



Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 6.30 p.m.

**Present:**

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

**Also in Attendance:**

- Ms. Helen Purcell, District Manager.**
- Mr. Stephen Fox, A/District Engineer.**
- Mr. Garvan Hickey, District Administrator.**
- Mr. Brian Wildes, Administrative Officer, Housing**
- Mr Simon O'Carroll, Minute Taker.**

Votes of Sympathy were passed for Mary Dickers, Mark O'Connor, Fredrick Forsyth, Dr. Bill O'Connell and Dylan Leonard.

Members paid condolences to their families, friends and loved ones. The elected members held a minutes silence to pay their tributes.

**Item 1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray dated 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

Councillor Dermot O'Brien proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025. Councillor Caroline Winstanley seconded the proposal and they were unanimously agreed by the members.

**Item 2. To Adopt the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2025 in accordance with Section 103A of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.**

The schedule of Municipal District Works 2025 was circulated to members in advance of the meeting and taken as read.

District Administrator, Garvan Hickey outlined the broad strokes of the schedule and put it to the councillors for discussion. Mr. Hickey informed members that under Section 103A of the Local Government Act 2001, a schedule of proposed works to be carried out during the financial year in each municipal district shall be prepared having regard to funding provided in the local authority revenue budget. The Schedule of Municipal District Works shall be considered by the municipal district members and adopted by resolution.

The Elected Members made the following observations:

- Members queried whether the work load was feasible considering the current staffing issues? Members were concerned that there was a mismatch between staffing and the delivery of projects.
- Does the current quota of staff need to be reviewed as Bray Municipal District is the largest District and there are currently only two engineers with one engineer being transferred to Wicklow.
- Members noted that there had been a lot of institutional knowledge lost over the last few years with turnover of staff.
- Can a number be provided as to how many outdoor staff there are in BMD?
- Is there work that is still outstanding from previous schedules, can updates be provided?
- The "Bagatelle" commemorative bench was still outstanding for a prolonged period of time- can this be prioritised?
- Councillors highlighted that there needs to be a greater awareness of staffing issues and who ultimately is going to undergo the work laid out in the schedule.
- Members agreed that recruitment is a crisis area that needs to be addressed; they questioned what the future recruitment plan was for Local Authorities and how the Government were going to address it on a national level?

Cllr. Erika Doyle suggested drafting a letter to the Chief Executive to highlight these staffing concerns and the effects this has on proposed projects.

Cllr. Joe Behan proposed this suggestion; it was seconded by Cllr. Melanie Corrigan and unanimously agreed upon by all members.

District Administrator, Garvan Hickey advised the members that he will provide them with the number of outdoor staff in Bray Municipal District in July. Mr. Hickey advised members that some projects which were not completed in 2024 were brought into 2025 to be completed.

Mr Hickey advised that the Bagatelle bench had been delivered and it is hoped to be installed within the next month.

A/District Manager, Helen Purcell briefly addressed the recruitment issues. She said that the council is constantly interviewing engineers. The relative low salary scale was sighted as the main reason why there was a difficulty in filling engineering posts. Ms. Purcell informed members that she would discuss the staffing issues raised by members with the Chief Executive.

Cllr. Joe Behan proposed the adoption of the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2025 and Cllr. Melanie Corrigan seconded it.

### **Item 3. To consider the Housing Report**

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

Housing Officer, Brian Wildes advised the Elected Members that the number of vacant units is down to twenty, eleven of these are ready for allocation and eight of these are under offer to be signed up in the next weeks if accepted. Mr. Wildes also advised that five of these are being re-let or are in the process for tendering for re-let works and the remaining four involve legal cases.

Mr. Wildes informed members that there were unforeseen complications with the ground works at the Carigoona development and that unfortunately the project was reduced to eleven units, down from the thirteen initially planned. He highlighted that the new development at the Old Bray Head Hotel site would garner three further social housing units.

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

- It was unanimously agreed that the impressive increase in social housing units and decrease of vacant properties was down to Mr. Wildes in conjunction with Mr. Aidan Shannon and the rest of the housing staff.
- Members questioned the meaning of the phrases “under review” and “possibility of transfer” in the housing report.
- Members questioned if we were pivoting on legal issues in relation to Kilbride Lodge and Sutton Villas.
- Members asked Mr Wildes what the correct course of action was when an elected member was approached by a tenant of a housing body with a housing issue.
- Members questioned how they might address a complaint of such tenants.
- Members agreed that the housing bodies were sometimes difficult to engage with.

Mr Wildes advised that he would revert back to the members on the exact meanings of “under review” and “possibility of transfer”.

Mr Wildes advised that the Housing Bodies fall under his remit and any concerns or questions regarding same should be directed to him.

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

The District Engineers 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 noted that the crossroads in Enniskerry needed to be remarked and enquired if there was there any update on a timeline for same?
- Members expressed concerns about the speeding issues and the number of accidents occurring at the Old Long Hill – could this be investigated?
- It was noted that there was an oil spill recently on the Old Long Hill which contributed to a number of incidents on the day.
- Members asked if the parking bye-laws be updated as it has been a long time since they were last updated.
- Members stressed that parking issues are a growing area of contention amongst the public, with some cars being left in areas the whole day and no turn over.
- Councillors discussed at length the issue of the proposed closure of the Herbert Rd and reiterated the importance of the road remaining open.
- Councillors requested that the 'Stop the Closure of the Herbert Road' Group give a presentation at the next council meeting.
- Members questioned whether the flexible pavement is permanent or will this be a temporary solution?
- Members queried if there were any updates in relation to the landslide at the back of the Maltings. Members noted that a consultant was to be appointed to examine the area and produce a report.
- Members raised the issues with public lighting, in particular the Glenlucan estate on the Killarney Rd.
- Members questioned whether the discretionary funds project had been allocated project leaders and if there a report could be done for the next meeting which gives a progress report on any relevant projects and who is assigned to oversee each project.
- Members raised the issue of faded road markings around the town in particular the yellow boxes along the Dublin Rd and the entrance to Palermo. Could these be remarked?
- Members asked for an update on The Ballywaltrim Master Plan Project and when this will be at the next stage.

District Administrator Mr. Hickey advised members that the Standing Orders for Bray Municipal District Section 44; the municipal district members may by resolution decide to receive a deputation. Subject to the direction of the Chair, three persons may speak on behalf of the deputation for not more than 15 minutes, unless permitted by the Chair. Mr. Hickey also advised that three of the members needed to support the motion.

Cllr. Joe Behan proposed to invite the 'Stop the Closure of the Herbert Road' group to make a presentation at the next meeting; this was seconded by the Cathaoirleach Cllr. Erika Doyle and Cllr Malachai Duddy. The resolution was agreed unanimously

by members. Members outlined that they would welcome the opportunity to hear directly the voices of the people that would be most affected by this road closure.

District Engineer, Mr Fox advised that in relation to the landslide at the Maltings, his colleague was in contact with IPB insurance in respect of potentially liabilities and report would be prepared. Members noted that the request for a consultant to be employed to examine the area and report back on what works should be undertaken and this was agreed to by previous Chief Executive. Bray Municipal District not to carry out the works as the area is privately owned. A/District Manager, Helen Purcell also added that as her predecessor was involved in any correspondence relating to the Landslide at Herbert Rd/The Maltings, she would need time to review those files and discuss this with the Chief Executive. She will revert back to the members once she has an update.

Mr Fox advised that the parking bye laws and schedules being updated is being examined and noted that they will have to be updated for the four Municipal Districts at the same time.

Mr Fox noted that road markings on the crossroads in Enniskerry are currently scheduled to be repainted at the end of Phase 2 works.

The yellow boxes on the Dublin Rd and the entrance to Palermo will be added to a larger list of road markings renewals and they will be addressed once resources become available. He advised that he will get in contact with the public lighting section in regards to the outages at Glen Lucan estate.

In respect of Ballywaltrim Master Plan District Engineer, Mr Fox informed members that an environmental consultant had been employed to compile environmental assessment reports on the proposed development of the astro pitch facility.

He requested more information on the issues on the Old Long Hill and invited members to contact him directly with any information regarding same.

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

There was no notice of motions.

#### **Item 6: Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

**Item 7. Any other business**

District Administrator, Garvan Hickey, advised the members that there is group of community representatives from Dundee visiting Bray and touring the county this week. Bray Municipal District will be hosting them in the Town Hall this Thursday morning at 10.00 a.m. for a meet and greet and invited all members. He noted that this was not an official visit but would be great to see the members attend. The group is led by George Laidlow and the community representatives are also involved in the twinning between Dundee and Wurzburg.


Cllr. Dermot O'Brien requested that confirmation be given in writing by the Chief Fire Officer to confirm that the Fire Services are not required to be on the Seafront during the Bray Air Display 2025

Cllr. Ian Neary advised the members that St Mary's boxing club in Enniskerry is in need of new premises and that if anyone was aware of any viable options please contact the club. Members pointed out that it would be a great bonus for the community if the council could help provide an adequate facility.

The recently renovated Bray Boxing Club was mentioned, but it was pointed out that there would be due process in deciding on the purpose for that premises. Call for expressions of interest to be advertised in June.

The Elected Members held a general discussion regarding the cohesion of the council and reiterated the importance of working together for the people of Bray Municipal District.

Signed:   
Cllr. Erika Doyle  
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:   
Garvan Hickey  
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025