



Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 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**

**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**

**Apologies:**

**Councillor Erika Doyle  
Councillor Grace McManus**

**Item 1.**

**Confirmation of minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of  
Municipal District of Bray dated 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

Councillor Joe Behan proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Councillor Rory O'Connor seconded the proposal and they were unanimously agreed by the Members.

**Item 2. To consider Chief Executive's report in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act (as amended) in respect of the proposed redevelopment of Ballywaltrim Library and associated works at Ballywaltrim, Bray, Co. Wicklow**

The Elected Members received a presentation from Mr. Brendan Martin, County Librarian and Mr. Michael Nicholson, Director of Services, Community Cultural and Social Development in respect of the proposed redevelopment of Ballywaltrim Library and associated works. A copy of the Chief Executive report was circulated to members in advance of the meeting for their consideration and at the meeting members were given drawings of the proposed redevelopment. Mr. Nicholson informed members had presented on the project previously prior to going to public consultation.

The Elected Members made the following comments:

- The members thanked Brendan and Michael for all the hard work and effort that they have put into the preparation and planning of this project. The members welcomed the Library with open arms and noticed the ambition displayed throughout.
- The members noted the excellent idea of the work from home hubs and how this will be beneficial to many people.
- The members acknowledged the design and noted how modern the draft design looks with all the natural light.
- Members noted the accessibility of the Library with bicycle parking spaces and disability bays.
- There were questions whether there would be enough staff to facilitate the new My Open Library scheme and whether there would be security in place for the safety of the public and the contents in the building.
- Members noted the long struggle to get the library headquarters in Ballywaltrim and this now offered the opportunity for expansion and to provide additional services that are now expected of a modern library.
- It was noted that a future without books is a future without imagination.
- The redevelopment of Ballywaltrim members noted would be a welcome addition to the community infrastructure in the area.

Mr. Brendan Martin advised that the library services has the necessary staff to facilitate the new proposed expansion and that the staffing level in the libraries has been relatively consistent over the last few years. Mr. Martin also informed members that the application for funding for the redevelopment was dependent on the new library being an "Open Library", security measures will be put in place to protect both staff and patrons.

Cllr. Aoife Flynn Kennedy proposed the adoption of the Chief Executive report and progressing of the redevelopment. Cllr. Dermot O'Brien seconded the proposal. The vote was six in favour and two apologies.

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Apologies</u>
Councillor Joe Behan		Councillor Erika Doyle
Councillor Melanie Corrigan		Councillor Grace McManus
Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy		
Councillor Dermot O'Brien		
Councillor Anne Ferris		
Councillor Rory O'Connor		

**Item 3. To receive a presentation on the work of Bray Local Drugs Taskforce from Joe Maguire, Chairperson and Colm Walsh, Co-ordinator Bray Local Drugs**

Members received a presentation from Chairperson, Joe Maguire and Colm Walsh, Co-ordinator on the work of Bray Local Drugs Taskforce. Mr Maguire outlined the wide range of services and projects across Bray supported by Bray Local Drugs Taskforce. Mr. Maguire and Mr. Walsh also outlined the structure of the taskforce and the challenges being experienced by the taskforce and projects. Mr. Maguire noted the close working relationship between Bray Local Drugs Taskforce, the HSE, the Gardai and the Municipal District.

The Elected Members made the following comments.

- Members thanked Mr. Maguire and Mr. Walsh for the presentation and acknowledged the work and effort all the staff have done within their roles.
- Members praised Mr. Maguire for the leadership he has shown as Chairperson for the taskforce and noted that the work of taskforce projects have saved and improved the lives of people suffering from addiction around the area.
- Members paid tribute to Mr. Jim O'Brien, Bray Travellers Development Group and Ms. Helen Kinsella. Ms. Kinsella took on the work of taskforce co-ordinator and administrator when there was no staffing in place and helped keeping the local drugs taskforce going.
- It was noted that the Bray Local Drugs Taskforce is a credit to the town and for the community. Members pointed out that previously national policy was to amalgamate local drugs taskforces with regional taskforces but that the work of Bray Local Drugs Taskforce highlighted the benefits and value of having a local taskforce.
- Members agreed with Mr. Maguire in relation to the challenges faced by staff in projects due to the lack of permanent contracts, lack of pay increases due to the nature of the project funding. Members expressed their concern that dedicated staff in projects will be forced to leave projects and look for alternative work due to the temporary nature of their contracts, difficulties in securing mortgages and the

cost of living. Members noted that this issue needed to be addressed at a national level by the HSE and the Department of Health.

- Members welcomed the fact that addiction is seen as an issue which not only affects the person experiencing addiction but also their family and the wider community.
- The issue of Garda resources especially in terms of Community Gardai was discussed. Members paid tribute to the work being done by the Bray Drugs squad and noted that it was important that specialised Garda units are maintained.
- Questions were raised whether there is any issue with fentanyl coming into Ireland and have the taskforce seen this issue?
- Member queried if there has been much progress with dual diagnosis
- The importance of long term funding for the taskforce and projects was raised. Members noted that the service was required now more than ever and highlighted the recent issues with crack cocaine.
- It was noted that there needed to be a focus on prevention as well as treatment. The importance of youth work in providing quality alternative activities for young people.
- The issue of hidden harm was raised by members.

Mr. Maguire Chairperson, Bray Local Drugs Taskforce thanked the members for their lovely words and advised that it is through the work of the dedicated staff in projects that the taskforce can be effective and meet the needs of people. Mr. Maguire informed members that there has not been an issue with fentanyl use at the moment. He noted the importance of balancing community policing along with a strong drug unit and asked the members to mention this at the next policing committee meeting. Mr. Maguire noted that Bray was no different than other parts of the country and were experiencing similar issues due to illegal drugs such as crack cocaine, Bray has a number of services such as BCAT which provide an extremely valuable service to people experiencing addiction.

Mr Maguire commented on dual diagnosis being a serious problem and noted it is a hot button issue. Mr. Maguire noted that the Gardai are working on the frontline in communities and there is a need to continue to build relationships and the confidential information phone line is a useful tool.

District Manager, Lorraine Gallagher, joined with the elected members and thanked Mr. Maguire and all the staff in Bray Local Drugs Taskforce projects for all their work and commitment and commends them for their ambition to deal with the scourge of drugs in our communities.

**Item 4. To receive a presentation on the Sláintecare programme in County Wicklow with a particular focus on Bray from Meadhbh Cahill, Sláintecare Local Development Officer and Michael Nicholson, Director of Services.**

Members received a presentation from Ms. Meadhbh Cahill, Sláintecare Local Development Officer and Mr. Michael Nicholson, Director of Services on the Sláintecare programme in County Wicklow with a particular focus on Bray.

Ms. Cahill took the members through the projects that have been completed so far and potential areas of focus for the future. The Wicklow Sláintecare programme is funded under the Department of Health and is closely aligned with the Healthy Ireland initiative and the national Sláintecare programme. It is a three year programme and its main focus is in Bray.

The Elected Members made the following comments

- The members thanked Ms. Cahill for the presentation and noted that it is important to hear about the positive community projects which are being funded and supported.
- It was noted that the Sláintecare programme will play a critical part in how we transform Bray for the betterment of the community.
- Members welcomed the additional funding to tackle period poverty.
- It was noted that this is a healing programme targeting areas that have experienced a lot of trauma.
- Members noted that a number of community projects are slow burners and we will only see their benefits in the future.
- The partnership and collaborative nature of the projects was welcomed.

**Item 5. To receive a presentation on the Conservation Management Report on Bray Head from Ms. Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer and Mr. Alan Lauder from ALC Nature**

Members received a detailed presentation from Heritage Officer, Ms. Deirdre Burns on the Bray Head Conservation Management Plan 2023 – 2028. Ms. Burns also outlined the main objectives of the plan to protect Bray Head, examine the climate resilience of the area the key attributes of the site.

The Elected Members made the following comments

- The members thanked Ms. Burns for her presentation.
- It was noted that there will need to be a really good communication strategy with the public throughout this plan and bringing people on this journey is critical.
- It was queried whether there will be a public consultation progress.
- The members queried whether the plan was to fully close off certain paths leading to Bray Head.
- Members noted the importance of educating and communicating with people in relation to the new paths and biodiversity.

- Members highlighted that Bray is lucky to have this amenity and we have to remind people that is an asset which needs to be protected because when it is gone it will not be possible to bring it back.
- The importance of including all stakeholders such as the Friends of Bray Head included in the implementation of the reports objectives was highlighted.
- Members highlighted that it may necessary to have an education campaign on the biodiversity in the area and the need not to create new paths.
- There was a discussion on the freedom to roam in the area.

Ms. Burns advised members that this was not a statutory plan but was looking for members to endorse the objectives contained in the report. Ms. Burns also noted that it was important to provide stewardship of the County Council lands on Bray Head to preserve and improve the biodiversity of the area.

District Engineer, Mr. Liam Bourke confirmed that no proposed restriction on the right to roam and the intention is to make the area safer especially where the three paths merge. Bray Head Residents were actively involved in the development of the report and were happy for the SAO committee to take the lead.

Ms. Burns highlighted that the objectives contained in the report were evidence based management recommendations and that if nothing was done there would be increased fragmentation of the site, increased issues with invasive species and the area would not be able to cope with the increased recreational pressures.

Cllr. O'Brien proposed endorsing the plan and this was seconded by Cllr. O'Connor. Mr. Bourke outlined that the report provides a framework to move forward and needed to be other actions taken in the short term such as increased signage to encourage people to use the existing paths.

**Item 6. To receive a presentation on the Sugarloaf Sustainable Management Project, Ms. Caroline Fox A/SEO CCDS and Ms. Carol Coad, Rural Recreational Officer, County Wicklow Partnership.**

The members received a presentation from Ms. Carol Coad, regarding the current challenges the sugarloaf and measures which can be undertaken to alleviate these challenges. It was noted that this was a pre part VIII information presentation, prior to embarking on the Part VIII process with the members support.

The Elected Members made the following comments:

- The members thanked Ms. Coad for her presentation and acknowledged the challenges facing the Sugarloaf.
- They commended Ms. Coad for bringing this project as a Part VIII as this allows the community to express how they feel about the plans and ensures they are involved with the whole process.

- It was noted that the proposed family area at the Sugarloaf was an amazing idea and it would allow people with mobility issue to access the same activities as others.
- The members were delighted with the plans of the project and are happy that the public are being brought along the journey
- Members queried whether there will be challenges faced on the red lane, as it is already quite narrow and increased bus traffic could have an impact on the area.
- Members enquired if the parking area would be increased in size.

Ms. Coad thanked members for the comments and assured them that they are looking at several options in relation to coping with the traffic on this lane. It was noted that the Sugarloaf area is not only a recreational area but also an area where people live and work. Ms. Coad outlined that the existing parking area would be improved but not expanded, the focus is on creating a surface that is nice to walk on, prevent path expansion, biodiversity gain. The works being undertaken especially near the top will be similar to works undertaken on Croagh Patrick. All landowners and local community to be consulted as part of the process, area to be of local as well tourist benefit.

## **Item 7 To consider the housing report**

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

**Cedar Court** - units are complete and currently being allocated.

**Parnell Road (Central Garage site)** - Preparation of tenders is ongoing.

**Kilbride Lodge and Sutton Villas** - Preparation of tenders is ongoing.

### **Rehills Lands;**

The design stage of the scheme is ongoing. The consultants are looking at options for access and accommodation mix. Mix of social and affordable. Bridge consultation ongoing presently. Flood risk analysis also being carried out at present.

**Fassaroe** - The preparation of the tender documents is continuing.

### **Southern Cross Road;**

All units have now been purchased by the Approved Housing Body and allocations are ongoing. Eighty allocations have been completed to date.

### **The Elected Members made the following comments:**

- Members welcomed the development of the Parnell road site.
- The members complimented Mr. Wildes and the staff for their hard work.
- Members noted the difference the allocations of Southern Cross has made to people's lives.
- Members asked for confirmation that the affordable properties on Rehills land would be affordable purchase

Mr. Wildes confirmed that the development at Rehills land would consist of a mixture of social and affordable purchase properties.

### **Item 8. To consider the District Engineers Report**

The District Engineers report was circulated to members in advance of the meeting for consideration. The District Engineers report was taken as read.

Updated status report on Restoration Improvement works were outlined by the District Engineer Mr. Liam Bourke. Mr. Bourke informed members that due to budget constraints Seapoint Court could not be included in the programme for this year. It would be examined again next year, depending on allocation

#### The Elected Members made the following comments:

- Members expressed disappointment that the road works at Seapoint Court would not proceed this year and asked for it to be re-examined if funding becomes available.
- Members asked could there be a speed up of the analysis on Hills road as it was flooded recently.
- Is there any update on the traffic issues in Wolf Tone Square- Original issue raised six months ago
- Could the trees be cut back at Galtrim Road as it is blocking street lighting.
- Is there an analysis available of the attrition of the Bolt Bikes due to road surface?
- Could there be a speed bump installed in James Connolly Square and could the speed limit there be reduced to 20 Km per hour.
- It was proposed that the speed reduction works on Connolly Square should be put forward as an active travel measure.
- Members raised the issue of flooding risks on Quill Road and Ballywaltrim Lane
- Update on the timeline on the reopening of the cliff walk.

Mr Bourke advised that he is working on the flooding issues that have been highlighted and has been taking preventive measure for all areas. He noted that other areas do need to be addressed and will be as soon as possible. Mr. Bourke outlined that work had been undertaken at County Brook prior to Storm Agnes and this mitigated any possible flooding.

Mr Bourke noted that as there is already an application with the NTA for funding to carry out works to reduce speed, increase visibility and pedestrian safety at junctions at Wolfe Tone Square. This comprises reducing junction radii and installing bollards to prohibit parking at junctions and bends. It is intended to renew the funding request for 2024. If granted we can then consult with residents and review details of the proposals.

In relation to Galtrim Road, Mr Bourke said the parks engineer is aware of this issue and will report back to him on this matter again.

In regards to reports on attrition of the Bolt bikes, Mr Bourke stated he does not have these but will find out and report back on this at the next meeting.

Mr Bourke advised that this was the first time he was notified about speeding in Connolly Square; he also noted that speed ramps would not be effective at this location. He advised he will look into this issue.

In relation to the cliff walk Mr Bourke advised The Council have received a works design from Cundall consulting engineers and the council is waiting on Cundall to complete tender documents for issue for the works contract.

## **Item 9 To discuss the Bray to City Centre bus connects corridor scheme**

Members noted that the Bray to City Centre Bus connects corridor scheme had been discussed extensively at the plenary Wicklow County Council meeting and members had agreed at the meeting how best to proceed. Cllr. Behan outlined that it was important that the Roads and Transport Section follow up on the motion agreed by members at the Council meeting. The Cathaoirleach Cllr. Corrigan urged all members to make their own individual submissions as well and ensure that areas of concern raised were put forward.

## **Item 10 Notice of Motions**

### **1. Notice of motion in the name of Cllr Anne Ferris (13/06/2023)**

***‘That funding be set aside in the 2024 Budget for the provision of Road Safety measures in Rockfield Park, Kilmacanogue.’***

‘An audit is required to identify the road safety hazards of concern before suitable measures can be determined and costed. It is known that footpath repairs are required and that there are safety issues arising due to school traffic. However, submissions from residents detailing their safety concerns based on their observations would aid the determination of appropriate works. NTA funding has been allocated this year for ‘Safe Route to School’ for Kilmacanogue NS which will be used to determine appropriate safety measures in the vicinity of the school.’

The motion was proposed by Cllr. Ferris and seconded by Cllr O’Connor. The members asked if the response could be circulated to them.

## **Item 11 Correspondence**

- (a) A letter had been received the sister town Bégels, France inviting members to a summer celebration 31<sup>st</sup> May to 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024.
- (b) Elected members were informed about Niamh Beatrix a 12 year old Bray resident who is performing in the Junior Eurovision and is looking for all the support she can get. The elected members wished Niamh the best of luck in this event.

**Item 12 Any other business**

There was no other business.

This concluded the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cllr. Melanie Corrigan  
CATHAOIRLEACH**

**Signed:**

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**Garvan Hickey  
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**

**Dated:**