

Minutes of the Town Rejuvenation Implementation Committee meeting held in the Downstairs Boardroom, Bray Town Council, Civic Offices, Main Street, Bray on Tuesday 19th February 2008 at 5.00 p.m.

Present: Christine Flood, Chairperson
Councillor Bríd Collins
Councillor Ciaran O'Brien
Councillor Pat Vance
Des O'Brien, Bray Town Council
Liam Bourke, Bray Town Council
Jason Cooke, Bray & District Chamber of Commerce
Liam McGarry, Bray Retailers Group
John Mullane, Bray Retailers Group
Mary McDermott Roe, Pizarro Developments Ltd

Apologies: Dermod Dwyer,
Councillor Anne Egan

1. Minutes of the meeting dated 22nd January 2008

It was proposed by Brid Collins and seconded by Pat Vance to adopt the minutes of the meeting dated the 22nd January 2008.

2. Update on Paint the Town scheme

Mary McDermott Roe informed the members that work was suspended pre-Christmas at the request of the retailers. Weather conditions in January did not allow the resumption of the work, however the painter is due back before the end of February.

Hanging baskets – €26,000 was approved for the hanging baskets. Apro-forma invoice has now been received for just over €29,000 – the difference appears to be VAT. The quote does not include the cost of plumbing. Liam Bourke stated that he will draw up a brief and obtain three quotations from plumbers, the plumbing work must be completed before the second week in April when the planting is due to commence.

3. Presentation of recent News-Night video and discussion on an alternative approach to traffic management and control

The members observed the recent News Night video regarding traffic lights, traffic management and traffic control.

The members then the discussed the matter and raised the following points:

- Could we turn off one set of traffic lights as a pilot?
- There could be insurance implications if the local authority turned off the traffic lights.
- Traffic may flow without lights but pedestrians will be severely restricted.
- The elderly would be likely to have difficulty crossing the road.
- Bus lanes are empty but we have tailbacks of traffic.
- Is this really a priority issue?

It was agreed that Christine Flood would contact the Dublin Transportation Office in relation to the matter.

3. Update on Shopfront Grant scheme

Jason Cooke circulated an update from the Chamber. The general feedback from retailers is that the timescales were too tight and the planning process was very stringent.

Christine Flood stated that she would write a polite letter to the applicants individually to encourage them to avail of the grant and invite them to discuss their problems with the possibility of extending the deadline. She suggested that a project champion was needed.

Des O'Brien suggested that Georgina Franey take on the role of Project Champion.

4. Any Other Business

Brid Collins informed the members that Christine Flood and herself met with John O'Connor from the Royal Hotel during the week. As Liam Bourke had been called out of the meeting she gave an update on the work that had been completed since the last rejuvenation meeting. The drains in the Main Street had been cleaned, 29 tree bases were put down and the bins have been painted and some replaced.

Christine Flood noted that Jason Cooke had requested that this item be placed on the agenda as it was a hot topic at present.

Parking:

Jason Cooke stated that the recent debate in relation to parking in the town was a bit previous. He stated that the emphasis should be on positive matters such as the opening of the Carlisle Grounds, and the opening of the Civic Centre at weekends. He suggested that an announcement with regard to the proposed development of the Herbert Road car-park would further demonstrate that the committee were taking parking seriously. He further enquired as to whether the committee should be revising the deadlines in relation to parking.

Brid Collins confirmed that the engineers are currently organising larger signage for the Carlisle Grounds carpark. She also informed the members that Christine Flood had written to CIE regarding the commuter service.

Christine Flood confirmed that a review of the parking byelaws is imminent. She stated that she believes parking on the streets is too cheap and we should be encouraging people to use car-parks. She advised that there are three types of parking to be catered for

- Up to two hours for shoppers
- Up to eight hours for people working in Bray
- Ten hour parking for commuters

She further stated that the parking on Bray Seafront is a big problem. However the introduction of paid parking on the Seafront would be a matter for consideration the members.

John Mullane stated that the introduction of paid parking on the Seafront was part of the Rejuvenation Plan which had already been adopted by the members. He asked if the Minister for Transport should be contacted with regard to provision of parking for commuters. Irish Rail are under no pressure to provide parking for their customers, as long as free parking is provided in Bray. He enquired about the provision of signage.

Liam Bourke responded that a case could be made for the provision of electronic /visible messaging signage and that he would look in to the provision of signage.

Pat Vance expressed his concern at removing the free parking on the Seafront. He considered that the members would be opposed to this.

He also confirmed that the Cathaoirleach, Brid Collins had offered the Bray Traders a deputation at the Council meeting on 4th March but they declined. He stated that they should be given a deputation with the Municipal Policy Committee instead. Questions were raised as to who the group actually represents and what their membership is.

Christine Flood agreed to ask the Cathaoirleach of the MPC to arrange a special meeting to receive the deputation from Bray Traders.

John Mullane enquired about any proposals for the redesign of the Main Street, widening of footpaths etc. Christine Flood responded that no design work would be undertaken until bus priority measures had been agreed with the QBN office. Due to other commitments, the officials had not been in a position to progress the Public Transport Study until now.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
CHAIRPERSON

Signed: _____
TOWN CLERK

Dated: _____