



Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 6.30 p.m.

**Present:**

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

**Also in Attendance:**

**Ms. Jackie Carroll, District Manager.  
Mr. Brian Wildes, District Administrator.  
Mr. Stephen Fox, A/District Engineer.  
Mr. Merlin Ovington, Administrative Officer,  
Housing  
Mr. Brian Gleeson, Director of Finance/Deputy Chief  
Executive  
Mr. Simon O'Carroll, Minute Taker**

## **1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 7 October 2025**

Cllr. Caroline Winstanley proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held on 7 October 2025. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Melanie Corrigan and unanimously agreed by the members.

## **2. Draft Budgetary Plan for Bray MD – Year Ending 2026**

Mr. Brian Gleeson provided an overview of the Budget Spreadsheet previously circulated to members.

He reported that following the July Local Property Tax (LPT) meeting, the LPT rate was retained at +6%. Due to the increase in property values, the discretionary fund has increased by €37,000 for the current year.

All other budget headings remain unchanged, resulting in a total discretionary fund of **€490,368**.

Mr. Gleeson noted:

- Applications to reallocate funding between existing projects may be considered, provided the overall discretionary budget total remains unchanged.
- All proposed reallocations must be submitted in accordance with Council procedures.

### **Members' Questions & Comments:**

- Members expressed disappointment at the level of local control over the discretionary fund.
- Cllr. Behan queried the use of housing maintenance funds for 2025 and why additional funding had not been allocated, noting concerns about Department of Housing policy in the context of a national housing emergency.
- What is the current balance in the Capital Levies fund?
- Why is Capital Levies funding not being directed toward housing or other community amenities?
- Is there a comprehensive list of projects to be funded from the Capital Levies fund, and how many relate specifically to Bray MD?
- Do roads projects include active travel initiatives?

### **Responses from Mr. Gleeson:**

- Successful delivery of projects is dependent not only on funding but also on adequate resources and consideration of external impacts such as traffic disruption and residents' quality of life.
- Viable and worthwhile projects brought forward will be reviewed and funded as appropriate.

- Roads projects do include active travel and cycleway elements.
- €1.3 million has been allocated to rural roads countywide to upgrade cyclist facilities.
- Copies of the 3-Year Capital Programme will be circulated.

### 3. Christmas 2025 Parking Arrangements

It was proposed that free weekend parking be offered in the Wicklow County Council section of the Herbert Road car park from **22 November to 28 December 2025**.

Mr. Brian Wildes suggested extending the free parking period to **4 January 2026** to further support economic activity in the town.

The proposal was made by Cllr. Caroline Winstanley and seconded by Cllr. Ned Whelan. It was welcomed by members, who acknowledged the ongoing need to support local businesses.

Members also requested that signage be erected to clearly outline the parameters of any grace period associated with parking time limits.

### 4. Housing Report

Mr. Merlin Ovington provided updates to the circulated Housing Report. It was confirmed that the Rockbrae development will be numbered **1–53 Rockbrae**, with no duplicated numbers and this was welcomed by the members.

#### **Members' Questions & Comments:**

- Omission of Rehills lands from the report was queried.
- Members expressed hope that vacant units delayed this year due to budgetary constraints would commence refurbishment in early January.
- A presentation on the proposed Parnell Road development will be delivered at the next meeting. Members reiterated that the commitment to designate the units for older persons must be maintained.
- Concerns were raised regarding reports that individuals from outside Oldcourt deposited materials there for burning.
- Members acknowledged that although the situation is not the Council's fault, responsibility falls to the local authority and regretted the remaining debris at the site.
- Reports of leaks in Kilbride Court, a relatively new development, were noted.
- Concern was expressed about the lack of progress on the Kilbride Lodge project since 2021, and members queried whether there are expiry dates relating to the Part 8 process.
- The difficulty and time-intensive nature of the Part 8 process was noted, heightening disappointment at the lack of progress.

- Residents of Lauderdale wish to be fully informed and consulted regarding the proposed development there.

### **Responses:**

District Manager Jackie Carroll confirmed she will seek clarification from the Director of Housing Capitals regarding the status of the Rehills project.

Mr. Ovington outlined the extensive multi-agency approach taken to discourage bonfire activity, including:

- A strong social media campaign.
- Coordination with An Garda Síochána, the Fire Service, and the Housing Section.
- Engagement with industrial estates on the Southern Cross Road to limit access to pallets and other materials.

Contractors are on standby to commence clean-up works. Due to recent poor weather, heavy machinery could not be deployed without risking further damage to the sodden green area. As much material as possible was removed prior to Halloween, but conditions later became unsafe for further collection.

### **5. District Engineer's Report – Roads, Transport & Public Realm**

Cathaoirleach Erika Doyle informed members that the Transport Committee will meet on **Tuesday, 11 November 2025**, and further details will be circulated.

### **Members' Questions & Comments on the Monthly Report:**

- Clarification was sought on the proposed works to the open space at Killarney Heights.
- Details were requested on ongoing works on Killarney Road near the Nurseries estate.
- Members requested clearance of gullies on Lower Dargle Road and Ardmore Park to prevent standing water.
- Councillors welcomed reports on the potential addition of a full-time fire service for Bray and requested clarification.
- Members highlighted recent vigils held by families affected by fires, reiterating the need for an adequate fire service.
- Concerns were raised about whether staff shortages—particularly engineers—were contributing to project delays.
- More information was sought on the status of the Ballywaltrim Master Plan, which members feel has stalled.
- Members requested the reinstatement of monthly discretionary fund updates.
- Councillors stressed the importance of timely reinstatement of road markings following roadworks.

- Clarification was sought on whether installation of playground equipment in Enniskerry remains on schedule for **17 November**.
- Outstanding road markings in the Enniskerry area were noted.
- Members raised concerns regarding the longstanding leak on Killarney Road and whether it could be addressed while other works are underway.
- Fallen leaves and associated safety concerns were widely reported.

#### **Responses from Mr. Stephen Fox:**

##### **Killarney Heights Open Space Works:**

- Tarmacadam resurfacing is scheduled for completion by year-end.
- Basketball court equipment has been ordered.
- Court painting will occur in Q1 2026 due to weather requirements.
- Should funding permit, further enhancements may include railings and soccer goals.

##### **Nurseries to Rathclaren Works:**

- Works are being carried out by GMC on behalf of Irish Water.
- Resurfacing will follow once Irish Water completes its works.

##### **Rathclaren Leak:**

- The persistent leak is believed to be caused by groundwater.
- Addressing the issue will likely require a major drainage project, which is being assessed.

##### **Maintenance Issues:**

- Fallen leaves and blocked gullies are being addressed.
- Several areas have been identified for road markings in upcoming maintenance programmes.

Mr. Fox noted that a shortfall in engineering staff continues to impact project delivery. Quarterly, rather than monthly, discretionary fund updates will now be provided for efficiency.

##### **Fire Service Review:**

- Procurement process is underway for a consultant to undertake the preparation of the plan, a draft of which will, on completion, be presented to the members for adoption in 2026.

##### **Actions:**

- Cathaoirleach to write to the Chief Executive regarding staffing concerns.

- Engineering Department to progress open space and road projects as resources allow.
- Fire Service Review updates to be provided as consultation progresses.

## **6. Correspondence**

No correspondence was received.

Mr. Brian Wildes noted that no responses had yet been received to letters sent to the NTA and the Department of Justice.

## **7. Any Other Business**

Cathaoirleach Erika Doyle informed members that the Regional Health Forum will meet on **2 December 2025**. As two elected members sit on that forum, this date conflicts with the scheduled Ordinary Council Meeting.

Members were asked to consider rescheduling the Ordinary Meeting to **9 December 2025**. It was noted that the Bray Policing Meeting is scheduled for that day, and An Garda Síochána will be consulted before a final decision is made. The Cathaoirleach will circulate confirmation of the next meeting date in due course.

### **Additional Matters Raised:**

- Members requested an update on the selection process for the previously approved Boxing Club funding allocation. Officials advised that the Council is still in the process of establishing an independent adjudication panel.
- Members thanked the Bray Transport Committee for ongoing progress on transport-related matters.

### **Actions:**

- Cathaoirleach to liaise with An Garda Síochána regarding the potential meeting date change.
- Updated meeting schedule to be circulated once confirmed.
- Ongoing updates to be provided on the Boxing Club allocation process.

Meeting concluded.

Signed:



Cllr. Erika Doyle  
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:



Brian Wildes  
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dated:

02/12/25