

Minutes of Bray Electoral Area Committee meeting held in Civic Offices, Greystones, 21st November 2011.

Present: Cllrs. J. Byrne, P. Vance, J. Brady, C. Fox, M. Glynn, J. Ryan, Cllr B. Nevin, Cllr R. McManus

In Attendance:

Eoin Heslin, Senior Executive Engineer, Greystones

Myra Porter, Senior Staff officer, Greystones Area Office

Des O' Brien, Director of Services

Margaret Malone, Administrative Officer, Housing

1. Confirmation of Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr. Vance and seconded by Cllr. Byrne that the minutes as circulated, be confirmed and signed.

2. Consideration of Housing Report.

D. O' Brien advised members that draft agreement has been prepared in relation to the transfer of responsibility for management of houses in Bray town, from Wicklow County Council to Bray Town Council. The matter should be finalised before annual budgets are adopted. Members requested that adequate financial arrangements be made to ensure that there are no additional costs to either Council arising from the new arrangement. D. O' Brien advised that the proposal should be cost neutral.

Members raised concerns regarding new procedures which restricts people from applying to more than one housing authority, stating this discriminates against people in Bray, where there are both WCC and BTC houses. Members requested that some provision be made for housing applicants in this category.

M. Malone advised members of proposals to install CCTV in Ballywaltrim Heights, in response to requests from residents to address escalating levels of anti social behaviour. Members were also advised that the paper work is almost completed in order to resolve the problem with deeds to houses in Rockfield Park. In relation to houses in Parknasillogue, M. Malone advised that it is intended to go to tender to engage a contractor to undertake outstanding works and repairs. Funding has been allocated and two houses have been prioritised for works before Christmas.

M. Malone advised that there are currently three empty houses in the area, 2 in Monastery Grove and one in Parknasillogue, this house will be kept empty to facilitate outstanding works proposed on other houses. Members requested a list of all empty houses in the Bray electoral area for the next meeting and a county wide breakdown on figures in the next Housing report.

3. List of Works proposed and carried out in the Area.

E. Heslin circulated his report and answered members questions. Members stated that a number of complaints have been received regarding recent works in Enniskerry. It was stated that the paths are too wide and roads are too narrow causing problems particularly for buses and reducing parking which is impacting on business. It was requested that original granite kerbs be re-instated following works on footpaths. E. Heslin confirmed that kerbs would be retained and explained that the works are in keeping with NTA policy to slow down traffic within the village by narrowing existing junctions. Members queried the decision to carry out works on the basis of the availability of funding from the NTA. Recent works and other ongoing works by the Council is having a negative impact on local business.

Members raised the following issues also :

- Maintenance of Southern Cross, particularly the roundabouts.
- Recent serious risk of flooding from County Brook stream at Dargle Valley.
- Flooding at Briarwood and nearby roundabout.
- Blocked drains at southern end of Quill Road, caused by surface water and gravel from local stone business.

In response E. Heslin advised that he would re-examine the problem with weeds on roundabouts on Southern Cross and the flooding on Quill Road. He advised that the National Primary Roads Section have been requested to repair damaged signs. He agreed that the mass concrete which prevents right turns on the slip road from Killarney Road to Southern Cross was an eyesore and advised that he would enquire regarding long term plans for the junction. Regarding recent incident at Dargle Valley,

E. Heslin explained that there is an ongoing issue caused by a build up of silt, which the Council cleared giving rise to concerns of flooding. The Council are awaiting the outcome of ongoing investigations by Bray TC and the Fisheries Board in order to implement a permanent solution.

In relation to problems at Briarwood D. O'Brien advised that the builder originally culverted a stream and put in a grate which gets blocked from time to time. The grate is at the back of house number 1 Briarwood on adjacent private land and needs to be maintained to remove obstructions and prevent flooding. In addition works on the roundabout at the end of the Southern Cross resulted in the diversion of a stream into two small pipes which overflow at time of heavy rainfall, causing water to flow onto public road. The Council will pursue the owner of the land and those who carried out the work in order to resolve the issue of flooding on the road. Members were concerned that notices had not already been served on those responsible before now and requested an update for the next meeting. Cllr Vance advised that Bray Golf Club are constructing a reservoir to take water coming off Bray Head, this will address some of the problem.

4. Update on Gritting Routes and Procedures.

E. Heslin advised that details of all gritting routes are on the Council's website. Members were advised that agreement has been reached with the Wicklow Engineering Area to ensure that the R755 Roundwood to Kilmacanogue road will be gritted simultaneously from either end by both road crews. The issue will be reviewed in January to ensure that the entire road is maintained in the same condition and kept open as much as possible. E. Heslin confirmed that meetings have taken place with the Uplands Council to agree drop off areas for salt, gulley cleaning is ongoing, gritting routes agreed and extra salt stocks are in place in preparation for severe weather. Cllr Fox stated that the IFA and the ICMSA would be in a better position to assist the Council as the message was not getting out to the rural community. E. Heslin advised that both organisations should contact the Roads Section of the Council.

5. Report on Recent Planning Applications.

Cllr Fox raised concerns on behalf of Kilmurray Cottages residents in relation to the recent application for a Nursing Home. Residents do not object to the proposal but are worried about the additional traffic generated during construction and on completion, they also have concerns regarding noise and dust levels, they would appreciate if measures were put in place to address their concerns. D. O'Brien advised that similar conditions will apply as in previous decisions to grant permission, stating that residents could have made a submission outlining their concerns.

D. O'Brien answered questions in relation to the proposed amendments to the Kilmacanogue Plan. Members were advised that there are three amendments, two proposals to extend the boundary slightly and a third proposal for a road reservation line east of the N11, in order to provide a parallel road in order to stop traffic between Bray and Kilmacanogue using the N11. This would improve traffic safety by reducing traffic movements and removing entrances from the N11. A large number of submissions have been received, particularly in relation to the proposed road reservation line. These are being examined at present. The Managers Report on the proposal variations should come before the members at the January 2012 meeting of the full Council. If necessary the Area Committee meeting could be held on the morning of the full meeting.

6. Notices of Motion.

There were no notices of motion.

7. Correspondence and Items outstanding.

M. Porter circulated email dated 15th November from Cllr David Grant in relation to loss of funding for sports facilities in Bray. Members were advised that there were cross lines within the Council regarding the application to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. Bray TC thought that the Community & Enterprise Section of WCC were responding and vice versa. This situation will be rectified going forward, to prevent a similar situation re-occurring.

D. O'Brien explained that an allocation of €40,000 towards an all weather pitch in Fassaroe was sent to Wicklow Co. Co. and Bray TC were not informed. He was not happy that Bray TC were being by passed by the Department of Environment, despite previous assurances from them that this would not happen.

Members expressed disappointment that funding was lost due to miscommunication, it was important to ensure that this does not happen again.

In response to queries raised at a previous meeting regarding responsibility for registration and inspection of septic tanks, members were advised of the contents of an email from the Environmental Section advising the Council have not been informed of arrangements, as yet.

Members raised concerns at the September meeting regarding traffic hazards caused by vehicles pulling in and out of the Topaz garage in Kilmacanogue. M. Porter advised that the Roads Section are currently working on a few options for the area, with the intention of presenting them to the NRA for feedback.

8. Any Other Business.

There were no items raised under this item.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The next meeting of the Committee will be held in Greystones at 3.30pm on Monday 16th January 2012.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator

Dated this ____ **day of** _____ **2012**