



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> December 2024 at 6.30 p.m.

**Present:**

- Cathaoirleach Councillor Dermot O'Brien**
- Councillor Joe Behan**
- Councillor Melanie Corrigan**
- Councillor Malachai Duddy**
- Councillor Erika Doyle**
- Councillor Ian Neary**
- Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy**
- Councillor Caroline Winstanley**

**Also in Attendance:**

- Ms. Lorraine Gallagher, District Manager.**
- Mr. Garvan Hickey, District Administrator.**
- Mr. Brian Wildes, Administrative Officer, Housing,**
- Mr. Liam Bourke, District Engineer.**
- Mr. John Malan, Executive Engineer.**
- Mr. Stephen Fox, Executive Engineer.**

A vote of sympathy was passed to the family of the recently deceased Gemma Hussey. Ms Hussey was a Fine Gael politician and was the first female Minister for education and was heavily involved in politics throughout her life. Ms Hussey was born in Bray.

The Elected Members held a minute silence to pay tribute to Ms Hussey.

**Item 1. To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray dated 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024.**

Councillor Joe Behan proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Councillor Melanie Corrigan seconded the proposal and they were unanimously agreed by the members.

## **Item 2. To update the Members of a proposed Part 8 for Ballywaltrim Recreational Area**

The engineering staff gave a brief update on the proposed Part 8 for Ballywaltrim Recreational Area. A project brief was circulated to members.

District Manager Ms. Gallagher outlined the process that had been undertaken in the development of the Ballywaltrim Recreational area masterplan and the consultation which had been undertaken. The Ballywaltrim Recreational area masterplan was considered by members at the May meeting of Bray Municipal District. Implementation of the masterplan will be done on a phased basis and is funding dependent.

Mr. John Malan outlined the work that had been undertaken to date including development of technical report on soil quality, drainage works and examination of pitch quality. The proposed Part 8 incorporates phase one and phase two of the masterplan. District Engineer Mr. Liam Bourke outlined that the Part 8 would incorporate the proposed development of the all-weather pitch, upgraded cycle and path linkages to local schools and the Southern Cross.

### The Elected members made the following comments and observations

- Members thanked the engineering staff for the updates and briefing.
- Members queried if it is possible to put signage up at different areas in Ballywaltrim park area showing the overall proposed vision for the recreational area so the public get a sense of what is happening and what is envisaged?
- The location of the pump action cycle track was queried.
- In respect of funding for the development of the recreational area, can money not be utilised from the Capital Levies account?
- It was noted the importance of keeping the members and public involved in this process. Members noted the extensive level of public engagement in the development of the masterplan and the importance of keeping this going during implementation.
- Members noted it was great to hear further updates on the process and are excited for more movement.
- Members expressed their disappointment that the application for funding under the Large Scale Sporting Infrastructure Scheme was unsuccessful.

District Engineer, Liam Bourke advised the members that signage outlining the complete image of the masterplan cannot go up until the funding is approved and details are finalised through the proper planning process. Notices will be put up in different areas of the park in respect of the proposed part 8.

Members noted that details had to be finalised but noted an overall image of what was being aspired to would help members of the public understand what was being envisaged and the need for a phased approach.

### **Item 3. To consider and discuss Discretionary Projects for 2025**

The Cathaoirleach Cllr. O'Brien outlined the Discretionary Project process and noted that a list of proposed projects for Members consideration, was circulated to inform discussion and start the discussion on Discretionary Projects 2025. The Discretionary Budget for Bray Municipal District is €314,200.

District Manager, Lorraine Gallagher advised the members that this is just a draft and that is the elected member's budget and the proposed projects will be adopted by the members.

Executive Engineer, Stephen Fox noted that he had a meeting with residents in Killarney Park regarding additional facilities for the children of the area. Mr. Fox received a presentation from the children themselves who suggested having a basketball court, playground facilities and goal posts similar to that which was installed in Giltspur.

Mr Fox advised that this is a very good idea for the area and that it would be a great use for an open space so he has included it on the draft for the member's consideration.

#### The Elected members made the following comments and observations:

- Members noted that it was a great idea regarding Killarney Park and should be explored for other areas.
- It was noted that the draft proposals exceed the budget available but pointed out that the proposals that aren't adopted shouldn't be totally excluded and should be kept aside should funding become available under a different scheme.
- Is it possible to get the traffic calming funding under the Active Travel?
- It was noted that it would be beneficial to look at outstanding motions from previous meetings that haven't progressed.
- Can we look into sponsorship of roundabouts to reduce the amount spend on the maintenance of same?
- If €160,000 is already put aside for the Victorian shelters for Bray Seafront, how much will this cost in total? Could URDF funding be got for the shelters?
- Does the cost for the 5 year tree replacement programme have to be paid each year or is 5 years paid for in advance?
- Are we relying on the money set aside to complete the works at Albert Avenue?
- Is there any update on the festoon lighting at Albert Walk?
- Some members noted that it was disappointing and concerning to see that the proposed projects are already over budget available especially when the members haven't given their own ideas.
- Can we look into getting funding from other sources for some of the proposals?
- Is there some way that the accessibility on Bray Beach can be made more efficient for long term use. It was noted that it would be beneficial for people with accessibility issues to be able to use the sand area on the seafront.

District Engineer Mr Bourke advised the members that the festoon lighting on Albert Avenue is still on the Agenda. It was noted that it is difficult to carry out, stakeholders need to be consulted and at the time not all were in favour of the project.

Mr. Bourke advised that it can be difficult to gain funding from other sources such as NTA for projects which are viewed as localised issues, staff will always try to identify additional sources of funding.

Executive Engineer, Stephen Fox advised that he will follow up with members in relation to the five year tree replacement programme and how much is left from previous allocation.

In relation to the accessibility on Bray Seafront, Mr Bourke advised the members that there is never going to be anything that's fully permanent down the beach and there are no viable measures that can be taken. He noted that the boardwalk repairs should last another seven years once repaired. Alternative solutions would be welcomed.

District Manager, Lorraine Gallagher advised the members that these are just proposals and some examples but it is the members decision as it is their discretionary fund and a reserved function of the elected members.

The Cathaoirleach Cllr. O'Brien asked members to consider which projects they would like prioritised in 2025 and the Discretionary Projects would be included on the agenda for decision at the February meeting. The Cathaoirleach outlined that this is an opportunity to create a flow of projects that will feed into other projects and develop a hierarchy of projects.

#### **Item 4. To consider District Engineer's report on Roads, Transport, Public Realm projects within the Bray Municipal District.**

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

- It was noted to keep in mind the presentation received from Bray Residence Alliance and that it might be beneficial for the members to meet separately regarding this to discuss it in more detail.
- Members noted that there are different request from other residents around the town and in some areas residents want different traffic calming measures. An overall list of or management strategy could assist areas. It was recognised that it would not be possible to satisfy conflicting demands.
- Can a yellow box be installed at Seacrest estate?
- Members welcomed the installation of the bollards down the seafront.
- Members noted many issues with public lighting and wondered when these will be addressed.
- Is there any update on the pole removal in Kilmacanogue?
- It was noted there is an excessive amount of water coming down the Glenree Hill - is there any update on this issue?
- It was noted that an application had been submitted for Enniskerry Christmas Festival.
- Was the climate adaption application for Cookstown road done before the flooding or after?
- Has a brief been prepared regarding the landslide at Herbert Road?
- Members expressed disappointment regarding the update on the cliff walk. It doesn't seem like there is a rush to get issues resolved. – What is the timescale for the consultant work?
- In relation to the presentation from BRA – there needs to be a discussion regarding the issues of policing around the town.

- New bus service around Bray has been delayed until the New Year- can we write out to the Chief Executive of the NTA asking for a reason for this?
- Are there any plans for a pedestrian crossing at the Novara Road Main Street junction or at Springfield Cemetery as this would improve pedestrian safety?
- Members expressed their disappointment in regards to the Greenpark Road Traffic Calming.
- Are there any plans for Wolfe Tone Square in light of the survey results?
- Sets of traffic lights at the Vevay keep going out – is there a problem with these?
- Is there any update on the convent avenue to Loreto Crescent Permeability?
- Is it possible to put a stop line at Ripley Hills to make people aware that it is a junction as people are coming too fast down this hill.
- Members noted that the bus shelter in Enniskerry was destroyed.

Executive Engineer, Stephen Fox advised members that a meeting was held with Irish Rail and both parties are cooperating together to try and resolve the issues at the Cliff Walk. They are presently preparing a brief with a view to having it tendered before Christmas and it is hoped to appoint a contractor at the start of February.

Mr Bourke advised members that the installation of a yellow box at Seacrest would all be down to the road maintenance funding available at the time.

Mr Bourke advised that the new contractor for public lighting is dealing with staffing issues and they are trying to resolve the issues as best they can. Issues with public lighting are dealt with by the Roads and Transportation section. In relation to the issue at the Lower Dargle Road he advised that he is awaiting a contractor to install double yellow lines.

Mr Bourke advised that he will chase up with Eircom regarding the removal of the pole at Kilmacanogue.

The climate adaption application was put in before the flooding at Cookstown Road. The current issue needs to be addressed with the property owner.

Mr Bourke advised that he wasn't aware about the bus shelter and will look into this.

In relation to Convent Avenue permeability, Mr Bourke advised that he will chase this up with the owners.

Mr Bourke advised that the traffic signals at the Boghall Vevay junction were going off due to an old controller, however this has been replaced and it should be working fine now. It was also noted that the controller at the Putland Vevay junction is old too however he is not aware that it is as bad as the Boghall Vevay one. Mr Bourke noted that this would be a lot more costly to replace and that it would be dependent on how often they are out.

Mr Bourke advised that he will follow up with his colleague in relation to the landslide at Herbert Road. Mr Bourke informed members that he understood that the delay in rolling out the proposed new bus service was as a result of issues in Dublin.

Residents at Greenpark road had a negative response to the traffic calming measures as they didn't want their parking affected. Mr Bourke advised that he will engage further with residents on this matter.

Mr Bourke advised that he will look further into the results at Wolfe Tone Square and get back to the members on this.

In relation to the pedestrian crossing at Novara Road, Mr Bourke advised that for the most effective and efficient way there would be no turning left from the Main Street.

Mr Bourke advised that he is aware of the issue at Ripley Hills and a stop line can be looked into as it is a regular occurrence at this location.

The Cathaoirleach asked members if they would like to form a sub committee to examine the traffic issues highlighted by the Alliance of Bray Residents to develop a comprehensive plan.

#### **Item 5. To consider the Housing Report**

Housing officer, Brian Wildes gave the members brief updates on the housing report. He advised the members that Bray Municipal District now have a 1.8% vacancy rate which is one percent under the national average.

Mr. Wildes noted that the housing team are continuing to engage with tenants who are in arrears and advised any tenants that are in arrears to make an appointment with the housing department to sort out a payment plan. If tenants who are in arrears don't engage with housing, the housing department will be going down the legal routes.

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

- Members thanked the housing department and said that a 1.8% vacancy rate is incredible.
- Members also acknowledged the rising number of allocations and noted that it is making a huge difference to people's lives.
- While the motion to dispose of the site at Kilbride Lodge was passed, it was made clear that until the paperwork is done its still under WCC ownership. As there is constant illegal dumping here which is causing rats and could immediate action be taken to rectify these issues?
- Can we write to the Minister for Housing showing our support for Ark Housing?
- Members welcomed hands on approach to Rehills Land and also noted the agreement for a mix of affordable housing and social housing.
- Members expressed their frustration regarding the lack of confirmation around the out of hour's service for the homeless. This has been brought up in Bray and Wicklow and there is still no answer.
- Members queried if the figures for last year's vacancy rate were available at Municipal District level?
- It was proposed that the members send a letter to the Director of Housing for confirmation regarding the out of hour's service.

Mr. Wildes reassured the members that the area at Kilbride Lodge was treated for rodents and the illegal dumping will be addressed should the budget allow for this.

**Item 6. Notice of Motions:**

There was no notice of motions.

**Item 7. Correspondence**

District Administrator Garvan Hickey advised the members that East Coast Samaritans have got in touch asking if we could illuminate our buildings/signage in green on Saturday 21st December as part of their 2024 Longest Night campaign. Mr. Hickey looked for approval from elected members to shine a green light on the civic offices on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December to mark Winter Solstice and the work of the Samaritans.

The elected members agreed to this request.

Mr Hickey informed the members that the National Learning Network has reached out to inform members that they are having their annual Christmas Fair on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024 supporting their chosen charity, which this year is Jigsaw Youth Mental Health Services.

**Item 8. To consider and discuss the Bray Municipal District January meeting date.**

Due to the January meeting date being quite close after Christmas period, the elected members decided to postpone the meeting until the 14<sup>th</sup> of January.


This was proposed by Councillor Joe Behan and seconded by Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy.

**Item 9 Any Other Business.**

Councillor Joe Behan raised an issue regarding Bray Town Centre shopping centre, he queried what the plans for the cinema are and that there is still empty shops here which doesn't look good for Bray Town. Are there any plans that have been established?

District Manager, Lorraine Gallagher advised the elected members that the site has been transferred over but she will take the comments on board and come back to the elected members on this.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed:   
Cllr. Dermot O'Brien  
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:   
Garvan Hickey  
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated: 14/01/2025