

Minutes of the resumed Budget Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 17th January 2006 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Deirdre De Burca, Cathaoirleach
Councillor Joe Behan
Councillor John Brady
Councillor John Byrne
Councillor Caroline Burrell
Councillor Bríd Collins
Councillor Anne Egan
Councillor Anne Ferris
Councillor Pat Vance
Councillor John McManus
Councillor David Grant

Also present: Mr. Des O'Brien, Director of Services
Ms. Catherine Halligan, Town Clerk
Mr. Sean O'Neill, Town Engineer
Mr. David Forde, Administrative Officer, Finance

Apologies: Councillor Ciaran O'Brien

Section 85 Agreement of the Local Government Act, 2001

The approval of the members to enter into a Section 85 Agreement of the Local Government Act, 2001 to enable Bray Town Council to carry out the water function on behalf of Wicklow County Council is required. The necessary documentation was circulated to the members.

Councillor Anne Egan proposed and Councillor John Byrne seconded the proposal to enter into a Section 85 Agreement of the Local Government Act, 2001 to enable Bray Town Council to carry out the water function on behalf of Wicklow County Council.

The discussion regarding the Draft Budget for 2006 then recommenced.

8612 - Programme Group 2 – Road Transportation and Safety

The Cathaoirleach asked the members to make any points they may have in a constructive way and to submit any proposals they may have in writing to the officials.

The members then raised the following points regarding the County Demand and documentation which was received from Wicklow County Council -

- We need to be clear what Wicklow County Council are charging Bray Town Council. Is it value for money?
- We have only received a copy of this County Demand here tonight – have not had enough time to read over it therefore we may leave it for a while.
- Not sure if the officials can answer any questions we may have on the County Demand.

The Administrative Officer for Finance then gave the members a short presentation on Roads Transportation and Safety.

Estimated Expenditure - €1,491,697

Estimated Income - €1,487,082

The members then raised the following points –

- Regional Roads - Can the officials explain the maintenance of these? Can we put in a higher figure? Concerned that there may be a deterioration in maintenance.
- Taking In Charge of estates – money not spent.
- Restrictive Parking - €400,000 this year seems a very high amount. Can this be explained? The whole restrictive parking scheme should be reviewed. This scheme is being used as a cash cow.
- Cois Sleibhe – work was very slow in this area last year. Too much money is being allocated this year if that's the way work is carried out.
- A lot of the rate-payers in the town are getting parking tickets. Should be a special parking scheme for rate-payers/shop keepers.
- The biggest problem we have in this town is the non – turnover of revenue in our car parks. People are continuing to park all day in restricted zones.
- Florence Road – major problem with traffic. This is the main road from Seafront. Can the Engineer look at putting in temporary road markings?
- Traffic Plan – any future plans. Will there be any funding from the Dublin Transportation Office?
- Public Lighting – Council estates lighting – can the Council contact the E.S.B to ask them to revert back to the bright lights on estates as the yellow lights do not deter anti- social behaviour as they are not bright enough. €300,000 from Capital Development levies are used on Regional Roads.
- Not acceptable that Wicklow County Council should carry out road works for Bray. Look at the Southern Cross Road – very bad condition.
- Wolfe Tone Square – no funding provided this year – has the manager enough funding to complete this?
- Vevay Village Scheme – no public lighting yet.
- Killarney Road Scheme – consultation done but no work carried out.
- Parking fees – these are a rip-off. People are entitled to ask what has the money been spent on. Figures should be given for the last few years.
- Specific Projects – there is a bad bend at Sidminton Court. The previous Town Engineer stated this bend would be removed but nothing was ever done. Can the Town Engineer give a report on this?
- Seafront – can the Council install pedestrian crossings and raised tables along here?
- Southern Cross Road – ask Wicklow County Council to upkeep and maintain.
- Superquinn Carpark – we gave this land at cost price and on condition that parking is free. They are now operating a pay and display. Can we have a review of the lease? Can this be put on the Agenda for the next months meeting?
- Public lighting – disgraceful on Herbert Road and Southern Cross.
- Taking in Charge – what money is allocated for this and what exactly does it cover?
- Residents in the Deepdales Estate on the Southern Cross Road are unhappy that the estate has not been taken in charge.
- Cycle Lanes – can we develop these further?

- Safer routes to school – money should be sought from the Dublin Transportation Office.
- Road Signage – only €20,000 to cover this. Need more money allocated.
- How much income was made from restrictive parking – clarification? The scheme was to create new spaces.
- Herbert Road - €14,000 in the first month. Is the money going towards new machines? Is this covered by the Traffic Wardens?
- Pedestrian Crossing is needed on the Seafront.
- Seatbacks on the Seafront – can we get these?
- Steps down to the sea wall should be done.
- Can the Town Engineer review the turn off to Enniskerry as it is quite dangerous?
- Concerned that Bray Town Council officials have gone as far as saying that Wicklow County Council has not paid us and there is nothing we can do.
- Concern raised about coming off Hills Roundabout onto the Killarney Road.
- Can the Town Engineer elaborate on what regional roads are in Bray's jurisdiction and a sense of what is to be spent?
- Is any money in this programme to cover lighting, traffic calming and signage in Ardmore?

The Administrative Officer for Finance responded with the following –

- Restricted Parking – this was in the capital column because the Local Government Act requested this. It is not considered revenue in their eyes.
- €450,000 for restricted parking would also cover payroll, maintenance and the cost of servicing the machines.

The Town Manager stated that –

- We have been interrupted in our parking development in the town but hopefully things will be back on track soon with the Florentine Centre.

The members raised the following points –

- Is the company who runs these machines contracted? If so, then they should be issued penalties as many people who try to put money into machines could not because they were full especially on a Saturday.
- €650,000 is expected in revenue from these but we will have to pay €450,000 for maintenance. There will be very little left over if we are trying to build a new car park.

The Administrative Officer for Finance stated the following –

- Regional Roads – we should have received €57,000 from Wicklow County Council but as yet we have not. However we have invoiced them.
- There was also a Government Grant of €425,000 received.
- Cost of carrying out restricted parking in 2005 was €362,000.

The Town Engineer stated the following –

- We are currently drawing up a programme of works for 2006 and the proposals will be brought before the members soon.
- Seafront steps will be repaired.
- Sidminton Road – I will review the bad bend.
- Enniskerry turn – this is out of our jurisdiction. This would be a matter for the National Roads Authority and Wicklow County Council.
- Traffic Plan – major infrastructure is required. Mainly footpaths that are affecting the Budget.
- €57,000 should keep the traffic lights going but we need to get money from Wicklow County Council as this funding will not be enough. There will be a reconstruction grant given for national roads though.
- Taking in Charge – most of the funding for this last year was for administration. We try to force developers to complete works on time but it is difficult.

The members raised the following points –

- There are six Councillors on this Council who are also on Wicklow County Council and they could fight for this down there. A proposal should be brought to Wicklow County Council.
- Wicklow County Council should take these roads back. MPC should review this.
- Can some disabled parking bays be put in the Herbert Road car park?
- Vevay Village Scheme – will these be completed soon?
- Are we getting any funding from the D.T.O?

The Town Clerk informed the members of the following –

- Superquinn Lease – this was given in 1997. The first five years were to be £15,000 and then it would be reviewed, leave was given for a 35 year period. This can be put on the agenda if the members wish. A list of questions have already been put to Superquinn and we are awaiting their reply.

8613– Programme Group 3 – Water Supply and Sewerage

The members were advised of the following estimated expenditure and income under this programme group.

Estimated Expenditure - €1,356,927

Estimated Income - €1,305,727

The members raised the following points -

- Who authorised the over- expenditure?
- Fire Hydrants – welcome the €20,000.
- Commercial Water – massive amount overspent – can we have some information?
- Can we secure fire hydrants to prevent anti-social behaviour i.e. people turning them on.

- Does the public convenience outside the Civic Offices make much money for the Council? Another one is needed at other end of the town and on the Seafront.
- Propose that we increase our charge to Wicklow County Council for public sewage maintenance by 12% - the same as the County Demand.
- What water and sewerage services does Wicklow County Council provide for Bray?
- Have we mapped all of the fire hydrants and will €7,000 be adequate to cover this? The monthly Housing Progress Report should include an update on this.

The Administrative Officer for Finance informed the members of the following –

- Water income – we went in line with the Polluter Pays Principle and Wicklow County Council.
- Overspends – treatment works and the purchase of pumps.
- Direct administration – salaries and pensions staff are charged to different programme groups.
- Public Convenience - €25,000 approximately for maintenance. Income is €700.
- One member of staff is on long term sick leave.

The Town Engineer responded as follows -

- A lot of the fire hydrants have been mapped. The town has not been finished yet though.
- We do anticipate to use money put in for hydrants.
- Securing Hydrants – it is a matter for the Gardai to make sure anti-social behaviour does not occur.

At this stage of the meeting the Cathaoirleach asked the members if they would like to take a break.

Councillor David Grant proposed that they continue the meeting till 10 pm and then finish and start again at 7.30 pm next Tuesday. This was seconded by Councillor Joe Behan.

8614 Programme Group 4– Development Incentives and Control

The members were advised of the following estimated expenditure and income under this programme group.

Estimated Expenditure - €337,622

Estimated Income - €104,600

The members raised the following points –

- Airshow has been omitted – is it happening this year?
- Volunteer Bureau – over 200 registered to use this bureau.
- Business related activities – is this earmarked to go towards the Town Rejuvenation Plan?
- It was agreed to map all open spaces in the Development Plan
- Extra €200,000 in planning fees – what is to happen this money?

- Performance of state agencies have been pathetic allowing two major companies to leave the town.
- Time has come to stop allocating different festivals funds but instead take from one general fund.
- Can we increase the funding for Begles to €15,000.
- Tourism should be increased to €20,000.
- Christmas Tree lights – can we increase to €13,400?
- Can we get any funds to support Irish Dancing on the Bandstand?
- Rehills land – can we have an update?
- Planning fees – Local Authorities in this country are acting illegally according to European Law charging €20 for a planning application. People are being excluded from planning decisions. Can the Manager follow this up with the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government?
- Traders in the town and the Chamber of Commerce need to contribute more to these items.
- The scale of the upcoming Golf Club Lands development will be massive. We need more staff in the planning department. Can Bray Town Council co-operate with Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council regarding this development, as they have experience with the Dundrum Shopping Centre?
- Can the Council write to the I.D.A and Enterprise Ireland to ask them to come to a future meeting?

The Administrative Officer for Finance informed the members of the following –

- There was no request received to hold another Airshow in 2006.
- Open Spaces – during the coming Summer we will have student planners to map the open spaces.
- €40,000 was allocated for staff in the Heritage Centre.
- Christmas Lights - €10,000 per year is allocated from Bray Town Council.
- Rehills Land – we are currently waiting on a flood study before this can proceed.
- Twinning - €2,000 was allocated last year so the status quo will remain this year.

The Town Manager informed the members of the following –

- Staff – we are currently within a staff embargo. To recruit another planner would cost approximately €80,000.
- Planning Fees – the members must pass a motion to contact the Minister regarding the issue with illegal planning fees.

This meeting was then adjourned until 24th January 2006.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Signed:

Town Clerk

Dated:
