



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

Present:

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

Also in Attendance:

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

Cathaoirleach Erika Doyle opened the meeting by welcoming the large group of supporters from the Herbert Road Action group.

District Administrator Garvan Hickey read through the standing orders for the meeting. He re-iterated that there would be no interruptions or recordings. He then read the section of the standing orders pertaining to deputations.

Votes of Sympathy were passed for Helen Long.

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 10th June 2025

Cllr. Ned Whelan proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held on the 10th June 2025. Cllr. Caroline Winstanley seconded the proposal and they were unanimously agreed by the members.

Item 2. Confirmation of Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray dated 10th June 2025

Cllr. Dermot O'Brien proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held on the 10th June 2025. Cllr. Ian Neary seconded the proposal and they were unanimously agreed by the members.

Item 3. To receive a deputation from the Herbert Road Action Group, Claire Rehill Finnegan, Gordon Lennox, Donal Egan

Cathaoirleach Erika Doyle again welcomed those from the Herbert Road Action group. She commended them on their work to date and the manner in which they conduct their business. Cathaoirleach Doyle stated that she was in full support of the movement and would provide any assistance she could while also conceding that the power of these members was limited in this particular instance. She reiterated that she provided full accessibility to the public should anyone have anything they wished to consult her on.

Donal Egan was the first speaker from the Herbert Road Action Group.

As a Bray native and business owner he spoke about the disastrous impact the Herbert Road closure would cause the town overall. He stated that;

- The knock on effect on local businesses like his would be detrimental to Bray and the surrounding areas.
- Businesses may be forced to close if the road closure proceeds
- Traffic would be exponentially worsened
- Tourism would be reduced with less access to the town
- The group feels that the voice of the people is being disregarded.
- There is no transparency in the plans, information is not readily available.

Mr. Egan pleaded that the voice of the people must be listened to and that the road must remain open.

Claire Rehill Finnegan then spoke. She told of how she helped to start the Herbert Road Action Group. She outlined how much the group has grown since then as well as all the work, protests and information sharing they have undertaken.

She said;

- Accurate information was lacking
- The plan had been devised by "foreign" engineers that didn't understand the needs of the people of Bray
- Other options were being dismissed out of hand

- Was it not possible to have a bus lane and still keep the road open as can be seen at other junctions on the same road?
- There was a lack of democracy in this process
- The 2023 works carried out on the Herbert Rd would be a complete waste of money
- The temporary closure of the Herbert Rd during those works showed us the disastrous effect this would have
- Emergency services would be badly effected
- The plan for phase 3 is uncertain
- A traffic management plan needs to be presented

Ms. Rehill Finnegan reiterated that concrete information is needed so that people can see exactly what is planned and that other options are badly needed. She eagerly awaits the outcome of a meeting scheduled for next week between the four local TD's and the minister of Transport. The group plans a protest at Leinster House should the outcome not be satisfactory.

Gordon Lennox then spoke of his personal history and the history in general of the Kilbride Church.

He said;

- The church was a pillar of the community
- Not feasible for it to lose more ground to the building of a road
- Access is already extremely limited
- It is consecrated ground
- It is a protected structure
- He implored the gathering to seek a fresh look at the plans with the relevant bodies to explore other options to save the church
- There is ample land on the far side of the road that could facilitate widening

The Elected Members made the following comments and observations:

- Thanked the speakers and the attendees and commended them and the whole group for all the work that had gone into movement to date
- Members pledged to do whatever was in their power to aid the group
- Thanked the group for the respectful manner in which they conducted themselves throughout their campaign
- All of the members echoed the sentiment of the group and the road closure was unanimously and vehemently opposed by the members
- The traffic plan is on the agenda for the September meeting
- It was suggested that a previous plan for the bus corridor ,that wouldn't include the road closure was scrapped due to finances, be re-introduced as an option
- It was agreed that democracy itself was being called in to question in this case
- The members called for more transparency and reiterated the need for an official channel for the receipt of information

Cathaoirleach Erika Doyle proposed that the members write a letter to the Chief Executive in support of the Herbert Road Action Group and press the gravity of the situation.

This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Dermot O'Brien

Item 4. To consider the Housing Report (Report to follow).

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 up to twenty three, nine of these are ready for allocation and two of these have been accepted, seven are under offer to be signed up in the next weeks if accepted. Mr. Wildes also advised that there have been fifty one allocations in the year to date.

The development planned for the Parnell Rd was unfortunately refused.

The development at Lauderdale is still in the process of the transfer of land to Wicklow County Council.

Carigoona is developing well and Wicklow County Council should garner 2 allocations from it by the end of the year

Mr. Wildes then invited any questions or comments from the members.

The Elected Members made the following comments and observations:

- They were shocked that the plan for Parnell Rd had been refused
- Should that development be acquired by Wicklow County Council, it was suggested by the members that it be zoned as a senior citizen site due to it's proximity to the town and ease of access.
- Members questioned whether the staffing situation in the law or housing sections was delaying Wicklow County Council when dealing with land acquisitions and purchases. Could the current staffing levels be reviewed?
- Clarification was sought on the plans for the site at the old FCA grounds on the Church Rd.

District Administrator Garvan Hickey reminded members that a presentation was delivered at a previous meeting and that a copy of same along with the minutes of that meeting would be circulated to the members for review.

Item 5. To consider District Engineer's report on Roads, Transport, Public Realm projects within the Bray Municipal District. (Report to follow).

The District Engineer's report on Roads, Transport, Public Realm projects within the Bray Municipal District was circulated to members in advance of the meeting and was taken as read.

District Engineer Stephen Fox thanked Cllr Caroline Winstanley for her assistance in securing a member of a representative from the NTA to sit on the Transport & Travel subcommittee. Mr Fox then gave an update regarding the road surface on the Old Long Hill. Mr. Fox is aware of the number of accidents and near misses occurring on that stretch of road. He informed the members that both he and a senior engineer from Wicklow County Council have inspected the road in question. It was determined that the road has "poor micro texture" and that it has essentially been polished smooth by the traffic. There is a meeting scheduled for next week to determine what course of action should be taken to address the issue.

Mr. Fox then invited any questions or comments from the members.

The Elected Members made the following comments and observations:

- Members thanked Mr. Fox for his update on the Old Long Hill and it was mutually agreed that it was a matter of urgency.
- It was suggested that the ongoing issues on the Southern Cross Rd. need a full review and proper consideration, issues include
 - Traffic light malfunctions
 - Poor line of sight for entering traffic
 - Turning lane widths
- Members sought an update on the delivery of the Ballywaltrim Master Plan
- Members asked if the new eBike scheme would provide the same data analysis as their predecessor and if that data would be made available
- Members acknowledged that it was positive to see the breakdown of the discretionary fund and the transparency in where it was being implemented, positive to see real progress
- Members again queried if the Fire Service would have a presence at the Air Show this year.
- Signage was sought to discourage speeding and be aware of children at play at and around the new nursing home development at Kilmurray
- The members highlighted ongoing issues with public lighting in particular regarding the Glenlucan estate
- Members asked about the schedule for having the intersections in Enniskerry village re lined after the works, they also requested that a review be carried out to assess if more signage is needed to encourage speed reduction on the approaches to the village
- Members inquired if the Pollinator Plan to allow parts of some green areas to become overgrown to encourage insect habitat could be reviewed.
- Members asked if the Disability Group D.I.S.C could erect posters around the town as part of their impact of dog fouling on wheelchair users initiative
- The members asked again for an update on what is happening with the cliff walk, clarity and transparency are needed

- The members thanked Helen Purcell A/District Manager for her role in seeking a consultant's report in relation to the potential landslide on the Herbert Rd (The Maltings)
- Members asked if the EV charging bay on the Quinsborough Rd could be reviewed and altered as necessary to accommodate space for two electric vehicles to charge there simultaneously
- Councillors suggested that while the schools are off that any works related to the increasing of safety at the drop off zones be done, in particular outside St. Patrick's school.

District Engineer Stephen Fox responded with

- The Southern Cross Rd traffic light issue was a malfunctioning button and took 2 callouts for it to be resolved
- He will check with WCC regarding how data for the eBikes will be gathered and distributed
- The need for signage around Kilmurray will be assessed
- The line marking in Enniskerry village will be installed as soon as possible after the completion of the works
- Mr. Fox state that he had contacted a colleague regarding the public lighting at Glenlucan, he said that their crew finish each section fully before moving on the next area. He will follow up with that colleague for an update.
- He said he will review the Pollinator Plan, but did advise that the reason for leaving a patch in the middle of green areas rather than the border was to discourage dumping and similar anti-social behaviour
- He advised that there would be no issue with the erection of posters for the anti-dog fouling campaign, he requested a meeting be arranged to decide exact locations.
- Mr. Fox informed the members that there was no update available on the Ballywaltrim Master plan. He needed to assign a new point person to run the project and assess available staff to carry out the work and then he could then provide a realistic update
- Mr. Fox explained that he would need more specifics when dealing with the measures needed at the entrances to schools

Item 6. Notice of Motions:

There were none

Item 7. Correspondence

There was none

Item 8. Any Other Business.

The councillors expressed their thanks to District Administrator Garvan Hickey for overseeing the installation of the bench to commemorate two members of the band Bagatelle.

Members proposed that an event to recognise the installation of the bench be arranged.

Councillors expressed concern that Gaelscoil Uí Chéadaigh was due to have a teacher removed from their staff for the arbitrary reason that the school's pupil numbers had failed to meet the quota by only one.

Cathaoirleach Erika Doyle proposed that the Councillors compose a letter to the Minister for Education, all members unanimously agreed.

Members recognised the sporting achievements of Billy Corrigan and Hannah Scanlon and wished them every success in the future

Cathaoirleach Erika Doyle thanked A/District Manager for her service and help, she acknowledged the great work she had done in the role in a relatively short time. All of the councillors echoed the sentiment.

Helen Purcell thanked the members for their kind words, she said it was a pleasure and she would still be working hard at it until the 02/09/2025 which is when Jackie Farrell will take over.

That concluded the July meeting

Signed:



**Cllr. Erika Doyle
CATHAOIRLEACH**

Signed:



**Brian Wildes
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**

Dated:

5/09/25