



Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 7th November 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**

Apologies:

Cathaoirleach, Melanie Corrigan and the elected members acknowledged the contribution and work Councillor Grace McManus gave to Bray and wished her the best in her future and career.

Item 1. Confirmation of minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Municipal District of Bray dated 3rd October 2023

Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held 3rd October 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 Raheen Public Park Enhancement Scheme, (Chief Executive report attached).

District Engineer, Liam Bourke outlined the process of this scheme so far and welcomed questions from the elected members. A copy of the Chief Executive report was circulated to members in advance of the meeting for consideration. Mr. Bourke outlined that the process had been suspended while they waited on a decision from An Bord Pleanála if an EIA was required or not. The Bord decided that it was not required. The submissions received had generally been supportive and all submissions had been answered in the Chief Executive report.

The elected members thanked Mr. Bourke for the report and acknowledged the effort and responsiveness to queries raised by local residents.

The Elected Members made the following comments:

- Members noted that it is very important to keep the SAO committee and the surrounding residents informed and communicate with them regularly as the project progresses.
- Members commended Bray Head Residents association for the involvement they had in the process so far.
- There were queries in regards to drainage issues and the consequences that may rise from this. Members noted it is important to be ready for these issues when they arise.
- Members said it was great to see the community involvement in this project and acknowledged that the people are being heard.
- It was queried how this area will be maintained and that this is something that will need to be nailed down.
- Concerns were raised in relation to a row trees behind some houses at New Court Avenue. It was noted that residents have paid to keep these maintained was asked if this is something that could be looked into further.
- Members congratulated the SAO committee and Bray Head Association for the work put into this project.
- It was queried if the OPW would be contacted regarding this scheme to keep them involved as well.
- An email was read out, received from chairman of Bray Head residents association stating several issues that needed to be addressed. It was confirmed by a member of the SAO committee that these issues raised have been examined and addressed.
- Members noted that an enclosed dog park would be a good idea to consider in the future.
- Members also noted the importance of putting in place a maintenance plan in place once the project was completed and the funding needs to be provided to the Municipal District to provide this.
- Plan should enhance biodiversity and be linked to neighbourhood schemes.
- Concern was expressed that too many benches could lead to anti-social behaviour. Any benches to be installed to be age friendly.
- SAO committee to be involved in project oversight.

Cllr. Erika Doyle proposed the adoption of the Chief Executive report and progressing of the scheme. Cllr. Aoife Flynn Kennedy seconded the proposal. The report was adopted unanimously.

Item 3. To consider the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Bray for the financial year ending 31st December 2024

District Manager, Lorraine Gallagher went through the Draft Budgetary Plan for 2024 that was circulated to members and explained each column briefly to the members. The District Manager also noted that the Departmental circulars had also been circulated to members and that the budgetary process is a prescribed process. The adoption of the General Municipal Allocation (GMA) is the next step in this process.

The Elected Members made the following comments:

- It was queried why the budget for economic development and promotion in Arklow Municipal District was much higher than the rest of the municipal districts and if this was due to the roundabout sponsorship scheme.
- Queries were raised as to whether the sponsorship of roundabouts could be adopted in Bray Municipal District.
- In relation to the sponsorship of the roundabouts it was noted that this should be advertised to the public in order for people to express interest in this.

Executive Engineer, Stephen Fox advised that these sponsorships would ease the burden on funds for grass cutting and that he will take a look into this further as it is worth considering. Mr. Fox noted that the roundabout sponsorship had been examined previously but there was no real interest in taking it up.

District Engineer, Liam Bourke advised that Supervalu had expressed an interest previously in sponsoring a roundabout.

The Bray GMA budget was adopted unanimously.

Item 4. To receive a presentation from the District Engineer on proposed Discretionary Funding projects for 2024 and to note update on 2023 Discretionary Funded projects.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Corrigan noted that notice was given to the elected members to put forward their proposed project details for 2024 and that everyone had the opportunity to propose their ideas. The Cathaoirleach outlined that the budget was €297,000 with €70,000 being ring-fenced for estate and roundabout grass cutting. She advised that the list of proposed projects was created from member's proposals, consultation with the District Engineer and technical staff. The Cathaoirleach also outlined that this is public money and it was important that all areas in the M.D. benefit from the discretionary expenditure. It was noted that due to budget constraints not all projects were included in the final list proposed for 2024. The Cathaoirleach thanked the members for their input in this process.

	Project	Estimated Cost €
1	Installation of parking bays including disability parking bays and tarmacking by the 1916 memorial in Kilmacanaogue.	€20,000
2	Defibrillator grant scheme for estates in Bray Municipal District	€10,000
3	Recruitment of a consultant to produce a survey and vision for the Heritage Centre.	€10,000
4	Water bottle refilling station in Enniskerry and Bray to promote sustainability and reduce purchase of water bottles	€20,000
5	Flashing Speed Limit/ Go slow signs on Long Hill Road heading towards Kilmac village before reaching the Church- to slow down speeding cars endangering school children walking on the footpath to the school.	€5,000
6	Memorial Bench to remember Liam Reilly RIP and celebrate the contribution of Bray Band- Bagatelle to Ireland's music industry	€2,950
7	Information Notice at Fran O'Toole Bridge to explain the significance of the naming of the Bridge after Fran O'Toole.	€5,000
8	Bollards at the corner of Wolfe Tone Square South to prevent illegal parking on the corners	€15,000
9	Pedestrian Crossing on Main Street at the junction with Novara Road.	€35,000
10	Benches for Springfield Cemetery	€6,000
11	1,000 to go towards implementing actions from the DISC strategy	€1,000
12	Wooden changing huts Shelter for swimmers on the seafront to be placed beside the lifeguard station.	€20,000

13	To develop a crossing on the lower Dargle Road accessing the People's Park	€20,000
14	Initial project in 2022 proposed for Albert Avenue Project reviewed and proposed to locate crossing at East side Meath Road junction and carry out junction upgrades with traffic calming.	€20,000
15	Peoples Park Pavillion (changing rooms). An internal refresh of the building to include lighting upgrades, flooring & painting of the interior	€50,000
16	Provision and installation of ball stop fencing between the pitch & the river at People's Park	€30,000
17	Traffic calming measures in James Connelly Square and traffic calming / children at play signage.	€15,000
18	Refurbishment / replacement of benches in James Connelly Square, special consideration to be given to replacement with Age Friendly Inclusive Seating.	€8,000
19	Painting of Victorian seatbacks on the Promenade - Completion of painting of south Victorian seatbacks	€65,000
20	Estate and roundabout grass cutting and maintenance	€70,000
Proposed Projects Total		€427,950

District Manager, Lorraine Gallagher noted that the projects exceed the budget by €60,950 but proposed that members should keep all the projects as the budget may be fluid. Bray M.D. staff will endeavour to seek funding for some of the projects from other sources, while some projects may exceed their estimated budget. Ms. Gallagher welcomed the input from all the members and noted that it was reserved function and the members could decide where the funding was allocated.

District Engineer, Liam Bourke welcomed all submissions and proposals from the elected members but noted that unfortunately there is not enough funding to complete all the projects proposed. Mr. Bourke outlined that if adopted he will assign owners to each of the projects ensure they are completed. All the projects will have to be assessed and costed in detail, a few of the projects may be eligible for NTA funding. District Engineer, Liam Bourke also updated members on the progress in relation to the 2022 and 2023 discretionary funded projects.

There was an open discussion about the proposals between all the elected members.

The Elected Members made the following comments:

- Members queried whether funding for some of the proposals could come from an alternative funding source.
- It was noted that the condition of people's park changing facility definitely needs an upgrade.

- Members agreed that more information at Fran O’Toole Bridge would be beneficial to the public. Way of providing the information to be discussed with the Heritage Officer.
- The members suggested that there should be an update on these projects every quarter.
- Members noted that people need to physically see that work is being done, as funding comes from the Local Property Tax.
- There were questions in respect of the order that the projects would be started and funding allocated as there was insufficient budget to fund all projects
- Members queried the method of allocation of funding to particular projects and not others
- There was a discussion in relation to the provision and installation of ball stop fencing between the pitch & the river at People’s Park.

District Manager Lorraine Gallagher outlined that some projects will proceed at a slower pace than others due to amount of preparatory work required for them to proceed. Ms. Gallagher noted that the members had the discretion to develop to develop a scheme to allocate the discretionary expenditure the best way they believed appropriate. Ms. Gallagher pointed out that the projects should be deliverable and deliver value for money.

District Engineer, Liam Bourke noted he will seek if there is additional funding available for some of the projects. He noted that not all the projects will progress the same and some may take longer than expected. Mr Bourke said he will try his best to get all the projects completed as best he can within the resources available. The installation of ball stop fencing between the pitch & the river at People’s Park would have to be done on a phased basis.

The elected members thanked the Cathaoirleach and the management team for the effort and process of the decisions made for these projects. The adoption of the list of projects for discretionary then proceeded to a vote.

To adopt proposed discretionary funded projects for 2024 as circulated to members.			
	FOR	AGAINST	Abstain
Councillor Joe Behan	√		
Councillor Melanie Corrigan	√		
Councillor Anne Ferris	√		
Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy	√		
Councillor Erika Doyle	√		
Councillor Dermot O’Brien			√
Councillor Rory O’Connor	√		
Total Votes	6	0	1

Item 5. To consider the Housing Report

The housing report was circulated to members in advance of the meeting and was taken as read.

The Elected Members raised the following concerns and observations

- The members thanked Brian and the housing staff for the excellent work to the lead up and after Halloween.
- Members also congratulated Gardai for minimising the risks to the public and local residents.
- It was noted that further action is required to ensure businesses are not disposing large amounts of waste at bonfires and alongside them.
- It was noted that Fassaroe estate also had a huge amount of domestic waste being dumped and this is something that needs to be looked into next year.
- Members expressed concern about that commercial businesses were giving out tyres which were transported into estates on Halloween day for use in bonfires. Concern was expressed for both the environmental damage and the damage to green areas in estates
- Members noted that though they hadn't always received the news they wanted, the housing staff were treating people with mindfulness and understanding
- Members noted that we should be mindful to emerging community needs in Kilruddery Glen.

Housing Officer, Brian Wildes thanked the member for their comments and noted there had been a multi stakeholder approach adopted to deal with issues prior to Halloween in order to try and keep the town clean and safe. Mr. Wildes stated that he wrote out to Old Court Residents and asked that if any illegal dumping was seen leading up to Halloween night to report it. The Fire Service and the Gardai had done fire safety talks in school and three clean ups were organised before Halloween night.

Mr. Wildes advised that there is still clean ups left to be done but the waste management team needed the dry weather to proceed with this.

Mr Wildes also invited all members to the official opening of Kilruddery Glen on the 15th November.

Item 6. 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 raised the following concerns and observations

- Members queried when the disabled parking bays at the Dargle clinic would be completed. Members also asked if capital funding could be used to fund disabled parking bays.
- Members queried when drainage works at Quill road will be looked into. Have the council got permission from all landowners and could this be marked as a priority?
- Update on signage for Kilmacanogue Marsh.
- Could road gullies be cleared at Millfield Estate?
- Members enquired if an online public consultation can be conducted for the development of the Peoples Park.
- Is there any update on traffic calming measures at Ballywaltrim Lane?
- Is there a date for when the hidden disability parking bays will be completed?
- Members asked if the disabled parking sign at the sign at Quinsborough Road for the Disabled parking bay be changed with a larger sign put back?
- It was queried whether there could be a yellow box installed outside Charanwood Estate and San Souci.
- It was noted that the footpath at the Sidmonton Court is very narrow and children are running out without realising there is a road. Could a railing be installed?
- Members thanked the District staff with regards to the recent flooding and clearing of drains around multiple area in the District.

District Engineer, Liam Bourke advised that the order for the disability bays at the Dargle Clinic and the hidden disability bays are with the contractor and he advised that he will send on a reminder. He noted that the signage cannot take place in wet weather so this may be a factor in the delay.

In relation to Quill Road, Mr Bourke advised that he is making progress with this, detailed design has been completed and will progress with engaging with the residents regarding this issue.

Mr Bourke stated that he will look into the issue with the clearing of the drains at Millfield Estate, it on the list at the moment of areas to be cleared. He advised that in regards to the Kilmacanogue Marsh he will get to this as soon as possible.

Mr Bourke advised that he will have a discussion with how to approach the issue at people's park and noted that there are competing interests in what is being sought at the moment. It will not be possible to make everyone happy but consultation should highlight what the majority want.

Mr Bourke advised that he was not aware of the issue with the disabled bay signage at Quinsborough Road and will follow up on this matter. In relation to a yellow box outside Charnwood he said that there could be issues with both traffic thinking they have right away. Mr Bourke advised he will need to have a further look into this.

In relation to Sidmonton Court, Mr Bourke noted he was not aware of this issue and that pedestrian barriers may be a solution. He noted he will have to inspect this. In respect of Putland road signals this has gone out to tender and Mr Bourke hopes there will be no funding issues.

Item 7 Notice of Motions

There was no notice of motions.

Item 8. Correspondence

(A) Bray Wanders wrote an email to the District Manager, Lorraine Gallagher in relation to their current lease at the Carlisle Grounds. Their current lease began in 2001 and is valid until 2036 (35 years.) They are now requesting that this lease be extended by another 50 years.

The elected members requested that the lease be circulated to them prior to making any decisions on this matter.

The members noted that it is important for this to stay a sporting facility and not to turn into a commercial business.

District Manager, Lorraine Gallagher advised the members that she will circulate the lease to them and will seek advice from the law agent regarding this lease.

Ms Gallagher noted that the proposal will be presented again to the members in the New Year.

Item 9 Any Other Business.

Cllr Joe Behan raised an issue under AOB in relation to the medical practice at Kilruddery Glen which is contrary to the planning permission granted. The medical practice had sought retention but this was declined. It was noted that this area was designated for the development of a community neighbourhood facility. Cllr. Behan highlighted the need for community space in the estate. It was proposed that there should be dialogue between the owners and the County Council to examine if a compromise could be reached.

Cllr. Behan also noted the constant illegal parking at this area and said that it should be monitored. It was queried whether business owners have a responsibility regarding staff parking in neighbouring estates and if there is anything the council can do to alleviate this situation.

District Manager, Lorraine Gallagher said the issue regarding community facilities at Kilruddery Glen should be taken up with CCSD as they look after community facilities.

Cllr. Flynn Kennedy informed the meeting that Top End Boxing club have taken a lease of the Giltspur community centre and thanked the staff for facilitating the lease and was happy to see this space be utilised by a tremendous club.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed:

**Cllr. Melanie Corrigan
CATHAOIRLEACH**

Signed:

**Garvan Hickey
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**

Dated:

