

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 14th March 2006 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Déirdre De Búrca, Cathaoirleach
Councillor Joe Behan
Councillor John Brady
Councillor John Byrne
Councillor Caroline Burrell
Councillor Brid Collins
Councillor Anne Egan
Councillor Anne Ferris
Councillor John McManus
Councillor Ciaran O'Brien
Councillor Pat Vance

Also present: Mr. Des O'Brien, Director of Services
Ms. Catherine Halligan, Town Clerk
Mr. Sean O'Neill, Town Engineer
Mr. Michael Nicholson, Director of Services for Environmental Services, Wicklow County Council
Ms. Bernie Guinan from Fehily Timoney & Company

Apologies: Councillor David Grant

1. Presentation on the Draft Review of the Waste Management Plan for Wicklow County Council.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Bernie Guinan from Fehily Timoney & Co. and Mr Michael Nicholson, Director of Services for Environmental Services, Wicklow County Council to the meeting.

Mr Nicholson informed the Members that the public consultation process ends on 28th April 2006. He then introduced Ms Guinan to the meeting.

Ms Guinan circulated the Executive Summary of the proposed County Wicklow Waste Management Plan to all of the Members. She then drew the Members attention to the more salient points contained in the document before inviting the Members to raise their questions.

The Members then raised the following issues:

- Welcome this plan.
- Many of the unauthorised dumping sites have still not been dealt with.
- Three bin system – have other County Councils been visited for educational purposes?

- Rampere Landfill is closing in 2010 – are there any other sites identified?
- Subsoil – what amount goes to landfill? What separation is there of other types of waste?
- What provisions are there in the plan to deal with old landfill sites? In particular the Fassaroe site.
- Need for more enforcement.
- Pay tribute to Mr Nicholson for all his hard work.
- Worst decision made by Wicklow County Council was to privatise the waste collection facility.
- We can't recycle everything – we need landfill or incineration.
- 18% of households in County Wicklow have no car – what provisions are in the plan for these people?
- Wicklow County Council voted against the landfill at Ballinagran, it cost Wicklow County Council €115 million. There is a private company there now who are making a fortune.
- The plan reads like a charter for the private sector.
- Wicklow County Council sees itself purely as a regulator for the private sector.
- The Council will clean-up after fly-tippers etc but we won't see the private sector doing this.
- When Rampere landfill reaches its capacity then we have nothing.
- Waste disposal charges are high because the private sector claim that fees for landfill sites are high.
- Wicklow County Council need to identify new sites.
- Roadstone site – overturned by the E.P.A.
- At Russborough there were two illegal dumping sites beside the reservoir, these sites were not properly investigated.
- Many new developments don't have the capacity for 3 bins. The Council should include this in planning for new developments.

Mr Nicholson replied with the following points:

- Landfill costs have decreased from €210 per tonne to €120/125 per tonne and costs are continuing to decrease.
- All waste collected in Wicklow is going to Dublin.
- Most waste disposal companies in the private sector have joined REPAK and are paying substantial fees to them.
- Soil coming into Wicklow is from Dublin.
- Still have some cowboys who will offer to dispose of rubbish cheap.
- The old landfill sites (including Fassaroe) are being monitored regularly and carefully.
- Ballinagran Landfill site – commercial decision by Greenstar.
- Old official landfill site – E.P.A. must produce a register of sites.
- E.P.A. are finalising a Risk Assessment at present and appropriate measures will be put in place.

Ms Bernie Guinan then replied with the following points:

- It is an Environmental Protection Agency Requirement that the County Council produce sites. Wicklow County Council has initiated this procedure.
- Risk assessment will be carried out.
- The C & D imported is not hazardous soil.
- The three bin system must be implemented if Wicklow County Council is to meet National Waste Standards.
- An educational campaign will be completed.

The Members continued on to raise the following issues:

- C & D – do we get paid for importing this?
- Can we not dispose of dry recyclables in Wicklow?
- Could the sludge not go to the Greystones Sewage Treatment plant?
- There are 98 waste permits in the County – what are the procedures to comply with waste permits?
- Company must submit an annual environmental report – but why do Wicklow County Council not follow-up on this?
- Restoration plans on permit are not on file in Wicklow County Council.

Mr Nicholson advised the following:

- There are four litter wardens on the ground. Each warden takes a ward but they spend most of their time on Waste Permit sites. A lot of the sites end up in the one location.
- The wardens limit the number of trucks entering sites, monitor the size of the trucks, keep daily logs on site etc.
- The wardens act on the foot of complaints. They then issue a warning and if the company do not comply – their licence is revoked.
- Sites are located near N11 and N81 for easy access, they are not near reservoirs.
- The annual reports received from companies are sent to the EPA and they issue their report in turn.

The Cathaoirleach then thanked Mr Nicholson and Ms Guinan for attending.

2. To further discuss the Recycling Centre for Bray.

Mr Michael Nicholson informed the Members that the contractors have been lined up for the new Recycling Centre. The alarms, CCTV and cleaners are all lined up. Staff interviews will take place and training will commence immediately. A baler has not been purchased as there is a lead in time of twelve months for a baler. However, one can be hired. Mr Nicholson then stated that it is anticipated that the Recycling Centre would open at the end of April.

The Members made the following comments:

- Welcome the positive update from Mr Nicholson.
- Would like Wicklow County Council to allay some of the fears of the residents about the operation of the facility. When will the committee be set-up?
- The County Manager was due to attend tonight's meeting – did he not extend his apologies?
- The County Manager held this project up and made a mess of it. The Members are owed an explanation.
- Is the problem with the lease sorted out?
- The number of people who go to Dublin and Wicklow to recycle is huge.
- This is a temporary measure – what plans are there for a more permanent site?
- Proud to support this facility.
- Need the facility to be correct from the day it opens.
- This is a priority with constituents.
- Have any legal proceedings been taken?
- Will there be a charge for using the Recycling Centre? There shouldn't be any charge.
- What about people with no car?
- Councillor Deirdre De Burca stated that she would like to open the facility, as Cathaoirleach.

Mr Michael Nicholson responded with the following:

- Apologised for not extending the County Managers apologies at the start of the discussion. He is out of the country and asked Mr Nicholson to attend in his place.
- The lease is for 3 years from 9th January 2006 to 8th January 2009. There is a licence agreement in place on a month to month basis in case of legal problems.
- Wicklow County Council are still exploring the options for a more permanent site and would hope to have a suitable site within the three years.
- The facility will not open until everything is ready.
- There has been a huge interest in jobs.
- There are no plans to charge people for using the centre.
- It is a popular choice because the County Council operate it.
- Will urge the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to give more funding as there is a shortfall in funding.
- There are no plans to privatise.
- The Recycling Centre will not suit everyone but it will suit most people and that's what is important. The mobile collection will suit people who do not have cars. Neighbours should help each other regarding the collection of items for recycling.
- There have been no legal challenges but a reference has been sent to An Bord Pleanála.

3. Confirmation of Minutes of:

**Annual Budget Meeting of Bray Town Council dated 10th January 2006,
the Resumed Budget Meeting dated 17th January 2006,
the Resumed Budget Meeting dated 24th January 2006 and
the Monthly Meeting dated 14th February 2006.**

It was proposed by Councillor Anne Ferris and seconded by Councillor Anne Egan and unanimously agreed to confirm and adopt the minutes of the Annual Budget Meeting of Bray Town Council dated 10th January 2006.

It was proposed by Councillor John Byrne and seconded by Councillor Anne Ferris and unanimously agreed to confirm and adopt the minutes of the Resumed Budget Meeting dated 17th January 2006.

It was proposed by Councillor Brid Collins and seconded by Councillor Anne Egan and unanimously agreed to confirm and adopt the minutes of the Resumed Budget Meeting dated 24th January 2006.

It was proposed by Councillor Anne Ferris and seconded by Councillor Anne Egan and unanimously agreed to confirm and adopt the minutes of the Monthly Meeting dated 14th February 2006.

Councillor Anne Egan asked the Town Clerk to check the amount of funding allocated to Begles for Town Twinning.

Councillor Brid Collins then proposed a vote of sympathy to the family and friends of local woman, Ms Theresa McManus. Councillor Collins stated that she was not only a neighbour and friend, she was a great community person. Ms McManus was a former Lady Captain of the Golf Club and her family are involved in other sporting activities in the town.

The Cathaoirleach then asked the Members if they would take item 9 on the Agenda – the Pilot Recycling Scheme as Mr Nicholson was present. The Members agreed to this.

9. To discuss the Pilot Recycling Scheme.

Mr Nicholson stated that Wicklow County Council intend to proceed with the scheme as money has been supplied. It is hoped that the scheme will run in tandem with the opening of the Recycling Centre. FÁS are onboard with staff and Moira Byrne has visited estates to educate and make residents aware of the scheme.

The Members raised the following points:

- Materials are brought to Wicklow.
- Hope that the scheme can be rolled out to other RAPID areas.
- Will the role of the officer be an educational role?

- Residents are eagerly awaiting the scheme.
- Would like to see the officer go into estates and give residents more information.

The Town Clerk then read out the following report:

Update on Pilot Recycling Scheme – Oldcourt & Kilbride Grove

Approval for matching funding from the Dept of Environment has been received for the pilot recycling project. Wicklow County Council as the Waste Authority will be formally applying for this funding and it is to form part of the funding for the Recycling Centre.

Discussions are currently taking place with Fas in relation to the placement of a CES worker for the Pilot Scheme. Training in relation to recycling is to be provided through Wicklow County Council. Staff from Wicklow County Council will be providing the service, i.e. collecting the recyclable materials on Saturday mornings and transporting them to either the Murrough or Bray Recycling Centre. The materials will be dry recyclables together with tetra packs and there will be a separate wheelie bin for each material. In addition when residents have signed up to the scheme and received information/training domestic composters will be provided to interested householders.

Aim is to reduce the amount of litter/dumping in estates and provide education programme for residents on recycling

Composting bins to be made available to interested residents

Ownership of the scheme by the residents will be a key to it's success

The involvement of the Estate Management/Residents Committee will be crucial to the success of this project. A meeting will be held when details have been finalised with Fas & the County Council with representatives from both committees to agree a start date for the project.

The Town Clerk confirmed that there is €30,000 in the Bray Town Council Budget for this scheme and it can commence if the Members wish.

The Members then continued with the following points:

- Enforcement against illegal dumping should be stepped up.
- A CE worker should be employed within the estates.
- All areas should be monitored by a Litter Warden.
- Are composters free of charge?
- Will the mobile recycling scheme still continue when this scheme comes onboard?
- Councillor John McManus stated that this is a Community Capacity Building Programme not just a scheme for recycling. This issue was discussed at length at M.P.C. level and it was felt that this would be a very good initiative for residents in both estates. The community worker will be employed in the estate.

Mr Nicholson confirmed that the composters are sold at cost price. If the mobile recycling scheme is not used then it will be phased out as it is expensive to run.

4. Reports and Recommendations.

The Town Engineer read out the following report:

Report on Traffic at St Andrews School, Newcourt Road, Bray

St. Andrews School entrance is located a short distance down the Newcourt Road from its junction with Vevay Road.

Newcourt Road has traffic calming measures in situ at present in the form of two ramps. There were originally road markings on the roadway but these are not successful, as the adhesion to the concrete surface is a problem.

It is proposed to erect additional signage on Newcourt Road indicating “School Ahead”.

The right turn ban at the junction from Vevay Road, which has been in place, has been removed following advice from the Garda Authorities.

The measures recommended in the Bray and Environs Transportation Study carried out by Clifton Scannell Emerson which has not been implemented yet. These measures are estimated to cost approximately €15,000.

The Members raised the following points:

- Delighted that the right turn has been removed.
- The issue with people using Newcourt Road earlier for commuting needs to be addressed. Not as much traffic with Dell gone.
- Junction box is helping the situation.
- Do not support this report. There is no legal basis for removing this sign, it is wrong to sacrifice one group of people for another group. This will give rise to a major problem.
- Ramps didn't work so we put the no right turn in.
- Opposed to a one-way system. Large volume of traffic use the Putland Road.
- “No right turn” sign worked despite everything.
- Do not support the removal of this sign.
- If the location of the bus stop was moved would it help? This causes congestion.
- Was the “no right turn” approved by the Gardai at the time?
- Have received complaints regarding the severity of the ramps.

The Town Engineer stated that Bray Town Council do not implement the “no right turn” as we do not control the traffic system. This is a matter for the Gardai as they brought this matter forward.

Councillor Anne Ferris requested that it be recorded that she is against the removal of the sign and asked was a written report received from the Gardai?

Councillor Brid Collins and Councillor John McManus were also against the removal of the sign.

The Members agreed to defer this matter until the Town Engineer investigates if the Gardai have the right to remove the sign.

The Cathaoirleach then asked that the Members to take item 12 on the Agenda – To discuss the Flood Protection Scheme and this was agreed to.

12. To discuss the Flood Protection Scheme.

The Town Manager informed the Members that consultants O'Connor Sutton Cronin have been appointed to design a scheme for the river. They have consulted with the Office of Public Works and it is anticipated that the design will meet the standards laid down by the O.P.W. When the scheme is designed, funding will be sought for the implementation of same. This may involve a Compulsory Purchase Order process. The steering committee which consists of the Town Engineer and the Town Manager are meeting in two weeks and it is hoped to have the brief sent to An Bord Pleanala in the Summer and E.I.S. will also be involved.

The Members responded with the following points:

- Have the local residents and users been consulted regarding this?
- Apart from the County Wicklow Emergency Plan – what is in place from Bray Town Council for the residents of Little Bray?
- Who is paying for this study – Pizarro Developments Ltd or the taxpayers?
- Is the study being sent to the Office of Public Works as a formal request for funding also?
- Concerned that the O.P.W. have stated that they have received no plans from Bray Town Council.
- Concerned about weather warnings issued for the coming weeks.
- The Coastal Protection Plan should be implemented in Little Bray also i.e. sandbags etc. Can this plan be transferred?
- Is there an Elected Member on the steering committee?
- Would like to see the scheme extended to Seapoint Court and not just Little Bray.
- Would like to see a copy of the brief.
- There has always been a threat of flooding to Little Bray – this is not just because of the Golf Club lands development.
- What length of the river do the works cover?
- Will this include the recommendations in the Barry Report for deepening and widening?
- When will the public consultation commence?
- Will the development levies be used to pay for this?
- The consultants O'Connor Sutton Cronin did work for Pizarro Developments Ltd. Would there be a conflict of interest?

- What will the proposal look like i.e. walls, mounding etc.
- Were the consultants asked to draw up a plan on the flood protection works?

The Town Manager responded with the following:

- Letters have been sent to the O.P.W. on numerous occasions but we don't get any replies. Have looked for funding on foot of the Barry Report.
- The process is as follows: preliminary report is done, this is sent to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and contract documents are drawn up.
- Brief is to provide a Flood Protection Scheme for Bray.
- The consultants O'Connor Sutton Cronin were used because they have experience and the fees were not as expensive because they have already completed most of the necessary work.
- The consultants will report to Bray Town Council.
- This will be a clean sheet and all options will be looked at.
- The O.P.W. are agreeing the criteria at the moment, they have also agreed to be on the steering committee. The Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Guidelines, global warming etc will have to be taken into account. E.I.A. Regulations meant to scope the scheme with affected landowners and the greater good will come into this.
- When the hydrograph and works have been decided – then public consultation will commence. There will be a public information day held for people.
- The CPO will be decided by An Bord Pleanala.
- The works will be done up to the N11 and beyond the N11, will be assessed. This will also include Seapoint Court.
- Bray Town Council's costs will be underwritten by the developers.
- No refunds will be given to the developer under the Development Levy Scheme.
- The cost will be approximately €20 million.
- There is no specific Emergency Plan for Bray. However, we do have a supply of sandbags.
- There is no early warning system on the river.

The Members then raised the following points:

- Would like to thank the manager for explaining this.
- The County Wicklow Emergency Plan is totally inadequate.
- Hurricane Charlie caused confusion and no decisions were made as there was no specific chain of command.
- We need a specific plan for flooding in Bray and we need to know exactly who to contact. The after hours service will not suffice.
- We should refer this to the MPC to contact the Red Cross and the Order of Malta with a view to drawing up a plan.
- We need to take responsibility for these residents.
- Are there water monitoring devices in the river?
- Managers response is not comforting regarding the Emergency Plan.

- The O.P.W. circulated a leaflet regarding flooding and told residents who live near a river to contact their local Council in the event of flooding.
- Do An Bord Pleanala get the brief?

The Town Manager confirmed that An Bord Pleanala do get the brief also.

The Director of Services agreed that the brief would be circulated to Members and that this matter would be referred to the Community, Cultural, Social and Environment MPC to draw up an Emergency Flooding Plan for Bray and revert back to the full Council.

Due to time constraints the Cathaoirleach proposed that item 5 be deferred until the next meeting. The Members agreed.

6. To consider the Road Works Programme for 2006.

A copy of the Road Works Programme for 2006 was previously circulated to the Members.

The Members held a discussion where the following points were raised:

- Would welcome most of this programme.
- There is one noticeable admission – the Boghall Road and especially the footpaths at Centra. Articulated trucks are parking up on the footpaths and it is very dangerous.
- Bray Town Council got €44,000 from Wicklow County Council for regional roads maintenance – traffic lights, lining etc.
- The Boghall Road is not being maintained because of the lack of funding.
- Is there funding under the Development Funding Scheme for this?
- Did not like the layout of this programme – it was confusing and not done in alphabetical or priority order. Hard to follow.
- Killarney Lane is very dangerous, should be No. 1 on the list.
- Welcome the works for Avondale Park especially with the trucks.
- Would like to see more roadmarkings repainted – especially yellow boxes.
- Welcome the works in Little Bray but would like clarity on exact areas.
- Great to see wheelchair access on footpaths and hope we continue to do so.
- Would like the councillors from Bray who are also on Wicklow County Council to push for more funding for regional roads in Bray.
- Would like a report on progress for funding from Wicklow County Council.

The Town Manager advised that Bray Town Council could ask Wicklow County Council for money from the Block Grant. It was agreed that a report would be given at the next meeting regarding the progress with the Boghall Road.

It was proposed by Councillor Anne Ferris and seconded by Councillor Brid Collins and unanimously agreed to adopt the Road Works Programme for 2006.

7. Update on the Neighbourhood Scheme.

The Town Clerk read out the following report:

Neighbourhood Scheme at Bray Head

An initial application was submitted to the Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture and Food and our proposal has been deemed potentially suitable for funding under this scheme.

A more detailed programme of works has now to be submitted and Mr. Aeneas Higgins, Consultant is preparing this programme. However the Local Authority in consultation with the various project partners must complete this application.

A pre-application meeting involving Bray Town Council, Wicklow County Council, Mr. Higgins and the Community Representatives, who are: -

- *Richard Webb & Associates*
- *Bray Seafront Traders Association*
- *Bray & District Chamber of Commerce*
- *An Taisce*
- *Bray Head Residents Association*
- *Mr. Wayne Tobin*
- *Cllr. Caroline Burrell*

Has been arranged for Thursday 16th March, 2006. The main aim of this meeting is to prepare a submission to the Department.

The Members noted this report.

17. Correspondence.

The Town Clerk informed the Members that there is no correspondence.

18. Any other Business.

Councillor John Brady asked the officials who has control of the carpark at the Civic Offices. If Bray Town Council have control over this carpark – why were the Members not consulted about the clamping which is now being done for illegal parking.

Councillor Brid Collins stated that clamping is done to stop people from parking illegally and causing an obstruction. She asked if there was any news on extra carparks.

The Town Clerk confirmed that Bray Town Council have control over the carpark in question, under a licence agreement from Newlyn Developments Ltd. She advised that there have been serious difficulties with safety, damage to cars and traffic jams within the carpark. The money received from the clamping charge will be given to local charities and a report detailing the monies received will be given to the Members.

Councillor Pat Vance asked if it is the policy of this council to give people litter fines for disposing of a domestic bill in a bin on the Main Street. He confirmed that he received a complaint from a woman who paid her bill and disposed of them in a bin on the Main Street.

Councillor Joe Behan asked the Town Clerk if she would investigate the problem of flies within the Town Hall.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed:

CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:

TOWN CLERK

Dated:
