



Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 1st April 2025 at 6.30 p.m.

Present:

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

Also in Attendance:

- Ms. Lorraine Gallagher, District Manager.**
- Mr. Garvan Hickey, District Administrator.**
- Mr. Stephen Fox, A/District Engineer.**

Apologies:

- Mr. Brian Wildes, Administrative Officer, Housing**

Votes of sympathy were passed to the families of recently deceased Owen Redden, Christopher Devlin, Seamus Reynolds and Elizabeth Blaire Smith-Bathgate.

Item 1. To note the retirement of former Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy

Cathaoirleach, Councillor O'Brien noted the retirement of Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy and summed up her time on the Council as one of commitment, connection and collaboration. The members acknowledged her contribution to the public (in particular in the area of housing), the town and her support to fellow councillors and they wished her well in the future. Cathaoirleach, Councillor O'Brien informed members he intends to have a presentation for Aoife and Anne Ferris in the near future to mark their contribution to Bray Municipal District. This was agreed by members.

District Manager Lorraine Gallagher joined with the members in wishing former Councillor Flynn Kennedy every good wish in the next chapter of her life and noted that she was a strong advocate and hard worker on behalf of her constituents.

Item 2. To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray dated 4th March 2025.

Councillor Erika Doyle proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held on the 4th March 2025.

Councillor Caroline Winstanley seconded the proposal and they were unanimously agreed by the members.

Item 3. To receive a presentation: Briefing on the publication of the Options Selection Report (Phase 2 of the TII Project Management Guidelines) that recommends the preferred option for the N11/M11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme. The preferred option will be developed further at Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) prior to the required Statutory Approvals at Phase 4

Mr. John Bowes, Senior Engineer outlined the background to the project and noted that it was being developed in partnership with Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, TII and Kildare Roads Office. A section 85 agreement is in place with Kildare County Council. Mr. Bowes outlined the priorities and objectives for the project including the provision of improved public transport, major upgrade to Junction 7, improvement to junctions along the N11, improvements to network capacity, address capacity issues in existing network and provide a network that cater for future demands as a result of increased population and growing expectations. Mr. Bowes then introduced Mr. Martin Allen from Arup Consulting who outlined the specifics and the details of the scheme. Arup Consulting are the technical consultants on the scheme. Reports are to be published on the 10th April on the project website. Mr. Allen outlined

- N11/M11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme, project overview and extent.
- Project consultation
- Project objectives and timeline.
- Phase 2 Option selection process.
- Phase 2 option selection
- Phase 2 revisit
- Outline of bus corridors
- Outline of project design and junction improvement works
- Outline of traffic flows – capacity and safety issues that were identified
- Recommendation of Preferred option.
- Publication of preferred option and next steps

The Elected Members made the following observations:

- Members noted that there were a lot of different interests in the project. Area not a blank canvass.
- Traffic congestion is a major issue currently in the town and is expected to grow with increasing population.
- Members enquired given the strength of feeling and opposition to the proposed closure of the Herbert Road, number of submission received what other options were explored.

- Members noted the impact a closure of the Herbert Road would have on people living in on the road and in nearby estates.
- Members noted that the closure of the Herbert Road would have an impact on the whole town and impact on access to the town centre.
- Members queried if the road coming out of Enniskerry is to be closed.
- It was outlined that this was devastating news for the people who made submissions in opposition to the closure of the Herbert Road.
- It was noted that this is a cheap skate option compared to the initial plan for the complete upgrade of the N11. The original plan was shelved following the government's decision not to fund the project and to prioritise public transport.
- Members queried about the dangers of using the hard shoulder for the bus corridor and the risk it was putting on people who had to pull in due to an emergency.
- Members were concerned that the submissions made by the people in Bray were effectively being ignored.
- Members queried if there were any bus stops along the bus priority corridor and how were junctions in the Dublin area being dealt with.
- It was queried what impact the bus corridor would have on the early Christian burial site, which is part of the Hiberno Norse history
- There is no consideration for the public turning on to the Herbert Road (only off it). Why can't traffic cross the bus lane (as they do at Foxrock/Galloping Green)
- Where will bus stops be positioned
- Why not leave the Herbert Road open and upgrade junction 7 for dual benefit
- Members queried what is the plan for the R117 (road coming from Enniskerry onto N11)
- Members raised concerns that the bus priority scheme is the priority and not the people of the town who will be impacted on by the proposed closure of the Herbert Road and increase in traffic along the Killarney Road.
- Members noted that Bray is a tourist town and the scheme needs to take this into account
- Members enquired if the scheme could be paused and funding should be sought from the Government for the reinstatement of the original upgrading of the N11.
- Members outlined their opposition to a proposed closure of the Herbert Road.
- It was noted that the project was complex in its entirety and there was a significant difference between where the members, the public are at and what is being envisaged. There is a feeling that we haven't been co-architects in the decision making and the project design.

Mr. Bowes outlined that the previous scheme may no longer be valid and be able to secure approval from the Department to apply for consideration for funding.

Mr. Allen noted that the submissions and petition have been taken into account and the project team are aware of the issues of concern. The majority of the submissions were in relation to the Herbert Road and this informed changes to the design of the project especially the upgrade of Junction 7. Alternatives were examined and their feasibility assessed especially in relation to access, impact on safety and traffic flows. There were concerns in relation to traffic queuing on the Southern Cross and the Killarney Road. The

project aims to be of modern design and meet mobility needs taking into account present and future population needs.

Mr. Allen outlined that access from Enniskerry not changing that drastically; a service road will be developed. It was noted that there are nineteen access points on a short stretch of the N11. In respect of junction seven what is being proposed is new merge/diverge options with a design to remove conflict points and redistribute traffic from the closed Herbert Road.

Vehicles in an emergency will still have access to the hard shoulder. Members queried the safety of this as it will be a bus lane. The position and number of bus stops have not yet been decided upon. In respect of the cemetery this has been noted and an archaeological specialist is part of the team, the church and the graveyard will be taken into consideration and examined in detail.

Mr. Allen noted that they were not proposing to reduce the speed limit on the route. The Herbert Road access with hair pin bends is a legacy issue and does not meet modern road standards. The scheme seeks to resolve legacy issues not resolving current issues would worsen the situation and make the bus priority scheme unworkable. Extensive modelling has been undertaken with 2042 projected populations taken into account in traffic flows. The submissions received have been taken into account and have resulted in the significant changes proposed for Junction seven. Currently traffic on Killarney road and surrounding area not functioning optimally and queues need to be addressed.

The elected members were not completely satisfied with the responses to their comments and that the modelling did not consider the movement of traffic in and around Bray. They felt the the proposal was a priority for buses and not people.

Cllr. Behan proposed the following motion and it was seconded by Cllr. Duddy.

“That Bray Municipal District request the Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council to pause the publication of the preferred route option due on the 10th April 2025 until she has written to the Tánaiste and Minister for Transport to request a reappraisal of the entire scheme and the implications of the closure of the Herbert Road Scheme on the Residents of Bray”.

This motion was agreed by the members of Bray Municipal District.

Item 3. To receive a presentation from Bray Community Addiction Team (BCAT), as agreed at the meeting of the 14th January 2025.

The Cathaoirleach advised members that Bray Community Addiction Team were unable to attend the meeting and asked if members were agreeable for the item to be deferred to the agenda for the May meeting. This was agreed by members.

Item 4. To receive a presentation from Slaintecare on Enhancing Amenities in Little Bray & Fassaroe

Ms. Kinsella, Slaintecare Healthy Ireland-Local Development Officer outlined the background and the rationale for the study on Enhancing Amenities in Little Bray and Fassaroe which was completed by S3 Solutions on behalf of the Social Development Directorate and was funded under the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme. The study reflects the widespread consultation process which was engaged and the feasibility study aims to support improved health and wellbeing outcomes through targeted actions that address social determinants of health. A summary of the main points contained in the reports was circulated to members and Iseult outlined the process engaged in the study and the key highlights including the following;

- The study proposes a multi-functional community centre integrated with a Health and Wellbeing Hub, focusing on trauma-informed, preventative, and inclusive supports.
- Recommendations include prioritising green space redevelopment, community safety projects, and targeted youth engagement.
- Case studies and best practice reviews have informed practical, scalable proposals.
- A collaborative implementation approach is encouraged, with shared leadership across Wicklow County Council, local service providers, and community stakeholders.

The Elected Members made the following observations:

- Members thanked Ms. Kinsella for the presentation.
- Members expressed concern that the issues facing single parents were not being dealt with comprehensively and single parents don't feel like they are being listened to. Lone parents need ongoing supports,
- Members asked for the full report to be circulated so they could study it.
- Members noted the importance of sports clubs in the area in developing community spirit, GAA, soccer and boxing are strong in the area.
- The focus on the social determinants of health was welcomed.
- It was noted that there are so many strengths in the area and a lot of work has been done in the area including development of child play area.
- It was also noted that the reports contains challenges for members and all working in the Fassaroe and Little Bray area.
- Study methodology could be a template for other areas.

Ms. Kinsella thanked the members for their observations and noted that the report was completely community driven and one of the tasks is the development of a centralised Bray Hub that meets the needs of the people in the Little Bray and Fassaroe area. The study wanted to get the voice of the community for the proposed actions. Study has been reviewed by the SPC and will be available shortly.

Item 5: To consider the Housing Report

The Cathaoirleach noted that apologies for the meeting had been received from the Housing Officer, the report had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting and was

taken as read. Questions and areas of concern could be raised directly with the Housing Officer by members.

Item 6. To consider District Engineer's report on Roads, Transport, Public Realm projects within the Bray Municipal District

The Cathaoirleach noted that the report was circulated to members in advance of the meeting and was taken as read and invited members to raise issues of concern.

The Elected Members made the following comments:

- The elected members raised concern in relation to the volume of large vehicles going up the hill from Kilmacanogue to the Roadstone quarry. Members expressed their concern about the size of the trucks and the speed at which they travelling.
- Members noted that as part of their planning permission Roadstone had to pay a development levy to have the road upgraded in the area to allow for the increased traffic. Due to the various types of vehicles using the road it needs to be kept in good condition.
- Members enquired if there was a condition in the planning permission on the number of trucks that could access the quarry.
- Members asked if there was a timeline for the removal of the bus terminus from Rafferty Villas to Cherrywood.
- The installation of the disabled space on Eglington Road was welcomed though it was noted that it needed to be completed.
- Members expressed concerns in respect of the changes to the Aircoach service from Bray and Greystones to Dublin Airport. Members noted that it will be brought up at full County Council level as it affects a number of Municipal Districts.
- Members asked if the soil in the planters in Connolly Square could be topped up to facilitate planting.
- Members enquired about proposed works in Thornbrook Estate.

District Engineer Mr. Fox informed members that he had been out to Kilmacanogue to inspect the issues in relation to the quarry and had also been in contact with the Gardai. Roadstone had made a payment of approximately €134,000 in Development Contributions to upgrade the road. There is no specific condition in the planning permission with respect to the number of vehicles only condition refers to the tonnage maximum.

Mr. Fox advised members that in relation to removal of the terminus from O'Rafferty Villas Dublin bus had advised that it would be a number of months. He will follow up with them for a more definite timeframe.

Mr. Fox noted that in respect of the disability parking bay on Eglington Road he had requested the contractor to come back and complete the works to national specifications.

In respect of Thornbrook Estate Cllr. Winstanley informed members that she had spoken to the developer of Thornbrook Estate and they told her they are engaging a tree surgeon to deal with the fallen trees. The road surface issues will be addressed in the next four weeks.

Item 7. To nominate members to Bray Municipal District Traffic and Transport Sub Committee.

The Cathaoirleach Cllr. O'Brien outlined the rationale for the establishment of the subcommittee and invited nominations to sit on it. It was noted that community groups are represented via elected members.

Cllr. Doyle expressed her interest in sitting on the committee and proposed herself and was seconded by Cllr. Behan.

Cllr. Duddy was proposed by Cllr. Behan and seconded by Cllr. Neary.

Cllr. O'Brien was proposed by Cllr. Behan and seconded by Cllr. Duddy

Cllr. Winstanley was proposed by Cllr. Behan and seconded by Cllr. Neary.

Item 8. Notice of Motions.

There was no notice of motions

Item 9. Correspondence.

There were two items of correspondence.

The District Administrator informed members that e mail correspondence had been received from the following from St. Killian's Community School and the Loreto Bray in respect to student exchanges with schools from Wurzburg.

The Cathaoirleach proposed that similar to last year the students would be invited to the Town Hall with the students from the Loreto visiting on this Friday 4th April and the students involved in the exchange with St. Killian's visiting the Town Hall on Friday 2nd May. This was agreed by members. It was also proposed that the District Administrator should e mail members to ensure all members were reminded of the visits.

Item 10: Any other Business

Cllr. Winstanley presented a report on the recent visit to Dublin California outlining the itinerary for the trip and the possibilities for increased partnerships. Cllr. Winstanley noted that she was impressed by the accessible recreational park "The Wave", the youth work being undertaken. Cllr. Winstanley informed members that she is consulting with Comhairle na nÓg about the possibility of joint projects with the youth council in Dublin California. Online meetings between the two groups is being discussed, also being considered is the possibility of sports scholarships for girls from Bray to visit Dublin California and attend their high school. Cllr. Winstanley outlined that it had been a very constructive visit and the delegates also gave a presentation on the economic and tourism developments in Bray.

Cllr. Duddy reported on the visit to Wurzburg, Germany on behalf of Wicklow County Council to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the bombing of city during World War two. Cllr. Duddy outlined that it was a very moving visit and the delegates were involved in a wreath


laying ceremony to remember all those that had died. Delegates also had the opportunity to attend a commemorative concert in St. Killian's Cathedral.

Cllr. Duddy expressed his thanks to the councillors and the officials for their expressions of condolences and support on the passing of his father.

District Manager, Ms. Gallagher updated members on the proposed installation of the padel courts at the Carlisle grounds. The erection of the padel courts had been granted planning permission recently, the proceeds from the padel courts is to be reinvested in the development and sustainability of the grounds. Members noted the growth in popularity of padel.

The Cathaoirleach Cllr. O'Brien proposed the presentation to the former Councillrs Anne Ferris and Aoife Flynn Kennedy should take place on Tuesday 13th May at 6 p.m. if they were available to attend. This was agreed by members.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed: 
Cllr. Dermot O'Brien
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: 
Garvan Hickey
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated: 13 / 05 / 2025