



Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 6.30 p.m.

**Present:**

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

**Also in Attendance:**

- Ms. Lorraine Gallagher, District Manager.**
- Mr. Garvan Hickey, District Administrator.**
- Mr. Brian Wildes, Administrative Officer, Housing,**
- Mr. Stephen Fox, A/District Engineer.**

Votes of sympathies were passed to the families of recently deceased James (Jim) Molloy, Andy Brennan and Graham Blanchfield, who were all well known in the town.

The Elected Members held a minute silence to pay tribute to James, Andy and Graham.

**Item 1. To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray dated 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

Councillor Ian Neary proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Councillor Caroline Winstanley seconded the proposal and they were unanimously agreed by the members.

## **Item 2. To discuss and consider Discretionary Projects 2025.**

The Cathaoirleach Councillor Dermot O'Brien outlined the projects that were to be considered for Discretionary funding for 2025. The Cathaoirleach outlined the seventeen projects which were under consideration and members spoke to each project. It was noted that the indicative costs of the projects was €417,000 with one project left to be costed while the budget was €314,200.

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

- Members thanked the Cathaoirleach for his inclusive approach and ensuring that all members were involved in the process.
- Members noted that in 2024 the list of projects adopted exceeded the budget available and some of these projects that did not commence should be brought forward into 2025 as they were worthwhile projects.
- It was noted that a path for alternative sources of funding for some of the projects should be sought.
- There was a discussion on Naylor's Cove and the motion which was discussed at the January meeting. It was queried if some funding could be allocated for a feasibility study on the potential of the cove. It was noted that Naylor's Cove is part of the SAO Committees area and should receive appropriate protection.
- Members pointed out that a real conversation needed to be had about the projects as the budget was not sufficient for all the projects and hard decisions on the projects would have to be made.
- Members noted that grass cutting is carried out in some areas in the Municipal District and not in other areas.
- Members queried if the accessibility works on the footpaths could be taken from the footpath allocation which was agreed at plenary council recently.
- Members noted that it seemed to be easier to get funding for new footpaths rather than repairs which is required in Bray Municipal District.
- Members noted the work done by Ballywaltrim Users Committee and that the dressing rooms were council owned and should be invested in.

There was a discussion on the development of the Victorian Shelters at the seafront and it was noted that it was important that any development of the shelters should be aesthetically pleasing. It was noted that a number of the existing elements are beyond salvage which will add to the cost. Consultant to be asked to do up detailed design and it will then go to procurement. Members noted that some elements of the shelter's had been replaced over the years

The Elected Members discussed the proposed discretionary projects for 2025 and decided to take time to consider them in more and come back with their decisions and observations at the March meeting. The Cathaoirleach invited members to meet outside of the monthly meeting to discuss and workshop the discretionary projects. This was proposed by Councillor Winstanley and seconded by Councillor Duddy.

### **Item 3. 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 made the following comments and observations:

- Members proposed that Mr Wildes to write to the Director of Services requesting further information regarding the plans for Rehills Land.
- Members noted the important of having affordable and social housing units in these plans.
- Acknowledgements were paid to Mr. Wildes and the housing team for their empathic approach for people dealing with difficult housing circumstances.

Mr Wildes advised the members that he will write to the Director regarding same.

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

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

The Elected members made the following comments and observations:

- Concerns were raised regarding the traffic issues at Circle K Garage in Kilmacanogue. It was noted there is a huge traffic build up and it needs to be looked at again, as measures put in place are not resolving the situation.
- Members asked if signage could be installed before Red Lane, as google maps were directing traffic up the lane for Glendalough. It is not suitable for the traffic being directed up the lane.
- Members advised that there is still illegal parking taking place at the seafront plaza, despite the installation of bollards. Could the Gardai be asked to increase enforcement in this area especially in the evenings and at weekends.
- Members requested if the Pedestrian Crossing at Boghall Road (Avoca Drive) could be assessed as drivers don't seem to notice that it is there. Members queried if a raised platform could be installed at the location to deal with the issue.
- Concerns were raised regarding some of the locations of the new bus stops, including the location of the bus stop at the Putland Rd Meath Rd junction, it was noted that it was right outside a resident's property and they were struggling to get in and out when the bus was collecting or dropping off passengers.
- Another concern was raised regarding the bus stop terminating outside Raverty Villas. It was noted that the buses were piling up here causing obstruction.
- Were the council consulted about the new bus stop locations or informed of the proposed locations?
- Is there anything we can do at to get these bus locations moved?
- Tributes were paid to staff members for the work carried out during the storms.
- Members queried in respect of the trees at the Killarney road area and boundary of Ardmore studios as there is a difference of opinion if they are on private or public lands. Can clarity be got on who owns the land.

- Members noted the NTA had been presented with a petition asking for the 45a bus stop could terminate at the northbound side of Kilmacanogue. It makes it difficult for the elderly and people with mobility issues to get across the other side. Have we heard back from them and if not could we write to them again?
- There have been complaints regarding buses not stopping at the necessary bus stops leaving the public stuck. Can this also be included in the letter?
- Another issue raised concerned the bus stop at Quinsborough Road and its impact on visibility. Is this bus stop permanent or temporary
- Members asked if the Covid markings and social distancing signs on the promenade be cleared?
- Members noted that the external lights at Butler and Barry are being turned off and queried if there was any planning requirements to ensure they are kept on to a certain time?
- Reports of rubbish build up in the planters. Can a bin be installed here to alleviate this issue?
- The public toilets at the Seafront are being closed quite early. Is there a reason for this?
- Members noted the establishment of the Greystone Bray Cliff Walk Taskforce and queried if any elected members invited to the taskforce meeting?
- Can a pedestrian crossing be looked into at Ripley Hills to Fairy Hill as the new bus stop is resulting in pedestrians crossing the road in a dangerous manner.
- Members queried how the two committees for the Cliff Walk would work alongside each other and how the lines of communication will work?

The A/District Engineer, Stephen Fox advised the members that he will arrange a meeting with the Gardai to discuss the issue of the illegal parking at the Seafront Plaza.

Mr Fox will examine the installation of additional signage the possibilities for additional signage at the Red Lane. In relation to the trees at Ardmore Studios, Mr Dox advised that after searches on land direct it shows as though the trees in question are within the boundary of land owned by Ardmore Studios and they should be contacted directly regarding this issue. The issue of the trees is to be discussed with Ardmore Studios.

Mr Fox advised that he would check if the previous District Engineer was consulted in respect of the new bus stops or informed of the proposed locations for the new bus services.

Mr Fox advised that the bus stop on Quinsborough Road is temporary and awaiting the completion of the Dart Station works. Mr Fox noted that he will engage with the NTA regarding the bus stop termination outside Rafferty Villas.

He advised that he will look into the issue at the pedestrian crossing on the Boghall Road to see if anything can be done.

The closing times of the public toilets down the Seafront have been the same for a number of years. During the winter months the toilets are closed at 4pm from

Monday – Wednesday and 3:30pm from Thursday – Friday. There have been very few observations/complaints regarding these times.

In relation to the request for a bin down the Seafront, Mr Fox advised that the bins are expensive per unit. He advised that there are old bins in the depo and he will be able to ask the supplier to revamp them at a reduced cost.

Mr Fox will examine getting the Covid and social distancing markings on the seafront cleared and advised he will look into the planning file regarding the turning off of the lights at Butler and Barry.

District Manager, Lorraine Gallagher advised the members that the taskforce meeting is taking place in Government buildings on the 13<sup>th</sup> February and includes relevant parties including Wicklow County Council, Irish Rail, the National Parks & Wildlife Service, and Fáilte Ireland to try and tackle the cliff walk issues. Chief Executive, Emer Gorman will be attending this meeting on behalf of Wicklow County Council. Members expressed their frustration that no elected member had been invited to the taskforce meeting and enquired how the terms of reference for the taskforce would differ from the work being done by the Greystones/Bray Cliff Walk Management Plan committee which brings together the two Municipal Districts. It was recognised that the establishment of the taskforce was coming from a good place, a desire to have the walk reopened. Communication between the two committees will be important and there needs to be link back to the local area.

Ms Gallagher advised the members that she will take the members comments and observations and relay them to the Chief Executive.

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

There was no notice of motions.

#### **Item 6. Correspondence.**

District Administrator, Garvan Hickey advised the members of the following events:

- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm is Greystones Golf Club for the annual Wicklow Irish – German Society Fun Quiz.
- Annual General Meeting of the Irish German Society-All welcome on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in Bray Town Hall, H.E David Gill Ambassador is the special guest speaker.

Bray Municipal District has received a formal invite from Dublin California to join them with their St Patrick's Day celebrations. Members agreed that Councillor Winstanley and Councillor Flynn Kennedy would represent the members.

An application was received for a mural on Ballywaltrim Community Centre in line with Wicklow County Council Memorial Policy.

**Item 7. Any Other Business.**

The monthly meeting of Bray Municipal District for April precedes the plenary meeting of Wicklow County Council. Members agreed to leave the April meeting at the scheduled date.

**Signed:**

  
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**Cllr. Dermot O'Brien**  
**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**Signed:**

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**Garvan Hickey**  
**DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**

**Dated:**