

Minutes of Special Housing and Planning Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 5th December 2006.

Present: Councillor Anne Egan, Cathaoirleach
Councillor Joe Behan
Councillor Caroline Burrell
Councillor John Byrne
Councillor Bríd Collins
Councillor Déirdre de Búrca
Councillor David Grant
Councillor John McManus
Councillor Ciaran O'Brien
Councillor Pat Vance

Also present: Mr. Des O'Brien, Director of Services
Ms. Christine Flood, Town Clerk
Mr. Stephen Fox, Executive Engineer
Ms. Triona Irving, Administrative Officer

Apologies: Councillor John Brady
Councillor Anne Ferris

The Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that she would like to congratulate Katie Taylor on her achievements on winning gold in the world boxing championships. She stated that there will be a civic reception next week for Katie and that because of this there will be no protocol meeting and the full council meeting will begin at 7pm.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Special Housing and Planning Meeting dated 7th November 2006.

It was proposed by Councillor Brid Collins, seconded by Councillor John Byrne and unanimously agreed to confirm and adopt the minutes of the Special Housing and Planning Meeting dated 7th November 2006.

2. Reports and Recommendations.

The Town Clerk stated that there are two reports -

Swimming Pool

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the tenders are currently being assessed and are due back early next week. She added that once Bray Town Council has departmental approval the council would proceed. She also stated that she would allow till mid-January before we can expect a response.

Barcelona Committee Funding

The Town Clerk informed the members that the Barcelona Committee has approved funding for a ramp on the Seafront for disability access. She also said that funding of improvements of kerbs and footpaths in Bray was also approved.

Provision of Parking at Dell site for Christmas Period.

An examination by the Town Engineer and Senior Executive Engineer found that the provision of a Park n' Ride service using the car park at the Dell site to facilitate access to the town centre during the Christmas period was not feasible. A site inspection confirmed that in excess of 200m of fencing is required to secure the public from gaining access to a portion of the site where demolition works have occurred. Access to this area, which adjoins the car park, would present a serious safety risk. Full time security to control access to the site would also be a requirement of the site owners. Having regard to the travel time between the site and town centre and frequency of bus service that may be achieved, it was considered likely that there would be a poor demand for the service relative to the cost of providing and managing the service.

Unsafe Wall at Raheen Park

The wall has been examined and photographed by the Senior Executive Engineer. The owners have been located and notified of the safety risk and Bray Town council is currently awaiting a response as to when repairs will be carried out. If an adequate response is not received soon, a notice will be served under Section 70 of the Roads Act 1993 requiring necessary works to be carried out within a specified timescale.

Farmers Market

Bray Farmers Market starts again at Bray Heritage Centre (beside the Royal Hotel) on December 9th at 10am, bringing the best of local artisan produce to this busy town, just in time for Christmas.

You can expect to find locally grown organic fruit and vegetables from Wicklow Towns Dominican Convent. We will also have a full range of organic pork, beef, lamb and chicken from Terryglass Organics. Jane Murphy, renowned cheese maker from Carranoughill, Co. Cork, will bring her highly acclaimed Ardsallagh goats cheese and Jeanette Valente's Newtownmountkennedy Bakery will bring their mouthwatering breads and pastries.

The Bethlehem Store will bring a taste of Palestinian cuisine, you can have a hot falafel sandwich, try some hummous or babagannoush, or check out their selection of Christmas nativity figures and decorations, carved out of olive wood from Bethlehem. A genuine Christmas treat. For those of you in search of the freshest fish available, check out the selection available at Bray Farmers Market – Molly Malones' Fish Mongers sell fish caught by their own trawlers which land in Wexford.

Bray Farmers Market will trade each Saturday from 10am – 2pm. So come along and sample all the market has to offer and tell your family and friends!

Public Parks Plan

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that she had been speaking with the acting Town Engineer regarding this issue. He informed her that there is no point in distributing this plan at this time, as it has not been completed. He said it would be better to wait until February.

The members raised the following –

Provision of Parking at Dell site for Christmas Period

- Disappointed by the report on Dell parking. Do we have any figures on how much it will cost to do these works?

Swimming Pool

- Welcome this report. Hopefully there will be no delay on our side.

Public Parks Plan

- Disappointed this will not be ready.

Barcelona Committee Funding

- Delighted works here are being progressed.

3. To consider the Housing Progress Report.

The members raised the following points: –

- What is the current situation with Silverbridge?
- Have any architects been appointed for the CPO in Kilbride Lane yet? Will we be delayed with this?
- Can we have a full report on the Fire Hydrants in January?
- Carrigoona Site – good to see this progressing.
- Disabled Persons Grants – can these be hurried?
- There are delays in people being visited for repairs. Can the officials sort these out? If we do not deal with these problems now it will cost us money in the long run.
- Cedar Court – another tenant has complained about dampness in the houses here. Is there a snagging list?
- Community Centre in Fassaroe – what is the status of this? The building is a disgrace.
- Fire Safety audit – has this started yet?
- James Everett Park – the remedial works are near completion but when they are finished can we make sure they clean up the compound totally and also that all signs are put back.

The Administrative Officer informed the members of the following: –

- Cedar Court – I will mention this issue to Clerk of Works.
- Repairs – I will discuss this with the manager and the housing engineer.
- Silverbridge Halting site – a letter to seek approval went to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government a while ago.
- The fire safety audit started on Monday.
- Carigoona site – this is as stated in the progress report.

4. To consider Planning Matters.

The members raised the following issues –

Councillor David Grant stated that there is a house in Bray that is seeking planning permission to put solar panels on their roof. He asked that the management of Bray Town Council should look at this in future.

Graffiti

- What are the sanctions regarding this? A lot of people have asked about this.
- Our litter warden has told people that there is no scheme for cleaning graffiti in Bray. He should not be telling people this.
- The only way to tackle the graffiti problem is to clean it straight away.

Repair work on N11

- People were denied access to the town because of this work by Dublin City Council. This was a disgrace.
- There is going to be further rezoning in Wicklow County Council land to build more houses. The roads infrastructure cannot cope with all the residential construction.
- People are beginning to rat-run through Bray again. We need to voice our concerns to Wicklow County Council, as this is a very serious matter.
- Dublin City Council was responsible for this disaster. The fact that Wicklow County Council previously handled works here very well was not highlighted.

ALDI Site

- This was demolished and is now no safe. Why was the boundary wall also knocked down? We need to get in contact with the owners of the site.

Pinewood Close

- We should look closely at the whole Development Plan for the Pinewood area. Can the Municipal Policy Committee look into this?

Planning Register Reference – 06/268

Lucy Watson, Aubrey Mews, Main Street, Shankill, Co. Dublin

Councillor Caroline Burrell stated that she hoped this application would be in keeping with the area.

Planning Register Reference 06/271

Gemma Gough, 4 The Cottages, Boghall Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow

Councillor Caroline Burrell stated that she hoped this application would be in keeping with the area.

Planning Register Reference 06/221
Ann Hoban, The Mullough, Killock, Co. Meath

Councillor Caroline Burrell stated that she is happy this application was refused.

Planning Register Reference 06/280
Aidan Kelly, 20 Beechwood Close, Boghall Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow

Councillor John Byrne stated that he would have no objection to this application.

Councillor Pat Vance stated that this whole area would need to be restructured.

Councillor Anne Egan stated that she would support this application.

The Administrative Officer informed the members of the following –

Graffiti

When this scheme originally came out for the cleaning of graffiti it was meant for the RAPID areas. It is not solely a matter for Bray Town Council it is also a matter for the community Gardai.

The Executive Engineer stated that he would follow up all details with the owners of the ALDI site.

The Town Manager informed the members of the following –

- There is not enough employment in Wicklow so we should not blame the increasing traffic problems on increased housing. We should be plugging for more employment in Bray.

The members raised the following points –

- Industrial development will not help. It will make the N11 and M50 worse for traffic. There needs to be a debate on this.
- Bray Golf Club Lands development – can we have some clarification from the manager on the merger of come companies here?
- N11 water burst – very concerned that parts of our town went without water for days. I hope that Dublin City Council should pay any bills incurred.
- Can we have storage tanks to deal with this kind of problem in the future?
- Hoarding on main - street – pity that this was not taken down before Christmas.

The Town Manager stated that water to Bray is supplied through a 24inch and 33inch mains – pipes. He added that Bray Town Council cannot really blame Dublin City Council because if a mains bursts there is not much you can do.

Councillor John Byrne then proposed that Bray Town Council write to Minister Dick Roche to request funding for a reservoir to provide Bray. This was seconded by Councillor Joe Behan.

5. To consider the report and recommendation regarding changing the Sporting Lease on the Carlisle Grounds.

The Town Clerk read the following recommendation

The Carlisle Grounds is held under a 35 year sporting lease signed on 9th February, 2001. Planning permission 06/29 was granted to Bray Wanderers to use part of the open area as a car-park subject to certain conditions. This also requires a variation of the lease.

The solicitors for Bray Wanderers have submitted a draft variation, this had been forwarded to the council's Law Agent, he has made some minor changes to the variation .

It is the recommendation of the council's Law Agent to the members of Bray Town Council that they pass a resolution confirming that Bray Wanderers, having got planning permission for the change of use, should be permitted under the terms of their lease to use the Carlisle Grounds for car parking per the terms of the Deed of Variation, with minor amendments.

Councillor Pat Vance proposed and Councillor Brid Collins seconded the report and recommendation regarding changing the lease on the Carlisle Grounds.

6. To consider nominations to the Town Rejuvenation Implementation Committee.

Councillor Joe Behan proposed that Councillor Pat Vance be nominated to the Town Rejuvenation Implementation Committee. This was seconded by Councillor David Grant.

Councillor Pat Vance then proposed that the committee be restricted to three councillors and two officials. This was agreed.

Councillor John McManus proposed that Councillor Anne Ferris be nominated to the Town Rejuvenation Implementation Committee. This was seconded by Councillor John Byrne.

Councillor Deirdre De Burca proposed that Councillor Ciaran O' Brien be nominated to the Town Rejuvenation Implementation Committee. This was seconded by Councillor John Byrne.

The members then raised the following points –

- It is crucial that the executive is represented on this committee but also that they are active. We should have a recommendation that the Town Clerk and Town Manager are on this committee.
- This is a very serious role so it is important that we send out the right signals to people.

7. Notices of Motion.

154. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor John Brady (01/03/05)

“That this Council call upon the Irish and British Governments to implement immediately the sections of the Good Friday Agreement still outstanding.”

Councillor John Brady was absent but this motion was noted.

157. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor Bríd Collins (08/03/05)

“I request Bray Town Council to write to the Minister for Transport to re-address the issue of “L” drivers here in Ireland. Some Full drivers have no respect for these drivers – we must take example from other countries eg. Australia”

Councillor Bríd Collins stated that there is no respect for learner drivers in Ireland. She stated that she would like a letter to be sent to the Minister for Transport to address this issue.

191. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor Bríd Collins (10/05/2005)

“That a letter be sent by this Council to the Minister stating how dissatisfied Bray residents feel regarding the lengthy list and the long delay for the “driving test”. Also that Bray be highly considered for our own “Driving Test Centre”.

Councillor Bríd Collins stated that she would be delighted to see this coming to Bray. She asked the Town Clerk to write to the Minister for Transport to request our very own test centre.

202. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor John Brady (21/06/05)

“That this Council supports the ongoing call from the family of the late Councillor Eddie Fullerton, member of Buncrana Urban District Council and Donegal County Council, for a full independent public inquiry chaired by a person of international repute into the circumstances surrounding his murder and furthermore calls on the Irish Government to insist on full co-operation from the British authorities to assist the Fullerton family in their quest for truth and justice”.

Councillor John Brady was absent but this motion was noted.

213. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell, Déirdre de Búrca and Ciaran O’Brien (13/12/05)

“That Bray Town Council calls for an immediate all-Ireland ban on Monsanto’s GT73 Rape Seeds and to declare that Bray becomes a GMO-free Zone.”

This Notice of Motion was withdrawn.

217. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell, Déirdre de Búrca and Ciaran O’Brien (13/12/05)

“That all members who were appointed to a Committee in June 2004 would attend all Meetings associated with that Committee.”

Councillor Caroline Burrell stated that she is on one committee and she has not seen some members at these meetings.

Councillor Pat Vance stated that there has always been a great attendance record with this council on sub-committees etc.

Councillor John McManus stated that he is not happy with this resolution as it is up to the members to know what their own duty is. He added that it is not up to other members to tell them what to do.

218. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, John McManus, Anne Egan and Anne Ferris (07/02/2006)

“Bray Town Council calls on the Health Service Executive to locate a Paediatric A & E at St Colmcilles Hospital as part of the reorganisation of Paediatric Hospital services in the Dublin Region.”

Councillor John McManus stated that there is a very good argument to be made to put an accident and emergency paediatric unit on this side of the city. He added that a unit such as this would be suited best in St. Colmcille’s Hospital Loughlinstown.

Councillor Deirdre De Burca stated that she would like to support this Notice of Motion and she would also like to support to keep an Accident and Emergency Unit in Loughlinstown Hospital.

234. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell, Déirdre de Búrca and Ciaran O’Brien (13/06/06)

“That Bray Town Council denounces the plan by Bus Eireann to purchase new buses to the value of €16 million that will not have disabled access facility.”

Councillor Caroline Burrell stated that Bray is badly serviced for buses as it is. She added that all buses should have disabled access.

8. Correspondence.

The Town Clerk stated that there is no correspondence.

9. Any other business.

The members raised the following points –

- An issue has arisen in the East Ward regarding residential parking discs. Residencies are not happy with the treatment over accessing parking discs. Can this be sorted out?
- Sidminton Road – parking lines were painted on the wrong side of the road and it was requested by the council three months ago to amend this.
- Can this be put in the next agenda for the Municipal Policy Committee?
- Boghall Road – an elderly person complained a while ago about damage done to her fence. Bray Town Council still has not started repair work after they promised they would fix it.
- Wall in front of the Lawn Tennis Grounds – the roads engineer has indicated that this will be repaired so hopefully it will be done quickly.
- Disappointed with Iarnrod Eireann’s decision that they will not be offering any late night services over Christmas.

Councillor Joe Behan then proposed that Bray Town Council write a letter expressing disappointment to Iarnrod Eireann. Councillor Deirdre De Burca seconded this proposal.

The members continued with the following points –

- Herbert Road car-park – during the day the Herbert Road car-park is always packed. This car-park is chaotic and I am appealing to the Town Manager to ask the traffic wardens to supervise this car-park consistently.
- Seafront Works – what are the plans for the next phase of the Seafront enhancement scheme? Can this be placed on the agenda for January?
- Vevay Road – Greenstar have introduced fortnightly collections but they only put an advertisement in the papers last week so some people were unaware that the usual day of collection had changed. We should write to Greenstar to ask them to improve their communication with customers.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
TOWN CLERK

Dated: _____