



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

**Present:**

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

**Also in Attendance:**

- Ms. Lorraine Gallagher, District Manager**
- Mr. Liam Bourke, District Engineer**
- Mr. Garvan Hickey, District Administrator**
- Mr. Brian Wildes, Administrative Officer Housing**
- Ms. Rachel Griffin, Minute Taker**

A vote of sympathy was passed for the recently deceased Thomas Kinsella a well known musician and long term business owner in Bray. The Elected members paid their condolences to his family and friends. The Elected members had a minute of silence to pay tribute to Mr Kinsella.

**Item 1. Confirmation of minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Bray dated 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Councillor Anne Ferris proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Councillor Erika Doyle seconded the proposal and they were unanimously agreed by the Members.

## **Item 2. To consider the Housing Report.**

The housing report was circulated to members in advance of the meeting for consideration.

### The Elected Members made the following comments:

- The elected members thanked Brian and his staff for the hard work recently and acknowledged the completion of many allocations.
- Members noted that it was great to see all the projects coming together and making progress.
- It was noted that the official opening of Kilruddery Glen was successful and it was a great day overall.
- Members noted that it was great to see so many families getting their forever homes over the last year.

## **Item 3. To receive a report from the District Engineer.**

The District Engineers report was circulated to members in advance of the meeting for their consideration and was taken as read. The Cathaoirleach invited members to raise their concerns and any questions they had for the District Engineer.

### The Elected Members made the following comments:

- Members queried why three of the NTA schemes were paused due to lack of resources and enquired if it was a staffing or funding issue?
- Members also queried in respect of the process of applying for an NTA scheme?
- Members requested that the monitoring for of Wolf Tone Square be circulated to members
- It was noted that three street lights were out on Soldiers road and other lights were out in Ballywaltrim Heights. Members requested if Liam could follow up with the ESB and the public lighting section about this issue. Members noted that there was a delay in getting the ESB to carry out required works to get street lights repaired and it is essential that these be fixed as soon as possible considering the dark nights have approached.
- It was also noted that the entire fitting of the light number CH384 at Putland Villas is gone and that the light of pole number 8 beside this is almost gone.
- Members noted that there is a water leak on the Killarney Road across from Rathclaren estate. Members noted that it is important to get this resolved as soon as possible as it is a safety hazard especially in the colder nights.
- It was noted that €100,000, from Capital Levies has been granted for footpath repairs; however it was noted that this amount was not enough to cover the repairs needed in the Bray. Municipal District. Members asked Liam to keep the pressure on the Head of Finance to seek additional funding for footpath repairs.
- Members queried why wheelchair accessibility to the beach could not be out in place. It was recognised that the seafront is at an unusual location and that it wouldn't be easy to complete, however members noted that there should be something to allow wheelchair users and people with mobility issues to use the seafront the way others can. Members noted that the consultant had not

proposed a workable solution but that measures needed to be put in place to improve accessibility.

- Members asked if the section in the report regarding the cliff walk is circulated to the public as it is a valuable amenity and people will be happy to hear that it is making progress.
- A request was made for the District Engineer to meet with the Bray harbour improvement committee in January regarding the Bray Harbour improvements.
- Members raised concerns regarding the lighting in the Bog meadow car park in Enniskerry. It was noted that this still had not progressed and could this be followed up with the relevant personnel.
- Members requested that they be informed when the funding for traffic calming measures are being advertised?

In relation to the NTA schemes, Mr Bourke advised that the NTA schemes were on hold due to resourcing issues. He noted he was unaware of what resourcing issues were but informed the members that he will follow up with the Active Travel team in respect of these projects.

The District Engineer advised the members that he will need to do more monitoring on Wolf Tone Square before he can provide a detailed report. Once this is completed it will be circulated to members.

In relation to the issues with public lighting he advised the members that Soldiers View is a private estate therefore the council cannot do anything about this issue. Mr Bourke advised that he will follow up with the public lighting section about the other particular locations. There are a number of areas that require civil works to be carried out by the ESB which delay the light being repaired.

Mr Bourke noted that he was aware of the leak on Killarney road at Rathclaren and advised the members that Irish Water have not been able to find a leak so it will be dealt with by the council and treated as a ground water issue.

Mr Bourke acknowledged the members view regarding funding for footpath repairs and advised the members that he will keep pushing for more funding for this. Mr Bourke informed members that he was compiling details on all footpath repairs that were required across the district.

In regards to the accessibility at Bray Seafront, Mr Bourke advised that the company he dealt with were of very high standard and they advised that what was being proposed for Bray Seafront is not feasible due to the dynamic nature of the beach. He agreed that it is very difficult to provide access. Mr Bourke noted that he will keep working on this to try finding an alternative solution and that we needed to be cognisant of the increasing number of stormy days.

Liam advised members that he pass on the remarks about the Cliff Walk to executive engineer, Stephen Fox.

Mr Bourke advised members that he welcomed the proposed meeting with the Bray Harbour committee in January and will liaise with the members regarding this.

Mr Bourke advised that he will continue pressing the issue of public lighting at Bogmeadow carpark with the public lighting section. The works should be done shortly as the ESB connection works have been completed.

Mr Bourke informed members that all parties will be notified when Traffic Calming Measures will be advertised.

**Item 4. To consider the following Christmas parking arrangements - to offer free parking on Saturday and Sundays in the Wicklow County Council section of Herbert Road car park from 25th November to 31st December.**

The arrangements were adopted by Councillor Joe Behan and seconded by Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy and were unanimously agreed by the members.

The Elected Members made the following comments:

- The Elected Members queried when the contactless payments for the parking meters will be installed.
- Queries were raised whether the Mermaid Theatre had any influence with the company operating the car park beside the mermaid. It was noted that cars are being clamped often and some of the parking meters are nearly always out of order.
- Members raised concerns that the contactless payments would mean there would be additional fee from the bank and will this affect income going forward?
- Members noted that the company would have less cash handling and advised that we should try to keep the cost down as much as possible.

District Administrator, Garvan Hickey informed the elected members that the company are in the process of rolling out the new parking machines and installation of the regular and contactless parking meters will be commencing from mid-December and should be completed across the four Municipal Districts by February. Mr Hickey advised that there is a fee from the Bank for the contactless payments and that he will do a report on the charges once it has been in operation for a period of time.

Concern was expressed by members that there would be reduction in the income being received from the car parking charges as a result of the bank charges. Mr. Hickey advised members that the new parking tender had taken this issue into consideration and the increased bank fees will be offset by the reduced cash handling costs.

In relation the car park beside the Mermaid, Mr Hickey informed the members that as this is a private car park the council have no control or influence in relation to this and he did not believe that the Mermaid Theatre either had any influence on the company.

## **Item 5. Notice of Motions**

There was no notice of motions.

## **Item 6. Correspondence**

Mr Hickey received correspondence from CCSD Section, Wicklow County Council regarding the publication of the Part VIII Sugarloaf repair project. It will be advertised on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2023 in the local media. Plans and particulars of the proposed development may be inspected at the offices of Bray Municipal District or Wicklow County Council during opening hours. Submissions and observations can be made online at Wicklow.ie or in writing on or before the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 12 noon.

The elected members requested if contact could be made with CCSD to extend the statutory time allowed for submission date to allow people to have time to submit their opinions as it is the busiest time of the year.

## **Item 7. Any other Business**

There was nothing was raised under this item on the Agenda.

This concluded the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cllr. Melanie Corrigan  
CATHAOIRLEACH**

**Signed:**

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**Garvan Hickey  
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**

**Dated:**