





Order No. 226

FALCONER
Printer and Publisher
— DUBLIN —

Date 29-3-49

Albert Avenue - Location of Shop. 13.

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Lie Brigade Service - Transfer to County Council administration. 10.

Fuel Scheme - Establishment of Depot. 11.

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Housing.

Report of Mr. E. M. Murphy re Housing Scheme: 7

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Library Assistant - Appointment of 12.

Order 3.

House Ledger - 9.

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Minutes. Approval of. 2.

Managers Orders: 3.

Heads butlers - 9.

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BRAY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Town Hall,
Bray.

23rd March, 1950.

To the Chairman and Members of
Bray Urban District Council.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1950/51.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

In the attached Tables details are given of the costs of the Council's Services for the financial year ending 31st March, 1951. Expenditure and Receipts are shown under the four main headings of Roads; Sanitary Services; Housing; and General Urban Purposes. The Demand from the County Council is included under the latter heading.

Summary of Expenditure and Receipts.

The expenditure and receipts and net costs to be met from Rates are estimated at:-

	<u>Gross Expenditure</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Net Expenditure</u>
Roads	4,581	95	4,486
Sanitary Services	13,592	1,270	12,322
Housing	27,516	23,158	4,358
General Urban Purposes	<u>44,735</u>	<u>5,320</u>	<u>39,415</u>
	90,424	29,843	60,581

The total cost of the Council's Services which requires to be met from Rates in the coming year, therefore, is estimated at £60,581. The total valuation effective for rating purposes in the coming year is £44,775 and the Municipal Rate required to produce £60,581 is 27/1d in the £. This is an increase of 5d in the £ compared with the Rate for the present year which is 26/8d.

Whilst the Estimates now presented for your consideration entail an increase in the Rate they make provision for many new works, including Road Improvements, new watermains and improvements on the seafront. Representations as to the necessity for these works have been received from time to time, but all such improvements will require additional outlay - a cost which is bound to be reflected in the rate levy.

In submitting the Estimates last year reference was made to the proposal to redeem the 3½% Debenture Stock. Originally it was intended to redeem it at the end of 1949, and it was mentioned that unless there were an unexpected fall in the market value of the securities held on behalf of the Fund, that this should be possible. Sterling devaluation in September, 1949, and a rise in general Interest Rates led, however, to an unforeseen, sudden and sharp decline in security values. This has necessitated the postponement of redemption to the 30th June, 1950, and, furthermore, it is necessary to provide

in the Estimates for the coming year for a Sinking Fund appropriation and for Interest to redemption date.

In determining the Rate levy last year credits amounting to £3,000 were applied. These credits, however, had arisen mainly from the improvements in the previous two years in the collection of Revenues, especially arrears of Rates, and credits of a similar character are not available for the coming year.

ROADS

The gross expenditure on Roads is estimated at £4,581.

As in former years, a sum of £300 has been included as the Council's contribution to Employment Schemes in respect of which it is hoped that a Government Grant again will be forthcoming. In the present year a Grant of £1,150 was received. With its aid part of footpaths at Lower Dargle Road was relaid, part of Esplanade was resurfaced, and the surfacing of margins at Wolfe Tone Square was completed. The total outlay on the surfacing of margins at Wolfe Tone Square in the past three years was £1,400.

For the coming year, in respect of ordinary maintenance (patching and filling of potholes, etc.) a sum of £664 is included (£464 wages and £200 materials). In the present year the amount allowed for this purpose was £432, but was found to be insufficient.

The Town Surveyor has recommended that the following Road Works be undertaken:-

175	1. Seapoint Road :	Tar Spraying :	£175 ✓
	2. Novara Road :	do. :	300 —
150	3. Galtrim Road :	do. :	150 ✓
	4. Wyndham Park :	do. :	150 —
63	5. Galtrim Park :	Repairs :	63 ✓
50	6. Old Connaught Avenue :	do. :	50 ✓
	7. Church Road :	Scarifying and laying tarmacadam :	2,150
438	8. Herbert Road - Reconstruction in concrete from Main Street to King Edward Road (£3,400) and laying of service watermain (£600) :	:	4,000

Items Nos. 1 to 6 would cost £888 and this sum is included in the attached Estimates.

It is suggested that the cost of reconstruction of Church Road and Herbert Road be met by Loans. The sums of £258 and £280, shown in the Estimates, represent a half-years loan charges for these works. It was intended that the reconstruction of Church Road would be started in the present year, but the watermain in this road has first to be relaid and it is not possible to obtain delivery of the necessary pipes before July next, notwithstanding that the Order was placed many months ago. The original estimate for resurfacing this road was £950 (half-years loan charge £114) but this did not include scarifying and having regard to the comments on works carried out in the present year (Greenpark Road and St. Laurence's Road) in which scarifying was not done, the Surveyor considered it advisable to provide for a more thorough type of resurfacing in the present year. If the Council agree to the reconstruction of Herbert Road, it is urged that concrete be used as the roads recently done in this material (Meath Road, Sidmorton Road and Florence Road) enhance very much the appearance of the town, and, furthermore, there is a saving in maintenance and scavenging costs. Difficulty, however, may be found in procuring cement under present circumstances.

SANITARY SERVICES

The marked trend towards an increase in the cost of bulk supply of water obtained from Dublin Corporation has been somewhat arrested in the present year, as a result of the efforts made to check excessive consumption by special inspections and the installation of water meters on non-domestic supplies. The

account for the last quarter was lower than that for any preceding quarter in the previous two years. The Estimate for the coming year is £3,600. For 1949/50 the sum of £3,000 was allowed, but this was exceeded by almost £600. During the year 48 meters were installed on non-domestic services and £50 is being provided for the purchase of 12 further meters in the coming year. The revenue from water rents in 1950/51 is estimated at £550, as compared with £400 in 1949/50. An increase in water consumption was to be expected in recent years owing to the large influx of visitors to Bray during the Summer months, and to the number of new dwellings which have been erected. The Council has built over 100 new houses in the past few years and over 80 other new dwellings have been erected. All the new Council houses have bathrooms. The co-operation of the public in preventing waste would, however, secure a reduction in the present consumption of water, and, at the same time, would reduce the costs to be met from Rates.

For the cleaning of Strand Road Sewer £200 is provided. This sewer serves a large part of the town and has to be cleaned out periodically if it is to work efficiently. Similar work was last done in 1946. During the past year the outfall to the Sewer from Little Bray was improved, and the outfall chamber from the Cock Brook at the Esplanade was reconstructed.

£50 is included to cover cost of cleaning the Cock Brook under the bridges at Sidmonton and Meath Roads.

The erection of and repair of the platform and diving stages at the Municipal Baths is estimated to cost £120. The income from the letting of these premises is £50. £100 is included as a contribution to Repairs at Bray Cove Swimming Pools.

Further repairs to the Boat Slip (Esplanade) at a cost of £100 would be necessary. During the present year £150 was spent, but damage to the remaining section of the Slip occurred during recent heavy seas.

Last year the Council agreed to borrow a sum of £5,030 to meet the cost of new watermains at the following places:- Seapoint Road (£900); Church Road (£600); Brighton Terrace (£200); Pearse Square (£130); Connolly Square (£300); Marie Villas (£150); Fairview Road (£150); Killarney Road (£800); Novara Road (£1,800). Orders already have been placed for the necessary pipes etc. and delivery has been promised in July, 1950. The Surveyor proposes to carry out the work by Direct Labour. The Department of Local Government has indicated that this loan should be obtained from the Treasurer. If the period of repayment be 15 years the loan charges for a half-year would be £225.

The Surveyor also has strongly recommended that a new 6" water-main be provided in Quinsboro' Road. He considers that this main is very essential in order to ensure adequate pressure for fire fighting. The cost would be £1,200 and the loan charges for a half-year £54.

Already the Council has, within the past few years, relaid the watermains in Meath Road, Sidmonton Road, Herbert Road and Vevay Road. The capital cost of these latter works was about £9,000. The Scheme for relaying watermains which, owing to their age are in bad condition, will eventually cost therefore over £15,000.

viz. £1,350. The provision for Public Lighting is the same as in 1949/50,

The Council recently decided to provide their own vehicles for refuse collection when the present Contract expires, but it is not expected that the new Scheme will materially affect the cost in the coming year, and consequently a sum of £1,350 again has been included.

HOUSING

In 1949/50 the balance of the houses included in the 91 Houses Scheme (Contract) were completed and let. The 18 houses which the Council decided to build by Direct Labour are almost all now ready for occupation.

Notwithstanding that in two and a half years the Council has built 109 houses, a performance which compares favourably with Urban areas of comparable size, there is still an acute housing shortage. Unfortunately the Council has been severely hampered in its efforts to acquire land, and this has retarded progress in the Building Programme. The legal formalities to be observed in connection with compulsory acquisition of land are cumbrous and entail much delay. Pending the acquisition of the land required for 250 houses, the Council has decided to proceed immediately with the building of a further 26 houses by Direct Labour on various sites throughout the Town, and it is expected that these will be ready for occupation before the end of 1950. The Council's policy of building on derelict sites, where possible, has contributed materially towards improving the appearance of parts of the Town, for example, Vevay Road, adjacent to the Town Hall, now provides a pleasant contrast to its condition some years ago when it was an area of derelict ruins.

Tenders will be invited as soon as possible for the 22 better type houses on land at Boghall, and arrangements have been made for the leasing of 22 sites to persons who will build houses for their own occupation.

At present the Council owns, or has built and sold on a tenant-purchase basis, 797 houses which have provided accommodation for about 4,000 persons, which is equivalent to over one-third of the Urban population. To this, moreover, must be added more than 100 houses, which in the past 15 years, have been built with the aid of Loans from the Council under the Small Dwellings (Acquisition) Acts.

For repairs to Council houses £1,200 is included; a like sum was allowed last year.

Rates on Council houses show an increase from £4,427 to £4,857, but this is offset by an increase in the income from rentals.

Loan charges on the New Schemes are estimated to reach £3,532 as compared with £2,605 in the present year, but the additional charges are partly offset, again by an increase in the rents receivable from the new houses.

The net cost of housing is estimated at £4,358 which is a slight reduction on the charge for the present year, (£4,470). This reduction is, however, attributable to the saving effected by the conversion of the 5% Stock, the charges on which will be £1,877 in the coming year, as compared with £2,134 in 1949/50.

This sum of £4,358 represents the subsidy from the Council towards the various Housing Schemes and which, in addition to State assistance, permits of the houses being let at rents much lower than the economic rents which otherwise would have to be charged.

Building costs still remain very high, and in this connection, it is noted that the prices of basic materials, such as cement, timber, etc., in this country are substantially higher than in Britain, whilst rates of wages for tradesmen in the Bray District appear also to be higher than the cross-channel rates.

SMALL DWELLINGS (ACQUISITION) ACTS LOANS.

The charges under this heading include those on the Capital sums which the Council has borrowed recently from the Local Loans Fund, for the purpose of making Loans to persons building their own houses. It will be noted that the Loan Charges are counter-balanced by corresponding repayments from the borrowers, and the Scheme, therefore, does not involve any cost to the Rates.

The Council has already arranged for the borrowing of £100,000 and up to the present 77 Loans, representing a total of £82,000 in advances have been approved. In the five years prior to 1939, 92 Loans were made, and of these 60 have, in the meantime, been repaid in full.

The Scheme is thus making valuable contribution to the Housing Programme, and under it borrowers can obtain money at a lower rate of Interest and generally on more favourable terms than can be obtained from other sources. Complaints have, however, been made by borrowers concerning the legal costs which arise when they arrange to build their own houses. Apart from the legal charges on the mortgage, there are fees payable in connection with the leasing of sites, and the Contract for building etc.. Having regard to the stereotyped character of the legal work involved in these instances, the legal charges undoubtedly appear excessive and impose a considerable burden on borrowers.

GENERAL URBAN PURPOSES.

The outlay under this heading includes the County Council demand and outlay on the Esplanade, the maintenance of which each year involves the Council in considerable expense. In the Estimates now submitted, provision is made for a number of new Works of improvement.

Town Hall Expenses.

The estimate for lighting and heating shows an increase from £200 to £300. A Tender for the painting and renovation of the Town Hall has been accepted and it is expected that work will be started early in the coming financial year. The cost (£1,267) is being defrayed by a ten years Loan.

Public Library .

The total estimate for this service is £1,504 as compared with £1,349 in 1949/50. The increase is attributable to £100 extra for books and binding, and £130 extra for Loan Charges. (In 1949/50 only a half-years Loan Charge had to be met.) The increase, however, is partly offset by an additional £50 from registration fees, etc.. The service has operated very satisfactorily since the re-opening of the Library, after the completion of renovations and purchase of new book stocks. The Number of borrowers and Book Issues are relatively very high, compared with other Urban Areas, and show that the service is being availed of extensively. A pleasing feature, moreover, is the extent to which the non-fiction section is being used. The present condition of the Library is a tribute to the foresight of the Council and the enthusiasm of the Committee and the Librarian.

Vocational Education.

The demand is £1,435; it was £1,312 in the present year. The Reports of the Committee provide ample evidence of the use made of this service; the Committee finds difficulty in meeting the number of applications for attendance at its various courses.

Esplanade.

Provision is made in the Estimates for the following new works:-

Painting of Railings - Strand Road	£250
New hut at Bandstand :	100
New wall opposite Municipal Baths	100
Renewal of Bandstand Floor	150
Improvements to surface North Esplanade	50
Sodding of Esplanade :	50

In addition, the sum of £50 is included to cover the cost of repairs to fences around the plantations on Bray Head. Last year much damage was caused by fire in the plantations.

Fire Brigade.

As a result of discussions between Bray, Arklow and Wicklow Urban Councils, and County Council, it was decided, some time ago, that, as from 1st April, 1950 all the Fire Brigades in the County should be brought under the control of the County Council, and the costs be defrayed as a County-at-large charge. The charges for the Fire Brigade in the coming year are, in consequence, included in the County Council demand. In 1949 the Bray Fire Brigade was re-organised in two units and the personnel increased so as to allow of the operation of a system whereby one unit always would be on call. In the previous year a new Fire Engine was bought and some months ago a Fire Siren for day calls, and a Buzzer Alarm System connected to the homes of the Members of the Brigade for night calls, were installed. Dirty chimneys caused by the use of wet turf and timber in recent years as domestic fuel, have resulted in a large number of calls to chimney fires. Householders find great difficulty in having chimneys cleaned of the deposits which cause fire outbreaks and a remedy for this apparently has not yet been found. The Brigade has operated satisfactorily since the re-organisation. The number of calls attended in the past six months was 51. The value of the property involved was about £90,000.

It should be mentioned that the relaying of some of the watermains in the Town is very essential for the purpose of having an adequate pressure of water to cope with fires. Reference has already been made to the measures which are being taken in this connection. It is regrettable, however, that the work is being held up owing to the delay in procuring watermains.

Salaries.

The total cost of salaries shows a slight increase over that in the present year. This arises from increments and a temporary cost-of-living increase granted after the adoption of the Estimates last year. In addition, provision has had to be made for a Storekeeper (included under Roads and Sanitary Services).

Legal Expenses.

The amount provided is £350, as compared with £250 in the present year.

Printing, Stationery and Advertising.

The Estimate is £475. In the present year £300 was allowed, but was found to be inadequate. Advertising charges, and the cost of printing and stationery, have increased considerably in recent years. For example, advertising rates have increased by about 100% in the past ten years. Moreover, the quantity of correspondence and records to be kept are now much greater owing to housing and other demands. The correspondence arising from Housing Applications, and the preparation and undertaking of New Schemes, is particularly formidable. Apart from the demands made by housing on the Staff, members of the Council have had to devote voluntarily much time and labour to this problem - a fact, perhaps, which is not readily appreciated by the public. For example,

about 40 Special Meetings were held in the past 12 months, mainly for the purpose of considering such matters as the details of new Housing Schemes, the letting of new houses, and the examination of applications for Loans under the Small Dwellings Acts.

County Council Demand.

The demand for 1950/51 shows a welcome reduction on that for the years 1949/50. Your representatives on the County Council were closely associated with the determination of the costs of the County Council services which has resulted in this reduction. The demand compares as follows with that for the present year:-

	<u>1950/51</u>	<u>1949/50</u>	<u>Decrease (-)</u> <u>or</u> <u>Increase (x)</u>
Main Roads :	3,154	4,141	(-) 987
Public assistance :	12,432	13,561	(-) 1,129
Mental Hospitals :	5,715	5,561	(x) 154
Health Services :	1,767	1,873	(-) 106
General Purposes (County)	<u>2,930</u>	<u>2,339</u>	(x) 591
	25,998	27,475	(-) 1,477

The net reduction is £1,477 and is equivalent to a rate of about 8d in the £.

Unemployment Assistance Acts Levy.

This is the product of a special rate of 9d in the £ which the Council is required to raise under the Unemployment Assistance Acts 1933 and 1940. The amount required for 1950/51 is £1561 which is practically the same as that in 1949/50, (£1575). The money is paid to the Department of Social Welfare.

GENERAL.

At a time when local authorities are being criticised in connection with the Rates levied by them it seems to be appropriate to record the trend of Rates in Bray in the past 13 years:-

1937/38 - 24/3d
 1938/39 - 23/3d
 1939/40 - 22/-
 1940/41 - 25/-
 1941/42 - 24/6
 1942/43 - 23/-
 1943/44 - 22/10
 1944/45 - 21/6d
 1945/46 - 21/3d
 1946/47 - 23/10
 1947/48 - 26/8d
 1948/49 - 27/8d
 1949/50 - 26/8d

It scarcely is necessary to refer to the radical changes in price levels etc. which have added to the costs of local services in the intervening years. It will be evident, however, that the rate levy has not taken an upward trend corresponding to the violent changes which have occurred in commodity prices.

In submitting the Estimates it has been deemed desirable not only to indicate any alterations in costs, but also to review the Council's services over the past year. Members of the Council already are familiar with the details given in such review, but it is prescribed that the Estimates must be available for any person who may wish to procure them, and it has been the Council's policy to impart full information regarding all aspects of the administration to which they have voluntarily contributed so much consideration in time taken from their own private interests and pursuits.

Once again I desire to express my sincere appreciation of the co-operation and assistance which has been received from the Chairman and Members of the Council in the past year. I should also like to mention the satisfactory service given by the Council's staff. The preparation of the Estimates now submitted for your consideration was facilitated very much by the manner in which up to date information and all relevant requirements had been made available by the Town Clerk, Accountant and Surveyor.

Yours faithfully,

M. Flannery,

Wicklow Co. Manager.

MF

BRAY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ESTIMATES OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR

ENDING 31st MARCH, 1951

EXPENDITURE

	<u>Estimated by Manager</u>	<u>Adopted by Council</u>
<u>URBAN ROADS</u>	£	£
Ordinary Road Works		
Urban Roads Maintenance - Wages	464	
do. - Materials	200	110
Tar Spraying - Novara Road, Seapoint Road, etc..	888	300 150
Special Grant Works (Council's contribution)	300	438
Salaries (Surveyor and Overseer part)	270	
Salaries (Storekeeper one-half)	160	
Clothing (workmen)	10	
Superannuation - former Overseer & Surveyor one-fourth	98	
<u>LOAN CHARGES</u>		
1935 Newcourt Road (Treasurer)	75	
3 $\frac{3}{4}$ % Stock (Divds. and Sinking Fund)	167	
1947 Meath and Sidmonton Roads Reconstruction (C.P.W.)	683	
1949 Meath and Sidmonton Roads Reconstruction (C.P.W.)	208	
1948 Florence Road Reconstruction (C.P.W.)	520	
1950 Church Road Reconstruction (half-year)	258	114
1950 Herbert Road Reconstruction (half-year)	280	280
	<u>£4,581</u>	

	Estimated by Manager.	Adopted by Council.
	£	£
<u>SANITARY SERVICES</u>		
Sewers - Wages	503	
do. - Materials	100	
do. - Cleaning Strand Road sewer	200	
do. - Superannuation (workmen)	41	
Cleaning Cockbrook	50	
Waterworks - Salaries	328	
- Wages	822	
- Clothing - workmen	10	
- Materials	200	
- Superannuation (Doyle & Lee)	374	
- Dublin Corporation for Bulk Supply (@ 2.88d)	3,600	
- Purchase of Water Meters	50	
Scavenging - Domestic and Streets - Refuse collection	1,350	
- Wages	1,915	
- Clothing - workmen	10	
- Carting	20	
- Tools, etc.	50	
- Superannuation - workmen	449	
Municipal Baths - Maintenance & Repairs to Platform	120	
Hot Sea Baths - Maintenance	-	
Swimming Pools - Bray Cove - Repairs	100	
Public Lighting	1,350	
Salaries - (Surveyor and Overseer - part)	270	
Superannuation - Surveyor and Overseer	98	
Salaries - Storekeeper - part	160	
Other sanitary expenses	20	
<u>LOAN CHARGES</u>		
1928 Sewers (C.P.W.)	265	
1929 Sewers (C.P.W.)	82	
1939 Public Health - General (C.P.W.)	146	
1947 Watermains - Herbert and Vevay Roads (C.P.W.)	132	
1947 Sewers and Watermains - Meath and Sidmonton Roads (C.P.W.)	263	
1895 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ % Stock - Divds. and Sinking Fund	235	
1949 Miscellaneous 4" Watermains (C.P.W.)	225	
1950 Watermain - Quinsboro' Road (Treas.) half-year.	54	
	<hr/>	
	£13,592	
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	Estimated by Manager.	Adopted by Council
	£	£
<u>HOUSING</u>		
<u>Housing of the Working Classes</u>		
Maintenance and Repairs	£1,200	
Salaries - Surveyor and Overseer - part	270	
do.	415	
Superannuation - Overseer and Surveyor (one-fourth)	98	
Rent Collector's Commission	800	
Rates on Council Houses	4,857	
Insurance	300	
Clearing of Derelict Sites	10	

LOAN CHARGES

1912 Dargan Street, etc. (C.P.W.)	309
1931 Little Bray Scheme (Royal Liver)	1,194
1933 Little Bray Scheme (Royal Liver)	912
1935 Wolfe Tone Square & Kilmantin Park (C.P.W.)	6,185
1936 Wolfe Tone Square & Kilmantin Park (C.P.W.)	1,086
1937 Little Bray Housing Development (C.P.W.)	543
1939 Little Bray Housing Development (C.P.W.)	121
1895 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ % Stock - Divds. and Sinking Fund	653
1929 5% Stock - Divds. and Sinking Fund	1,877
1947 Dublin Road etc. - 91 Houses Scheme (C.P.W.)	2,477
1949 Derelict Sites - 18 Houses (Direct Labour Scheme)	519
1949 Pollard's Terrace Acquisition	84
1949 Dublin Road etc., - 91 Houses Scheme (Additional loan)	536

Small Dwellings (Acquisition) Acts

Loan Charges

1935 C.Public Works Loan	556
1936 C.Public Works Loan	1,066
1949 C.Public Works Loan	724
1950 C.Public Works Loan	724

£27,516

	Estimated by Manager	Adopted by Council
	£	£
<u>GENERAL URBAN PURPOSES</u>		
Town Hall Expenses - Lighting and Heating	300	
Tourist Development	100	
Town and Regional Planning	5	
Public Library - Salaries (Librarian and Assistant)	521	
do. - Wages	48	
do. - Books, Binding, etc.	600	
do. - Loan Charges (half-year)	270	
do. - Heating and Lighting	50	
do. - Furniture and Fittings	15	
Vocational Education - Demand	1,435	
Vocational Education - Superannuation	45	
Public Parks and Esplanade - Wages	876	
do. - Clothing for workmen	10	
do. - Materials	120	
Sodding of Esplanade	50	
Painting Railings (Strand Road)	250	250
Bandstand Floor - Renewal	150	
Bandstand - New Hut	100	100
New Wall opposite Municipal Baths	100	
Repairs to Plantation Fences	50	
Surface Improvements - North Esplanade	50	
Markets and Weighbridge - Salary of Weighmaster	236	
do. - Repairs	10	
do. - Rent	15	
Band Performances	150	
Milk and Dairies Acts	10	
School Meals - cost of food	600	
do. - cost of administration	205	
Allotments - Administration	30	
Allotments - Cost of Land and Seeds, etc.	200	
Salaries	1,602	
do. - Surveyor and Overseer - part.	270	
	<u>£8,473</u>	

	<u>Estimated by</u> <u>Manager</u>	<u>Adopted by</u> <u>Council</u>
	£	£
GENERAL URBAN PURPOSES (continued) Forward	8,473	
Rate Collector's Commission	580	
Superannuation - Town Clerk	519	
do. - Poor Rate Collector	237	
do. - Medical Officer for Health	36	
do. - Former Surveyor & Overseer - part	78	
Legal Expenses	350	
Audit Expenses	50	
Printing, Stationery and Advertising	475	
Office Expenses - Postage and Telephones	125	
Preparation of Rate Books, etc.	50	
Rent - Rates and Taxes	208	
Insurances (Fire, .H., P.L. and F.G.)	320	
Discount on Rates	90	
Refunded and Irrecoverable Rates	300	
Fuel Scheme - Cost of Turf, etc.	900	
do. - Administration (printing etc.)	40	
Bank Interest	10	
Miscellaneous	200	

HARBOUR CHARGES

Superannuation of Harbour Master	197
Wages - (Crane man)	292
Materials	50
Lighting and power for crane	15
Repairs to Lighthouse & Bridge	130
Repairs to Crane	50

Loan Charges -	
3 $\frac{3}{4}$ % Stock (Dividends & Sinking Fund)	1,442

LOAN CHARGES . GENERAL PURPOSES

1932 Vocational Education (C.P.W.)	228
1943 Sea Wall Restoration (C.P.W.)	331
1947 Sea Wall Restoration (C.P.W.)	20
1947 Car Park (C.P.W.)	265
1895 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ % Stock (Divds. and Sinking Fund) -	351
General Purposes	
1895 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ % Stock (Divds. and Sinking Fund - Esplanade	664
1950 Town Hall Alterations and Repairs (half-year)	80

COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES

Main Roads	3,154
Public Assistance	12,432
Mental Hospitals	5,715
Health Services	1,767
General Purposes (County)	2,930
Separate Charges	-

UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE LEVY

£41,642 P.L.V. @ 9d in £ (1933 and 1940 U.A.Acts)	1,561
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£44,735

R E C E I P T S

	<u>Estimated by</u> <u>Manager</u>	<u>Adopted by</u> <u>Council</u>
<u>ROADS</u>	£	£
State Grants - Estate Duty	75	
Miscellaneous	20	
	95	
	—	
<u>SANITARY SERVICES</u>		
State Grants:-		
School Meals	300	
(Sewer Connections	100	
(Water Connections	250	
←----- (Water Rents	550	
(Sanitary Conveniences - Esplanade	65	
(Baths	—	
(Hot Sea Baths (rent)	5	
	1,270	
	—	
<u>HOUSING</u>		
<u>Housing of Working Classes</u>		
Housing Subsidy - Little Bray Scheme	900	
Housing Subsidy - Wolfe Tone Square and Kilmantin Park	3,689	
Housing Subsidy - Dublin Road, Castle St., etc..	460	
Housing Grants - 1908 Act	28	
Rents (inc. of Rates)	11,852	
Purchase Annuities	3,341	
<u>Small Dwellings (Acq.) Acts.</u>		
Repayment by borrowers (old Loans)	1,460	
do. (new Loans)	1,428	
	£23,158	
	—	
Carried forward to page -2- : :	£23,158	
	—	

BRAY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL ESTIMATES - 1950/51

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

	<u>Gross</u> <u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Net</u> <u>Expenditure</u>
	£	£	£
Roads	4,581	95	4,486
Sanitary Services	13,592	1,270	12,322
Housing Services	27,516	23,158	4,358
General Urban Purposes	44,735	5,320	39,415
	<u>£90,424</u>	<u>£29,843</u>	<u>£60,581</u>

The net requirements of the Council to be met from Rate Levy, therefore, are £60,581.

Municipal Rate of 1d in £1 produces £186 10s 0d. Rate in £1 required to meet net expenditure of £60,581 is 27s 1d.

Route Collection 4.

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BRAY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Town Hall,
Bray.

20th March, 1951.

To the Chairman and Members of
Bray Urban District Council.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES 1951/52.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Full details are given in the attached Tables of the Estimated costs of the Council's Services for the financial year commencing 1st April, 1951. Expenditure and Receipts are shown under the four main headings of Roads; Sanitary Services; Housing; and General Urban Purposes. The Demand from the County Council is included under the latter heading.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE AND RECEIPTS.

The Expenditure and Receipts and net costs to be met from Rates are estimated at :-

	Gross Expenditure	Receipts	Net Expenditure
	£	£	£
Roads :	4,974	95	4,899
Sanitary Services	15,431	1,517	13,914
Housing	32,310	27,712	4,598
General Urban Purposes	49,927	3,622	46,305
	102,662	32,946	69,716

The total to be met from Rates in the coming year, therefore, is estimated at £69,716. The total valuation effective for rating purposes in the coming year is £45,471, and the Municipal Rate which would be required to produce £69,716 is 30/8d in the £. This would be an increase of 4/3d in the £ compared with the Rate for the present year which is 26/5d. The total expenditure allowed by the Council for the year 1950/51 was £59,123.

In the Estimates now submitted for your consideration provision has had to be made for a substantial increase in the County Council Demand and for the extra costs arising from recent revisions in rates of remuneration of the Council's staff. In addition, however, the Estimates include provision for many new works and for improvements in existing services.

In the following list a summary is given of the increases which would entail an increase in the rate levy :-

	£
County Council Demand:	3,122
Revision of Wages	607
Weeks extra holidays to workmen	111
Revision of Salaries :	602
Additional charge for Bulk Water Supply from Dublin Corporation :	900
Housing - Subsidy from Rates for new Schemes	240
Provision for Civil Defence :	200
Vocational Education Demand :	106
New Road Works - Revenue charge :	902
New Road Works - Loan Charges :	329
Relaying of Watermains - Loan Charges :	221
Dredging of Harbour - Loan Charges :	104
Public Lighting :	210
School Meals :	186
New Lavatory at Courthouse and Repairs :	350
New Pavilion at People's Park :	250
Town Hall - Repairs to Roof etc. :	425
Esplanade Improvements - Loan Charges :	360
Repairs to Kiosks at Esplanade :	120
Repairs to Seats at Esplanade :	70
Repairs to Sea Wall at Esplanade :	480
Painting Railings at Esplanade :	250
New Storage Hut at Esplanade :	100
Car Park at Esplanade - Tar Spraying :	180
Repairs to Wall at Bray Head Park :	100
Provision of new dumping Site :	75
Repairs to Store at Harbour :	200
New Stores near Town Hall - Loan Charges :	105
Additional Assistant in Public Library :	192
Reduction in Receipts - rent of Amusement Site	2,150
	£13,249

The foregoing increases amounting in all to £13,249 are, however, offset to the extent of £3,512 by a saving in Loan Charges resulting from the Redemption of the 1893 3½% Stock. This Stock was not due for Redemption for another two years and the Council has been saved over £7,000 by its redemption in advance of the prescribed date. Having regard to the decline in the value of securities which has occurred in the past twelve months it now seems that if redemption had been deferred until the due date the Council might have had to make an additional special contribution from Revenue to meet its obligations to stockholders. Apart from the saving, equivalent to over 1/6d in the £, which has resulted from the redemption of this Stock the Council since 1949 has been saved in loan charges an amount representing about 3d in the £, by the conversion of the 5% 1929 Stock.

Last year the County Council Demand showed a welcome reduction of about 8d in the £; in the coming year, however, there is an increase of over 1/4d in the rate required for this purpose.

Some time ago applications for revisions in rates of remuneration, based on the increase in the cost of living, were received by the Council from the Unions representing workers and staff. The workmen sought an increase of 15/- per week and the office staff an increase of 12½% on the basic salaries payable in 1948. Having considered the applications at length the Council eventually agreed to allow an increase of 11/- per week to workmen and of 12½% on basic rates of salary to the staff. Last year, after the Estimates were adopted, the Union claimed an additional weeks holidays for workmen as this had already been allowed to workers in comparable employment in Bray and the Council felt that they could not reasonably refuse an application which had been granted by other employers. The total cost of these items is shown above and amounts to £1,322.

As a result of insistent representations made in the past few years, and having heard the strong views expressed by a number of deputations on the subject the Council decided to discontinue the letting of the Northern end of the Esplanade to Amusement Caterers. This decision has resulted in a loss of receipts of £2,150 which had hitherto been available from such lettings, and which were used towards reducing the rate levy. Judging by the submissions made by Hotel owners, residents and visitors it is to be expected

that the Council's decision in this matter will be approved by the public and that the Scheme recently approved for enhancing the appearance of this part of the Esplanade will be accepted as a measure which would serve to keep the seafront in harmony with its scenic background and add to the attractions of Bray as a tourist resort.

In 1945 Dublin Corporation sought an increase in the charge for water supplied in bulk to Bray from the Vartry system. The increase then asked for would have resulted in an addition of about £800 per year to the cost of the water supply. The contentions of the Corporation on which the application was based were not then accepted. A revised application which now seeks a much greater increase in the charge, on the grounds that additional costs have had to be met by the Corporation, has recently been received, and a petition has been addressed to the Minister for Local Government asking for an Order fixing a revised charge. The Council again does not accept the submissions made by the Corporation and it is intended to oppose the Petition..

/most The costs of the services for which the Council is responsible inevitably have been affected by the rising prices of commodities. Reference already has been made to the revised rates of remuneration which the Council, in common with other employers, has had to grant. It is quite evident that this country cannot hope to be unaffected by the trend of world price levels and ~~the effect~~ of shortages of many essential materials. Geographic insularity confers no measure of economic insulation nowadays. A local authority cannot be expected to insulate itself against the effects of rising prices. Its members have to meet the same difficulties as newspaper proprietors who have had to increase recently the price of their product by 33 1/3rd% and to revise advertising charges.

In the past ten years the rates levied in this area have shown a stability which the Council can regard as no mean achievement. In 1940/41 the rate was 25/- in the £; in the present ^{year} it ~~is~~ 26/5d an increase of 5.6%. In the meantime wages have increased about 80%; salaries by 20% to 40%; and the prices of materials have shown increases ranging from 100% to 200%.

Regarding the future trend of rates it seems likely that new Schemes for the improvement of public health and social services will result in an increase in the rate levy in the coming years. The cost of new services of this character usually is reflected in the Demand from other authorities and there may be a possibility that Urban Authorities may seek to meet the increase in such statutory demands by reducing outlay on Municipal services and postpone or defer indefinitely schemes essential to the improvement of the areas in their charge. /Urban

ROADS

The gross expenditure on Roads is estimated at £4,994 and after deducting receipts of £95 the net levy is £4,899 as compared with £3,498 in the present year.

The outlay provides, however, for a major scheme of roads resurfacing and reconstruction.

The Town Surveyor submitted the following programme of new works (tar spraying and resurfacing):-

1. Wyndham Park	:	:	:	£200
2. Galtrim Park	:	:	:	100
3. Old Connaught Avenue	:	:	:	140
4. Strand Road (North End)	:	:	:	700
5. Strand Road (South End)	:	:	:	200
6. Brighton Terrace	:	:	:	95
7. St. Kevin's Square & Connolly Square	:	:	:	185
8. Galtrim Road	:	:	:	200
9. Westfield Park	:	:	:	650
10. Herbert Road (from King Edward Road to Killarney Lane.)	:	:	:	700
11. Fatima Terrace	:	:	:	400
12. St. Peter's Road (Access to Old Connaught Avenue)	:	:	:	130
				<u>£3,700</u>

It is submitted that there has been progressive deterioration of some of these roads for many years past and that their reconstruction could not be indefinitely postponed. The severe weather in the past six months has worsened their condition.

The suggested programme evidently would be a very onerous one to undertake in one year. In the Estimates now submitted provision is included for the works numbered 1 to 5 above which would cost £1,340. These were chosen because they are roads carrying relatively heavy traffic. The Council might consider making the entrance to Fatima Terrace and constructing a new access road from St. Peter's Road to Old Connaught with the aid of the Avenue Employments Schemes Grants which it is expected will be again received in the coming year. It was not intended by the Council that this latter short roadway should be used for vehicular traffic; it was agreed that, if constructed it be used for pedestrian traffic only.

Under Loan Charges provision is made for loan repayments (for half-year) on the capital costs of reconstructing Church Road (capital cost £1,300) and part of Herbert Road from Main Street to King Edward Road (capital cost £3,400). If a Loan repayable in 10 years be obtained from the Council's Treasurer the repayments for a half-year would be: Church Road £91; Herbert Road £238. At present the watermains in Church Road are being relaid by Direct Labour and the Council intends to resurface the road in tarmacadam. It is recommended that Herbert Road should be reconstructed in concrete and thus obviate maintenance costs in the coming years.

Two other roadways which require reconstruction are Novara Avenue and Seapoint Road. It would be necessary, however, that the watermains in these two roads be relaid in the first instance. The relaying of the watermain in Seapoint Road will be undertaken in the coming year; the necessary mains and fittings already have been procured. Pipes and fittings for Novara Avenue, however, are not available at present. The cost of resurfacing these two roads would be: Novara Avenue £5,000; Seapoint Road £800.

Nowadays difficulty is found in obtaining cement for Road Works owing to the abnormal demand for this material for Housing and other undertakings. It is felt though that special consideration should be given to the allocation of cement for Urban Roads works as it is evident that it is by far the most suitable material for this purpose. The advantage of using concrete in Road reconstruction is evident from the works carried out in the past four or five years when Meath, Sidmonton and Florence Roads were resurfaced in this material. No further maintenance will be required for these thoroughfares for many years and their appearance has added much to the amenities of these districts.

The Council possibly may consider that in lieu of undertaking the resurfacing in tarmacadam of some of the roads mentioned above provision should be made for a further programme of remaking a limited number of selected roads in semi-permanent form by using concrete. The Council also may agree that in the allocation of Employment Schemes Grants in the coming years major reconstruction works should be undertaken, as far as possible, instead of schemes such as footpaths and road margins.

SANITARY SERVICES

The net outlay is estimated at £13,914; the amount allowed for 1950/51 was £12,302.

Reference already has been made to the Petition addressed by Dublin Corporation to the Minister for Local Government seeking an increase in the charge for the bulk supply of water. At present the charge is 2.88d per 1,000 gallons; the Corporation now has applied for an increase to 8d which would require an additional yearly levy from the Rates of £6,500 (or 2/10d in the £). In the attached Estimates the effect of an increase from 2.88d to 3.5d is shown. It would require the payment of an additional £900. It has been decided to oppose the Petition of the Corporation. Furthermore, the Council in the past year has had under consideration the possibility of obtaining, in conjunction with Wicklow County Council, water from an alternative source. Two sources have been under examination, viz. Lough Dan and the Glen-cullen River. A Report on the feasibility of extending to Bray and North East Wicklow the Regional Scheme based on Lough Dan recently has been received and at present is being examined. It seems that the capital costs involved would be very high. The possibility of resorting to either Schemes requires further careful examination as both Schemes are of a complex character and it would take a number of years to complete either of them.

In the present year the measures taken by the Council to reduce consumption have met with further success. In connection with the installation of meters, representations recently were made by the licensed trade seeking to have the charges for non-domestic consumption in their premises adjusted. It is inadvisable that any concessions should be granted which in effect would represent a subsidy towards the cost of water used for business purposes.

~~replacing~~ In recent years the Council started a programme of ~~replacing~~ watermains which had been in use since the distribution system was installed originally in the past century. Watermains already have been relaid in Meath Road, Sidmonton Road, Herbert Road and Vevay Road, and at present the main in Church Road is being relaid. These works have cost over £10,000. New mains and fittings for further works were ordered almost two years ago; there has been considerable delay in delivery. It is hoped to proceed further with this programme in the coming year and under the heading of loan charges appropriate provision for these capital works has been made.

Consequent on many submissions ~~made~~ as to defects in the scavenging service formerly provided on a Contract basis the Council decided last year to operate a Direct Labour service and a new Cleansing Vehicle for the collection of Household and Street Refuse was purchased. The vehicle has been in use since the ~~end~~ of January, 1951, and thus far has given satisfactory service. It was expected that the new service might have resulted in a saving in scavenging costs, but the possibility of such saving has been offset by the increase in wages rates.

A sum of £100 again has been included to meet the cost of maintenance and repairs to the Municipal Baths at the Esplanade. No provision has been made on this occasion for the Swimming Pools at Bray Cove as between the Council's contribution and a State Grant from the Employment Schemes Vote £500 has been made available in the present year for repairs to the outer wall of the Pools.

Public Lighting shows an increase of £210 consequent on the decision of the Council, some time ago, to provide a number of new lamps in various parts of the urban area.

For some time past the Council has been endeavouring to procure an alternative site for a Refuse Dump and has been negotiating for a site (removed from buildings) to the North of the Harbour. A sum of £75 is included for this purpose.

On many occasions representations have been made as to the necessity for a public lavatory in a site adjacent to the Main Street and 'bus termini. The Council decided to join with Wicklow County Council in the construction of a Public Lavatory at the Court House; the costs to be borne equally by both authorities. The Council's share of the cost (£125) is included in the attached Estimates.

The Town Surveyor has reported that the Public Lavatories at the Esplanade and Boat House will require repairs costing £225 and this sum is also included in the Estimates. He also recommended the provision of a new Public Lavatory near the Town Hall at a cost of £500 but provision has not been made for this item.

HOUSING

The total cost of Housing Services for the coming year is estimated at £32,310; receipts are shown at £27,712, and the net cost to be met from Rates is £4,598 - an increase of £240 over the outlay in the present year. The amount of £4,598, which is equivalent to a rate of almost 2/- in the £, mainly represents the subsidy which the Council has to make from Rates towards the Housing programme.

In the past four years the Council has erected 138 houses - 91 by Contract and 47 by Direct Labour. Further progress would have been made with the new housing programme but for the difficulty and delay experienced by the Council in acquiring land. This delay, which the Council could not overcome, was unfortunate as apart from the fact that it prevented the Council from relieving still further the acute housing shortage, it now seems that some building materials may be difficult to procure and the prices of all supplies have shown a tendency to rise in the past few months.

The development of the site at Boghall on which it is intended to erect 22 houses for letting at economic rents is now almost completed and the erection of the houses, which had to be postponed owing to the development work, will be resumed immediately. Sites have also been available at Boghall for 22 persons who are building houses for their own occupation with the aid of loans under the Small Dwellings (Acquisition) Acts from the Council.

For Repairs to Council houses £1,200 has been included; a like sum was allowed in 1950/51.

Rates on Council Houses show an increase from £4,857 to £5,184 consequent on the valuation of new houses. This amount, however, is offset fully by receipts from rentals.

Loan charges on the new Schemes are estimated at £6,029 for the coming year as compared with £3,532 in the present year, but the additional charges are partly offset by an increase in the rent receivable.

As already mentioned the estimate for Housing shows an increase of £240 for the coming year, being the difference between outgoings and the rents derived from new houses recently completed. The housing loss would be higher but for the conversion of the 5% 1929 Stock (issued altogether for Housing capital costs) in 1949 which resulted in an annual saving of over £500. It is to be expected that future housing schemes will require an increase in the subsidy from Rates; it is not unlikely that 200 additional new houses will require a subsidy equivalent to a rate of about 1/- in the £1.

The policy pursued by the Council in recent years of building on Derelict Sites has added very much to the appearance of the Town - the terrace of new houses at Dublin Road might be quoted as an instance of what has been achieved by the replacement of ruins and insanitary dwellings by attractive houses of modern design equipped with all essential amenities.

Small Dwellings (Acquisition) Acts Loans.

Since the Council resumed the making of loans under these Acts in 1948 90 loans have been approved and the amount borrowed for the purpose at present is £100,000. Recently the Council authorised the borrowing of a further £50,000. As pointed out last year, the Council through this Scheme is making a valuable contribution to the Housing Programme and persons wishing to build their own houses can obtain money at a lower rate of Interest and on much more favourable terms than can be had from any other sources. All applications received are examined without delay and instalments of loans are issued promptly; any delay which ^{has} arisen in any instance has been due to the failure of borrowers to ensure that their title deeds are in order. Borrowers are recommended to ascertain if titles are in order when seeking loans; in this way any possibility of delay can be obviated.

GENERAL URBAN PURPOSES

The outlay under this heading includes the County Council Demand, the special levy of 9d in the £ under the Unemployment Assistance Acts, the Vocational Education Committee Demand, the maintenance of the Esplanade, Public Library, Fuel Scheme, School Meals and many other items.

The total expenditure is estimated at £49,927 as compared with £44,285 in 1950/51, and receipts are estimated at £3622 - they were £5,320 in 1950/51. The net outlay, therefore, is £46,305 as compared with £38,965 in the present year. The greater part of the increase is due to the County Council Demand and the reduction in receipts resulting from the decision not to let the North Esplanade in future to Amusement Caterers.

Town Hall Expenses.

In 1950 the Town Hall was repaired and painted, a number of new offices were provided, and other improvements made. The cost is being defrayed by a ten years loan. This was the first time for very many years that any maintenance work had been carried out. For the purpose of summoning the Fire Brigade a Fire Siren was installed in 1949 on the roof of the building and it is now found that the vibration has affected the roof. The Town Surveyor has reported that the roof valleys should be repaired and that an alternative position be found for the Fire Siren. It is considered that a suitable location for the Siren might be included in the design of the new Fire Station which is to be erected on the site at junction of Vevay Road and Killarney Road. The Town Surveyor also submitted recommendations for the painting of entrance hall and a number of other improvements. The repairs to roof are estimated to cost £250 and the other items £175.

Public Library.

The Library Committee has recommended the appointment of an additional Library Assistant; the cost would be £192. This would be partly offset by an increase of £50 in Registration Fees. The number of borrowers and Book Issues continued to show an increase in the past year. In February, 1951, the number of borrowers was almost 1,600, which is almost four times the number before re-organisation. It is evident that the service is being availed of extensively and its present condition reflects much credit on the Council, Committee and Librarian.

Vocational Education

The Demand for the coming year is £1,541, an increase of £106. The present Demand represents a rate of 8d in the £ on the effective valuation. This is another service which is being availed of to an increasing extent.

Esplanade

The total outlay on the maintenance of, and improvements to the Esplanade, including loan charges, is estimated at £3,468. Provision is made for the following repairs and new works:-

Repairs to Kiosks :	£120
Repairs to Seats :	70
Repairs to Sea Wall	480
Repairs to Boat Slip	15
New Storage Hut :	100
Painting of railings at Strand Road :	250
Tar Spraying of Car Park	180

The Surveyor has reported that heavy seas have caused some damage to the Car Park and recommends that it be tar sprayed in order to prevent deterioration.

During the present year the Council decided on the expiration of the existing licence, to discontinue the letting of a site for Amusements at the Esplanade. Many representations had been received regarding the unsuitability of the Esplanade for the type of Amusements hitherto provided and the Council was strongly urged by visitors and residents to undertake an improvement scheme which would add to the attractive/ and amenities of the seafront. The /ness Council, however, was confronted with the difficulty that any alternative Scheme would require substantial outlay and would result in the loss of existing revenues. Having regard, however, to the many and forceful submissions made the Council decided to examine the possibility of a special improvement Scheme for the Northern end of the Esplanade. Recently the Town Surveyor submitted a comprehensive Scheme for the provision of Tennis Courts, Children's Pool, and a lay-out which would make this part of the Esplanade more attractive. The cost is estimated provisionally at £8,000, and a half-years loan charge would be £360.

Repairs to Sea Wall

The wall fronting the Esplanade has been damaged recently by heavy seas and the Surveyor recommends that repairs at a cost of £480 should be undertaken without delay.

Wall at Bray Head Park.

The boundary wall at Bray Head Park requires repairs and the Surveyor estimates the cost at £100.

New Storage Hut at Esplanade.

It frequently has been represented that the Hut used for storage of Tools and other equipment at the Esplanade is unsightly; the cost of a new Hut would be £100, and this sum, as already mentioned, is included in the Estimates.

Painting of Railings at Strand Road.

The painting of the Railings between the Esplanade and Strand Road was considered last year, but deferred. The work has again been included and the cost would be £250.

Recent Improvements at Esplanade.

In the past few years the Council has expended substantial sums on improving the Esplanade. Last year a new floor was installed in the Central Bandstand; the relaying in concrete of the square in front of the Municipal Baths was completed and foot-paths were repaired; repairs to the decking of the Promenade were carried out in the previous year, and the Municipal Baths and Kiosks and the Sea Wall Railings were painted. The Boat Slip at Southern end of Esplanade was repaired last year at a cost of £120.