

**Minutes of the Town Rejuvenation Implementation Committee meeting held in the  
upstairs Boardroom, Bray Town Council, Civic Offices, Main Street, Bray  
on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2007 at 5.00 p.m.**

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**Present:** Chairperson, Dermot Dwyer  
Councillor Anne Ferris  
Councillor Ciaran O'Brien  
Councillor Pat Vance  
Councillor Anne Egan  
Christine Flood, Bray Town Council  
Des O'Brien, Bray Town Council  
Clifford Sullivan, Bray & District Chamber of Commerce  
Jason Cooke, Bray & District Chamber of Commerce

**Apologies:** John Mullane, Bray & District Chamber of Commerce

**1. Introductions**

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The Chairperson and each member of the committee introduced themselves and outlined their current position and their previous experience with the committee.

Each member thanked Mr Dwyer for agreeing to Chair the committee.

**2. General Discussion**

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The Town Clerk stated that the original Town Rejuvenation Committee was initiated by the Infrastructure, Planning and Development MPC and consists representatives from the Town Council, Bray and District Chamber of Commerce, businesses in the town and representatives of two developers. The committee, which was chaired by Cllr Ciaran O'Brien, Chair of the Infrastructure, Planning and Development MPC, prepared a Town Rejuvenation Plan. This plan was presented to and endorsed by Bray Town Council in November, 2006. It was also proposed that a new implementation committee be formed. The councillors nominated to this committee are Cllr O'Brien, Cllr Ferris, and Cllr Vance. The Cathaoirleach is an ex officio member. The Town Manager and Town Clerk are also members. The Chamber were to officially nominate three members on behalf of the business pillar. She confirmed that this committee is a non-statutory committee. All proposals from this committee must be endorsed by the Town Council as funding will come from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Bray Town Council budget.

**A. Overview**

The members made the following points:

- There is a genuine commitment from all members.
- All agreed on the problems.
- Delay in the Florentine Centre has delayed plans and proposals.
- Bound by outside factors such as parking and traffic.
- Small businesses are not putting money into their premises because of larger developments in the pipeline.

- Lack of parking in the town centre is a big problem. A multi-storey carpark at the Herbert Road is needed.
- Population has trebled but business hasn't.
- There is a desire for big retailers to locate in Bray but premises are too small.
- Development at the Golf Club lands is essential.
- Totals town centre makeover including lighting, shop fronts and upgrading of footpaths is required.
- The Town Engineer has a copy of proposals for a renewal scheme.
- Most of the shops are charity shops, bookmakers and banks.
- There is an opportunity for the top end of the town.
- We cannot wait for the Florentine Centre, immediate action is required.
- Partnership approach with the public and private sectors is needed.
- Faber Maunsell are currently compiling a Public Transportation Study which incorporates the town centre.
- Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government Environment, Heritage and Local Government is willing to meet the committee to discuss proposals.
- There may be scope for seeking an amendment to the current planning regulations vis a vis the categories of use of premises.
- We need to do this through the Bray Development Plan and by formulating policies.
- The Golf Club Lands development will not start until the Flood Defence Scheme is in place.
- Bray Town Council have no real power over change of use to existing buildings however, conditions can be stipulated in new planning applications.

## **B. Expectations**

The members stated that they would hope Mr Dwyer's independence, experience and credibility would bring different ideas, a cohesive approach and that he would keep them focussed on achieving deadlines and proposals.

## **3. Moving Forward**

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### **A. Resources**

The Town Clerk confirmed that Bray Town Council will make the necessary time and resources available to the committee. There is a fund of circa 200,000 available for improvement works to shop fronts etc. There are commitments from the two major developers to contribute towards the project.

### **B. Goals / Objectives**

The members stated that they would like to see mechanical street cleaning, new shopfronts, basic housekeeping, a positive response from An Bord Pleanala regarding the Florentine Centre, a clean up of the appearance of the Florentine site, a significant increase in parking spaces, the entrance to the Civic Centre finished and a short-term strategy for the Main Street.

### **C. Meetings**

It was agreed that for the first six months the committee would meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 5.00 p.m.

**D. Working Groups**

Tasks may be given to smaller groups within the committee.

**E. Communications**

The members all agreed that politics would not be an issue within the committee. Members agreed not to discuss the business of the committee with the media. Any issues arising would be the ownership of the entire committee.

**4. Agreed actions/deliverables - responsibilities**

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It was agreed that the committee would contact Minister Dick Roche to arrange a meeting. The Town Clerk informed the members that the Town Engineer and Councillor David Grant are both working on proposals for funding to present to the Minister.

At the next meeting on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April, it was agreed that the members would focus on the documents and costings being produced by the Town Engineer and Councillor David Grant.

Councillor Anne Ferris suggested that rather than the whole committee meeting the Minister that only one representative from each grouping would present the proposal.

**5. Any Other Business**

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The Chamber of Commerce are to nominate three representatives.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2007 at 5.00 p.m. in the Civic Offices of Bray Town Council.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CHAIRPERSON**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOWN CLERK**

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_