning or evening peaks
- Little relief at weekends, especially in the summer.
- Compromises the quality of services
- Undermines reliability and trust in the services.
- Need to address traffic issues in Bray

Looking forward he informed members that they aim to deliver the quality of service our customers and communities deserve and would welcome any traffic proposals that BMD can introduce to improve bus priority in the critical Bray Main Street area. It is his opinion that bus only sections are warranted and will benefit the whole community

Mr O'Leary very much welcomed the new Bray Station interchange proposal now proceeding with funding from and assistance of the NTA and Wicklow County Council. This will attract more bus and rail users. He advised members that BusConnects for the area is coming in the later phases on the network upgrades and gave a brief outline of BusConnects project:

- BusConnects represents an unprecedented expansion in the bus network.
- Higher bus frequencies in 2018 due to ODMA expansion will be further enhanced.
- Many new routes replicate existing bus alignments but with more frequent service, particularly at weekends.
- New route L14 will connect Palermo with the seafront and Ballywaltrim while L15 will now operate directly to/from Enniskerry.
- Bray Interchange is strengthened as the focal point for North Wicklow services.

Any new routes will be allocated by the NTA. He advised that approximately 15% of passengers avail of the free travel pass.

In relation to the question of privatisation he informed members that the tendering process provides for an element of competition and enables the NTA to improve their financial efficiency as occurs in many other sectors.

At the request of members Mr O'Leary advised that he will forward them further details on their complaints process and numbers and data on the three Bray routes they currently operate

Item 3. To consider the Housing Report

Cedar Court

Construction is ongoing with the units due for completion in Q1 of 2023.

Parnell Road (Central Garage site)

We are awaiting revised CALF application from Tuath.

Kilbride Lodge and Sutton Villas.

We are still awaiting registration of the land so the developments can proceed. There is one dealing pending on Kilbride Lodge and one on Sutton Villas. The Law Department are following up with the PRA to try and expedite matters.

Rehills Lands

The Department and NDFA are proceeding with the appointment of consultants for the scheme.

Fassaroe.

Part 8 for this scheme has been advertised.

Southern Cross Road.

A development of 208 houses and apartments, including 20 Part V units, is in the process of being purchased for social housing as a turnkey by Cooperative Housing Ireland. The first units have been delivered. The remaining units should be ready for occupation in the next month or so.

The Elected Members raised the following concerns and observations

Update on Kilbride Lodge & Sutton Villas
Will Rehills project be subject to a Part 8
Information & data on boarded up houses.
Strand Road apartments Part 5 requirement

Mr Hickey, housing administrative officer, informed members that the PRA have now registered Sutton Villas and it is hoped to process registration of Kilbride Lodge in the coming weeks

At present the Rehills scheme will be subject to Part 8 process in accordance with Department regulations.

Mr Hickey advised that data on local vacant properties can be provided to the members. He also informed the members that 10 properties will be returned this month for allocation.

District Manager, Ms Lorraine Gallagher informed members that the average re-let time as per the NOAC indicators is between 31-35 weeks. Currently Wicklow County Council is achieving 31 week turnaround. These timeframes were significantly impacted during COVID

Members were informed that the Part 5 obligation in respect of the apartments on Strand Road (Strand View) have been allocated off site. This had been agreed with the housing capital team and will yield more units than if allocated at Strand View. These units will be provided in Bray town.

Item 4. To consider District Engineer's report on Roads, Transport, Public Realm & Strategic Infrastructure projects within the BMD

Roads Programme

No grant allocation has been confirmed yet for 2023. The table below outlines the road sections proposed for restoration improvement in 2023 in the 2022-2024 programme. The cost estimates on the works will have to be reviewed. Work on Church Hill, Enniskerry at the upper end has become a priority as substantial structural failure has commenced. Complete reconstruction of this section of road is required and is dependent on first laying surface water drainage to serve the Cookstown Road area and provision will also have to be made to restore the heritage cobble drainage channel. Accordingly the cost estimates for this road have increased substantially. The Boghall Road Cottages deferred from last year will be included but following a review of the cost estimates on all proposals listed, other projects may have to be deferred to 2024.

Road No.	Road Location	Length m
R-766	Meath Road	140
L-55212	Berryfield Lane	550
R-760	Church Hill Lower, Enniskerry	124
L-5007	Ballyman Road	460
R-766-10	Eglinton Road	54
L-19663	Wolfe Tone Square	374
L-1957	Novara Avenue	233
R-766-135	Putland Road	155
L-1963	Kilbride Lane	338
L-1968	Woodbrook Drive	102
R-760-0	Church Hill Upper, Enniskerry	326
R-117-0	Knocksink Road	96

Drainage Works

No drainage funding has been allocated yet. Drainage improvement at Monastery Road-R117 are nearing completion. The first phase of addressing the damaged drainage at Glencormac-Kilcronee lane junction following works by Irish Water last is completed. The road edge remains badly damaged and further drainage works are being investigated before road restoration works can be planned. Regarding the Quill Road drainage problem, all property owners through whose land a new drainage pipe would need to be laid have provided consent for a topographical survey. This will facilitate a detailed design before final agreements with the land owners for routing of the pipe can be obtained. Quotes for the survey have been requested. When costed a business case for funding will be made to the management team.

Footpaths

No funding allocation for footpath repair is proposed for 2023. However, essential repairs at Kilmacanogue estates planned for last year will be carried out by direct labour from road maintenance when staff are available. In the meantime, footpath defects are being assessed and recorded for the time when funding becomes available.

NTA Schemes

ACTIVE TRAVEL IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

Project	Update
Sidmonton Square	Works are substantially complete. Temporary reinstatement following works by Irish Water have to be permanently repair and minor ponding at the level crossing point has to be addressed.
Herbert Road Ashton Wood to Pedestrian Bridge	Works are substantially complete except for switch on of lighting and soft landscaping, including infill tree planting. A contractor is being sought to replace a damaged public lighting pole and the installation of a new vehicle restraint barrier on the hair-pin bend is planned within the next few weeks.
Enniskerry Pedestrian Improvement Scheme	A conservation engineer as agree to assess works around Clock Tower which is a protected structure and a price is awaited. Tender is to issue shortly for periphery footpath works
Powerscourt National School, Cookstown Road	Works are near completion, including the raised table for the level crossing. Improved road markings and lighting are still required
Deerpark Cycleway	Section 38 notice has been published and no objections or submissions received by due date. Tender documents to be prepared shortly
Vevay Rd/Sidmonton Rd Junction Improvement	Specification and tender documents are being prepared for a traffic signal installation with pedestrian phases.

There is not yet confirmation of funding for NTA project sin 2023. There has been no updates on the main projects since December.

E-Bike Scheme

The Bray MD in conjunction with Environment had invited proposals from eBike providers to provide a service to Bray. It is intended to advance this service early this year with the preferred service provider. In line with promoting sustainable transport and improving cycle safety, the placement of flexible bollards are planned along the Main Street cycle lane, where vehicle encroachment has reached intolerable levels. Subject to funding, this measure may be extended to other cycle lanes.

Third Party Works

The contractor for Irish Water on the Old Connaught Woodbrook contract are planning to close the Thornhill Road during the second and third quarter this year. The closure of Ferndale Road, during this contract has resulted in additional traffic loading on the old Connaught Road at its junction with the Dublin Road

Ground investigation work is planned early this year adjacent to the railway in Bray for the DART + Coastal south project. The Irish Rail consultants that a preferred option will emerge shortly and that public consultation is likely to take place this Spring.

Public Realm Report

Seafront Toilets

A contractor has been appointed for the refurbishment of the ladies toilets at the Aquarium building. Works are expected to commence within the next few weeks.

Raheen Park

An ecologist engaged to prepare a Conservation Management Plan for Bray Head has produced an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report on the proposed development of Raheen Park (Par 3) Trails. Having appraised the likely significant effects on relevant European sites, the report concludes that there will be no likely significant adverse impacts on the features of conservation interest. The project is therefore screened out for Appropriate Assessment. A Part 8 Planning application will be prepared for the trails project for public consultation in January will include available relevant information of the proposed adjacent Neighbourhood scheme.

Bray Harbour Improvements

A public consultation/information day took place at the Town Hall on the 6th December, which was followed by a presentation by RPS on the feasibility study to the elected members. Information boards with visual images remained on public display at the Civic offices for the rest of the week. The submissions following the public engagements will be assembled and included with the tender documents for the appointment of consultants for the detailed design, planning and construction stage of the project.

Bogmeadow Playground Enniskerry

Capital funding has been approved from the council's Development Contribution Scheme for developing the playground. Detailed design and preparation of specifications for tender are progressing for phase one that deals with the site preparation, retaining walls and alterations to infrastructure.

The Elected Members raised the following concerns and observations

Members thanked Mr Fox for works carried out on signage at the Seafront toilets

Traffic calming works at Sidmonton Square are a huge improvement and have significantly reduced speed in the area

Specific funding for dipping of footpaths

Hidden disability parking space

Traffic at Giltspur Heights and Ballywaltrim Lane

E Bike scheme welcomed

Dipped path at Town Hall – accessibility of route to primary health clinic - Members of public willing to participate in identifying areas in need of dipping

Timeframe for Seafront toilet works

Disabled parking space on opposite side of primary healthcare clinic – can this be moved.

Path at the old court house & seapoint road needs to be dipped – previously requested

No funding for footpath repairs

When will lighting on the Herbert Road be turned on & when will remaining debris from these works be cleared.

Reinstatement of 3 disability parking spaces on Quinsborough Road – this has been reduced to 2

Mapping of footpaths that require dishing

Signs for cyclists on the north end of the promenade from the level crossing down are the wrong way around, causing confusion – can this be investigated

Smaller crossing at the Martello is faded, drivers can't see it

Are Irish Water carrying out works on Sidmonton Road

As the District Engineer was unable to attend this month's meeting, Mr Fox advised members that he would forward their queries and comments to him for attention and response.

He informed members that it was envisaged the works on the seafront toilets should be completed by the end of March/early April

Members were informed that there would be a presentation on the e-bike scheme at the February meeting.

Item 5. Notice of Motions

In the absence of the District Engineer, Cllr Behan requested that his Notice of Motions be carried over to the February meeting. This was agreed.

(c) Notice of Motion in the Name of Councillor Grace McManus & Councillor Dermot O'Brien (03/11/2022)

That Bray Municipal District requests a written report on homeless outreach service in Bray in 6 months from this date, to include details of how the service is running, how many people have presented and any other relevant information.

Reply: Details on Homeless services are currently provided in the Chief Executive report. Details on homeless services in Bray can be included in the June 2023 Bray MD Housing report which is circulated to members.

(e) Notice of Motion in the Name of Councillor Grace McManus & Councillor Dermot O'Brien (03/11/2022)

That this Municipal District recognises there is a need for cost rental units to be provided by the local authority or approved housing body, to ensure affordable and secure long term rental properties.

Reply: Affordable housing including Cost rental will be discussed at the next Council Meeting (9th January) and members received a presentation from the Director of Services and the Land Development Agency.

Item 6. Correspondence

Members were advised there was no correspondence this month.

Item 7. Any Other Business.

Cllr Behan requested an update on the consultant that was to be appointed in relation to the slippage at the Maltings.

Ms Gallagher advised she would revert in relation to this.

Cllr Behan proposed that the members of Bray MD write to the owner of Bray Central (Oakmount) Mr Paddy McKillen Jnr and invite him to a meeting of Bray MD to discuss his plans for the development.

After a discussion on the matter, a vote on Cllr. Behan's proposal was taken and the members voted as follows:

RE: The owner of Oakmount Mr. McKillen Jnr. is invited to the next meeting of Bray MD to explain plans and vision for Bray Central.

	FOR	AGAINST	Absent
Councillor Joe Behan	√		
Councillor Melanie Corrigan			√
Councillor Anne Ferris			√
Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy		√	
Councillor Erika Doyle		√	
Councillor Grace McManus	√		
Councillor Dermot O'Brien	√		
Councillor Rory O'Connor	√		
Total Votes	4	2	2

It was agreed that Bray MD would write to Mr McKillen Jnr and invite him to a meeting to discuss his plans for Bray Central.

It was agreed that the District Administrator would arrange for the letter to be sent to Mr. McKillen Jnr.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed:

Cllr. Erika Doyle
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:

Linda Healy
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated:
