

Minutes of Statutory Meeting of Balbriggan Town Council
held on Tuesday 13th January 2009
in The Council Chamber, Town Hall at 7.30 p.m.

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Councillors

Brown, Sean
Buckley, Gerry
Dunne, Larry
Harford, Monica

Councillors

McKeon, May
Kilgallon, Stephen
Pyne, Ned
Shields, Gertie

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mr. Peter Caulfield, Town Manager
Mr. Brian Murray, Meetings Administrator
Ms. Margaret Wilde, Clerical Officer
Ms. Rosie Moonan, Clerical Officer

Apologies for inability to attend was received from Councillor Kathleen Hammond.

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean Brown presided.

BTC/1/09

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of Balbriggan Town Council statutory meeting held on 9th December 2008 which were circulated were submitted.

Councillor Harford informed the meeting she was not satisfied with the minutes in respect of her motion (BTC/400/08) which was deferred at the December meeting. She stated that the minutes did not record that she agreed to an amendment to the motion prior to the motion being deferred by An Cathaoirleach.

Following discussion, it was agreed to **defer** the confirmation of the minutes to the February meeting to allow the minutes be reviewed.

BTC/2/09

DEATH GRANT

Letter dated 5/12/2008 received from Department of Health & Children regarding death grant was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/3/09

BEREAVEMENT GRANT

Letter dated 8/12/2008 received from Office of the Minister for Social & Family Affairs regarding Bereavement Grant was circulate and **noted**.

BTC/4/09

SCREENING FOR CERVICAL CANCER IMMUNISATION

Letter dated 22/12/2008 received from Office of the Minister Department of Health & Children regarding screening for cervical cancer immunisation programme for young girls was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/5/09

GRANT FOR BEREAVEMENT

Letter dated 23/12/2008 received from Department of Social & Family Affairs regarding bereavement grant was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/6/09

CANCER SCREENING

Letter dated 5/1/2009 received from Office of the Minister Department of Health & Children regarding cancer screening was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/7/09

MARTELLO TOWER AND HARBOUR

Letter dated 2/12/2008 received from Senan Turnbull Director of Services Community Recreation & Amenities Department regarding Martello Tower and Harbour was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/8/09

PLANS FOR RAIL SERVICES IN BALBRIGGAN

Letter dated 2/12/2008 received from Iarnród Éireann regarding future plans for rail services in Balbriggan was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/9/09

SOCIAL WORK SERVICE

Letter dated 10/12/2008 received from Tralee Town Council regarding 24 hour 7 day social work service nationwide was circulated and **noted**.
It was agreed that the Town Clerk would forward letter of support.

BTC/10/09

REDUCTION IN TEACHING STAFF

Letter dated 12/12/2008 received from Portlaoise Town Council regarding reduction in numbers of teaching staff in schools was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/11/09

REMEMBER US - THANK YOU

Letter dated 11/12/2008 received from Remember Us Group regarding donation of selection boxes was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/12/09

COMMUNITY FACILITY

Letter dated 15/12/2008 received from Parkway Partnership regarding request for provision of community venue was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/13/09

MARINE CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION CENTRE

Letter dated 31/12/2008 received from Irish seal Sanctuary regarding Marine Conservation and Education Centre for Balbriggan was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/14/09

CONFERENCES

No business under this heading.

BTC/15/09

FUNDING SUBSIDISED THROUGH CO-OPERATION FINGAL

Question submitted by Councillor Monica Harford

To ask the Manager what business projects within Balbriggan are being financially subsidised through Co-Operation Fingal.

Reply: The Community Department has no responsibility for the work of Co- Operation Fingal. Accordingly, the information has been requested from Co - Operation Fingal and a reply will be forwarded to the elected members upon receipt of same.

BTC/16/09

SEATS AT GEORGES SQUARE

Question submitted by Councillor Ned Pyne

To ask Fingal County Council when will the seats outside the court house at Georges Square be put back into place.

Reply: The provision of seats at the Courthouse will be reviewed in conjunction with the re-development of the front of the Town Hall Building.

BTC/17/09

HOLDING OF CIVIC EVENTS

The following motion in the name of Councillor Larry Dunne was submitted by Councillor Larry Dunne, seconded by Councillor Monica Harford.

"Taking cognisance of recent events which demonstrate unequivocally that the Hamilton Hall does not have the capacity to facilitate the holding of civic events in the town that Balbriggan Town Council investigate the possibility of acquiring a facility or location upon which such a facility might be constructed which will be consummate with both the needs of the community and the projected expansion in the population."

Following discussion a vote was taken as follows:

For: Councillors: Dunne, Harford, Kilgallon, Brown (4)
Against: Councillors: Buckley, Shields, Pyne (3)
Abstain: Councillor McKeon (1)

An Cathaoirleach declared the motion **passed**.

BTC/18/09

GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF OIREACHTAS EXPENSES

The following motion in the name of Councillor Sean Brown, was submitted by Councillor Sean Brown, seconded by Councillor Gertie Shields.

"We Balbriggan Town Council request that the Government review the high level of expenses claimed by members of the Oireachtas."

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/19/09

PAYMENTS FOR ESSENTIAL ITEMS BY HEALTH SERVICE EXECUTIVE

The following motion in the name of Councillor Gertie Shields, was submitted by Councillor Gertie Shields, seconded by Councillor Larry Dunne.

"Balbriggan Town Council call on the Health Service Executive when issuing payments in respect of items of furnishings/essentials etc that the cheques be made payable (as was previous practice) to the provider of the items required and not the recipients to avoid misuse of government funding."

For: Councillors: Dunne, Buckley, Harford, Kilgallon, Brown, Pyne, Shields (7)
Abstain: Councillor McKeon (1)

An Cathaoirleach declared the motion **passed**.

BTC/20/09

RENT ASSESSMENT

The following motion in the name of Councillor Monica Harford was submitted by Councillor Monica Harford, seconded by Councillor Dunne.

"Balbriggan Town Council call on Fingal County Council Rent Assessment Department to cease the practice of assessing renting tenants on their income which includes fuel allowance and to refund all renting tenants who did not have their rent reviewed when fuel allowance term ended."

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/21/09

PUPIL TEACHER RATIO IN CLASSROOMS

The following motion in the name of Councillor Sean Brown, was submitted by Councillor Sean Brown, seconded by Councillor Monica Harford.

"We Balbriggan Town Council call on the Government to look at methods to reduce the pupil teacher ratio in our classrooms."

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/22/09

SCHEME FOR NEW RENT SUBSIDY IN PRIVATE RENTED ACCOMMODATION

The following motion in the name of Councillor Monica Harford, was seconded by Councillor Monica Harford, seconded by Councillor
"Balbriggan Town Council call on the Government and the H.S.E. to introduce a scheme whereby families who wish to legitimately live in privately rented accommodation can be helped by rent subsidy in accordance with their financial circumstances which would greatly reduce the burden of rent subsidy payments on the state and allow families to be families."

Following discussion, a vote was taken

Abstain: Councillor McKeon (1)

Against: Councillor Shields, Kilgallon (2)

For: Councillors Dunne, Harford, Pyne, Brown, Buckley (5)

Following the vote, the motion was **passed** by the members.

BTC/23/09

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS - I.B.A.L. AWARD FOR BALBRIGGAN

Mr. Peter Caulfield, Town Manager informed the members that Balbriggan had been awarded a certificate from Irish Business Against Litter to recognise that Balbriggan was judged to be clean to European norms and it is proposed to hold a Civic reception on Tuesday 3rd February 2009 to mark the occasion. The members paid tribute to local environmental services staff and voluntary Tidy Towns activists and it was **agreed** that representatives of the Tidy Towns and local Fingal Environment Staff, the Chamber of Commerce and a representative of IBAL be invited.

BTC2409

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS - MARINE CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION CENTRE

Mr. Peter Caulfield, Town Manager gave an update on the position regarding sourcing of funding for the proposed Marine and Conservation Centre. He had met with Failte Ireland along with Irish Seal Sanctuary representatives to clarify some aspects regarding the Government commitment of €2 million.

Failte Ireland stated they would honour the commitment provided certain conditions were met such as Fingal County Council underwriting the project and also confirmed the grant would be paid in instalments.

The Manager informed the members that the project was omitted from Failte Ireland's 2009 Budget. Also, Fingal County Council omitted the project from its 3 year Capital Programme as there is no viable proposal in place to fund the deficit between the funding in place and the tender price received to construct the proposed centre; nor is there money available towards operating costs in respect of which operating losses were projected.

The Manager informed the members that a significant business partner is required to make the project viable which was something the late Minister Brennan and Failte Ireland had indicated previously.

The Irish Seal Sanctuary representatives are looking at the possibility of attracting a business partner. The Manager agreed to keep the members informed of developments.

A brief discussion followed during which the members expressed their disappointment that the project was not progressing.

BTC/25/09

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS - APPLICATION FOR GAMING CERTIFICATE

Letter dated 9/1/2009 received from F.H. O'Reilly & Company Solicitors acting on behalf of Mr. Aidan Bissett was circulated.

No objections were raised and it was **agreed** the Town Clerk would reply accordingly.

BTC/26/09

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS - BALBRIGGAN TOWN BOUNDARY ALTERATION

The Town Manager informed the members that the indications from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government are that the Minister will sign the order for the Boundary Alteration shortly.

BTC/27/09

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS - VISIT BY MARY LOU MCDONALD M.E.P.

The Town Clerk informed the members that Mary Lou McDonald M.E.P. will be visiting the Town Hall on 1 p.m. on Thursday 22nd January 2009.

BTC/28/09

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The following report was circulated and **noted**.

BALBRIGGAN TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 2008

EXPENDITURE		
Programme Item	Budget 2008	Expenditure 2008 to date
CORPORATE PROPERTY		
Insurance	8,400.00	7,928.84
Rates & Water Charges	9,800.00	9,720.20
Light & Heat	1,600.00	1,600.00
Service Charges / Maintenance	10,000.00	0.00
Hall Staffing	4,200.00	1,184.94
Sub-total	34,000.00	20,433.98
GENERAL		
General Expenses	13,200.00	33,558.30
Members Allowance	20,000.00	19,697.47
Conference Expenses	8,000.00	5,807.25
Cathaoirleach's Allowance	1,700.00	1,700.00
Leas Cathaoirleach's Allowance	300.00	300.00
Town Clerk Allowance	7,200.00	7,200.00
AMAI Subscription	3,750.00	3,750.00
Town Improvement/Decoration	9,000.00	7,550.93
Community Awards	5,000.00	3,151.84
Local Elections	2,000.00	0.00
Audit Fees	2,600.00	2,630.00
Legal Fees	6,000.00	6,231.50
Bank Charges	250.00	0.00
Other Expenses	0.00	3,093.60
Capital Account	0.00	3,738.41
Sub-total	79,000.00	98,409.30
TOTALS:	113,000.00	118,843.28
RECEIPTS		
Programme Item	Budget 2008	Receipts 2008 to date
CORPORATE PROPERTY		
Retail Unit Rental Income	14,000.00	13,670.55
Office Unit Rental Income	6,000.00	5,944.83
Rental Income - Fingal Co. Co.	6,400.00	6,545.00
Hall Hire Charges	6,600.00	23,065.00
Sub-total	33,000.00	49,225.38
GENERAL		
Demand - Fingal Co. Co.	80,000.00	80,000.00
Other Receipts	0.00	5,725.72
Transfer from Capital Account	0.00	0.00
Sub-total	80,000.00	85,725.72
TOTAL	113,000.00	134,951.10

BTC/29/09

AUTHORISATION OF OVER EXPENDITURE IN RESPECT OF YEAR ENDED
31/12/2007

The following report was circulated.

Statutory Meeting – 13th January 2009

**AUTHORISATION FOR APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL OVER –
EXPENDITURE IN RESPECT OF YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2007**

The Town Council at its meeting held on 8th April 2008 granted approval in respect of over expenditure in respect of year ended 31st December 2007 as set out below:

Expenditure Heading	Revised Budget 2007	Actual 2007	Over Revised Budget
Office Expenses	13,767.00	16,217.87	2,450.87
Town Improvement/Decoration	8,100.00	8,216.69	116.69

In line with the recommendation of the Local Government Auditor the Council's approval is now sought to the following additional areas of over-expenditure:-

Expenditure Heading	Revised Budget 2007	Actual 2007	Over Revised Budget
Other Expenses (Capital A/C)	18,000.00	20,611.62	2,611.62
Bank Charges	Nil	144.64	144.64



Brian Murray

Town Clerk

It was proposed by Councillor Dunne, seconded by Councillor Brown and **agreed** by the members that the over expenditure as set out in the foregoing report be approved.

BTC/30/09

UPDATE ON BALBRIGGAN URBAN IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

It was **agreed** to defer his item.

BTC/31/09

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

It was **agreed** to defer his item.

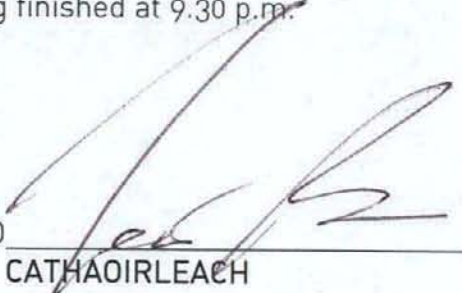
BTC/32/09

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

It was **agreed** to arrange a meeting to discuss the arrangements for the St. Patricks Day Events on 27th February.

Meeting finished at 9.30 p.m.

SIGNED


CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE

10/2/09



BALBRIGGAN TOWN COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE AN BHAILE
BAILE BRIGIN

7th January 2009

To each Member of Balbriggan Town Council

Dear Councillor,

I wish to inform you that a meeting of the **Town Council** will be held on 13th January 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, George's Square, Balbriggan to consider the following agenda:

Brian Murray
Meetings Administrator

AGENDA

1. **Confirmation of Minutes**
 - (i) Minutes of Balbriggan Town Council statutory meeting held on 9th December 2008 (circulated herewith)

2.

A. Correspondence from Government Departments and Ministers

- (i) Letter dated 5/12/2008 received from Department of Health & Children regarding death grant (circulated herewith)
- (ii) Letter dated 8/12/2008 received from Office of the Minister for Social & Family Affairs regarding Bereavement Grant (circulated herewith)
- (iii) Letter dated 22/12/2008 received from Office of the Minister Department of Health & Children regarding screening for cervical cancer immunisation programme for young girls (circulated herewith)
- (iv) Letter dated 23/12/2008 received from Department of Social & Family Affairs regarding bereavement grant (circulated herewith)
- (v) Letter dated 5/1/2009 received from Office of the Minister Department of Health & Children regarding cancer screening (circulated herewith)

2.

B. Correspondence from Fingal County Council

- (i) Letter dated 2/12/2008 received from Senan Turnbull Director of Services Community Recreation & Amenities Department regarding Martello Tower and Harbour (circulated herewith)

2.

C. Correspondence from other Local Authorities and Public Bodies

- (i) Letter dated 2/12/2008 received from Iarnród Éireann regarding future plans for rail services in Balbriggan (circulated herewith)
- (ii) Letter dated 10/12/2008 received from Tralee Town Council regarding 24 hour 7 day social work service nationwide (circulated herewith)
- (iii) Letter dated 12/12/2008 received from Portlaoise Town Council regarding reduction in numbers of teaching staff in schools (circulated herewith)

D. Other Correspondence

- (i) Letter dated 11/12/2008 received from Remember Us Group regarding donation of selection boxes (circulated herewith)
- (ii) Letter dated 15/12/2008 received from Parkway Partnership regarding request for provision of community venue (circulated herewith)
- (iii) Letter dated 31/12/2008 received from Irish seal Sanctuary regarding Conservation and Education Centre for Balbriggan (circulated herewith)

3. Conferences

- (i) No business under this heading

4. Questions

(i) Question submitted by Councillor Monica Harford

To ask the Manager what business projects within Balbriggan are being

financially subsidised through Co-Operation Fingal.

- (ii) **Question submitted by Councillor Ned Pyne**
To ask Fingal County Council when will the seats outside the court house at Georges Square be put back into place.

5. **Motions**

- (i) **Motion submitted by Councillor Larry Dunne**
Taking cognisance of recent events which demonstrate unequivocally that the Hamilton Hall does not have the capacity to facilitate the holding of civic events in the town that Balbriggan Town Council investigate the possibility of acquiring a facility or location upon which such a facility might be constructed which will be consummate with both the needs of the community and the projected expansion in the population.
- (ii) **Motion submitted by Councillor Sean Brown**
We Balbriggan Town Council request that the Government review the high level of expenses claimed by members of the Oireachtas.
- (iii) **Motion submitted by Councillor Gertie Shields**
Balbriggan Town Council call on the Health Executive when issuing payments in respect of items of furnishings/essentials etc that the cheques be made payable (as was previous practice) to the provider of the items required and not the recipients to avoid misuse of government funding.
- (iv) **Motion submitted by Councillor Monica Harford**
Balbriggan Town Council call on Fingal County Council Rent Assessment Department to cease the practice of assessing renting tenants on their income which includes fuel allowance and to refund all renting tenants who did not have their rent reviewed when fuel allowance term ended.
- (v) **Motion submitted by Councillor Sean Brown**
We Balbriggan Town Council call on the Government to look at methods to reduce the pupil teacher ratio in our classrooms.
- (vi) **Motion submitted by Councillor Monica Harford**
Balbriggan Town Council call on the Government and the H.S.E. to introduce a scheme whereby families who wish to legitimately live in privately rented accommodation can be helped by rent subsidy in accordance with their financial circumstances which would greatly reduce the burden of rent subsidy payments on the state and allow families to be families.

6. Cathaoirleach's Business
7. Monthly Financial Statement
8. Authorisation of over expenditure in respect of year ended 31/12/2007
9. Update on Balbriggan Urban Improvement Scheme
10. Christmas Lights
11. St. Patricks Day

**Minutes of Statutory Meeting of Balbriggan Town Council
held on Tuesday 10th February 2009
in The Council Chamber, Town Hall at 7.30 p.m.**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Councillors

Brown, Sean
Buckley, Gerry
Dunne, Larry
Hammond, Kathleen

Councillors

Harford, Monica
Kilgallon, Stephen
McKeon, May
Pyne, Ned

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mr. Peter Caulfield, Town Manager
Mr. Brian Murray, Meetings Administrator
Mr. Shay Barker, Environment Department
Ms. Margaret Wilde, Clerical Officer
Ms. Kym Coughlan, Clerical Officer

Apology for inability to attend was received from Councillor Gertie Shields.

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean Brown presided.

BTC/33/09

LIVE WEBCAST OF MEETING

An Cathaoirleach informed the members of Balbriggan Town Council that the meeting was being webcast live on the internet.

BTC/34/09

PRESENTATION BY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Mr Shay Barker, Senior Executive Officer from the Environmental Services Department in Fingal County Council gave a brief presentation to the members on current issues relating to his department in the town. He informed the meeting that the new street cleaning arrangements were working well and this was recognised in the recent IBAL survey. He informed the members that the provision of temporary beach cleaning staff during the summer months is being reviewed at the moment and may be affected this year.

It is proposed that the Part 8 procedure for planning permission in respect of the new burial ground will commence before the summer and hopefully development will start before the end of the year.

In relation to the harbour, minor works and general maintenance will be carried out. Significant funding is required to carry out major works and this will be sought. The Council are also looking at bye-laws for the use of the harbour.

In relation to the proposed landfill at Nevitt, the Council are awaiting the next E.P.A. hearing and a final decision from An Bord Pleanála.

BTC/35/09

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of Balbriggan Town Council statutory meeting held on 9th December 2008 which were circulated were submitted.

Following discussion, it was **agreed** that the following revised wording be recorded in the minutes in respect of item BTC/400/08

"Councillor Harford informed the meeting that she was in agreement with an amendment to the motion as recommended by the Town Manager which was to delete the last line of the motion i.e. from the words "due to recent behaviour etc."

An Cathaoirleach following a consultation with the Town Manager stated he had the power under the Act and was deferring the motion to the January meeting."

The amended minutes were then **approved** as a true record and signed.

BTC/36/09

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of Balbriggan Town Council statutory meeting held on 13th January 2008 which were circulated were submitted, **approved** as a true record and signed.

BTC/37/09

FREE CHILDCARE

Letter dated 23/12/2008 received from Office of the Minister for Children Department of Health & Children regarding provision of free childcare for all children under the age of 12 was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/38/09

BREATHALYSATION FOR DRIVERS

Letter dated 9/1/2009 received from Office of the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform regarding compulsory breathalysation for drivers in car accidents was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/39/09

BREATHALYSING DRIVERS

Letter dated 21/1/2009 received from Office of the Minister, Department of Transport regarding breathalysing of all drivers involved in car accidents was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/40/09

EXPENSES CLAIMED BY OIREACHTAS MEMBERS

Letter dated 22/1/2009 received from Office of the Taoiseach regarding expenses claimed by Oireachtas members was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/41/09

RENT SUPPLEMENT

Letter dated 27/1/2009 received from Office of the Minister for Social and Family Affairs regarding rent supplement was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/42/09

RENT SUBSIDY

Letter dated 23/1/2009 received from Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs regarding rent subsidy was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/43/09

PUPIL TEACHER RATIO

Letter dated 30/1/2009 received from Office of the Minister for Education & Science regarding pupil teacher ratio in classrooms was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/44/09

FUNDING FOR SWIMMING POOL

Letter dated 9th January 2009 received from Community, Recreation & Amenities Department regarding funds for swimming pool in North Fingal was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/45/09

COMMUNITY WELFARE OFFICERS IN BALBRIGGAN

Letter dated 12/1/2009 received from Health Service Executive regarding motion passed that a proper audit be conducted in respect of discretionary payments made by community welfare officers in Balbriggan was circulated and **noted**.

Councillor Dunne informed the meeting that the reply was at odds with the article published in the Fingal Independent newspaper which indicated that a community welfare officer had made the remarks.

He requested that a copy of the article be forwarded to the H.S.E and request their comments. He also requested that the H.S.E. letter be forwarded to the newspaper and request they contact their source to retract the remarks and seek an apology.

BTC/46/09

RETAIL FUNCTIONS

Letter dated 19/1/2009 received from Ballina Town Council regarding planning loophole that presently exists regarding change of use existing retail function to another retail function was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/47/09

TV LICENCE

Letter dated 27/1/2009 received from Mullingar Town Council regarding TV licence fee was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/48/09

S.W.A. PAYMENTS

Letter dated 26/1/2009 received from Health Service Executive regarding SWA payments in respect of furnishings/essentials be made to the provider of the items was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/49/09

BALBRIGGAN COMMUNITY CHILDCARE GROUP LTD.

Letter dated 9/1/2009 received from Balbriggan Community Childcare Group Ltd. regarding presentation on proposals for Tankardville House was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/50/09

SUBSIDISING BUSINESS PROJECTS

Letter dated 20/1/2009 received from Fingal Leader Partnership Company Ltd. regarding clarification on subsidising business projects in Balbriggan was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/51/09

CONFERENCES

It was agreed that Councillor McKeon attend the AMAI Conference in the place of Councillor Shields.

BTC/52/09

RADON LEVELS IN BALBRIGGAN

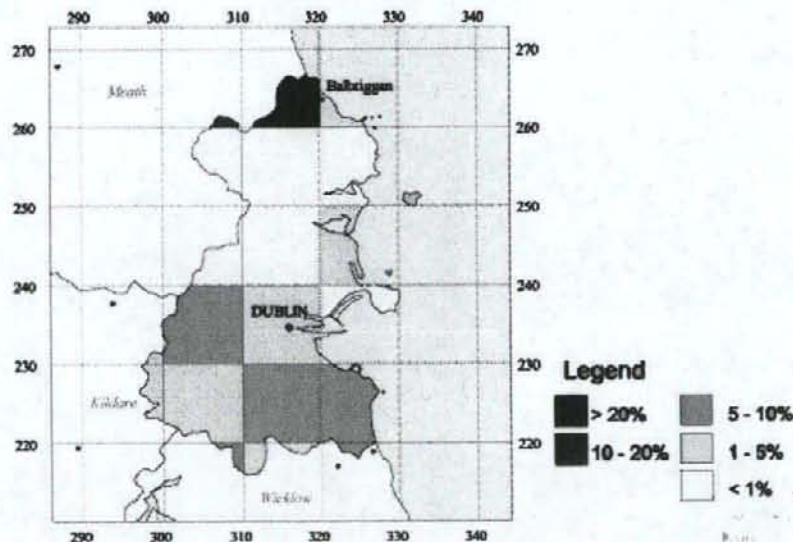
Question submitted by Councillor Stephen Kilgallon

To ask the Manager to provide the most recent data available on the radon levels occurring in Balbriggan.

Reply: The Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII) is the national organisation with regulatory, monitoring and advisory responsibilities in matters relating to radiation.

Radon decays to form tiny radioactive particles, some of which remain suspended in the air. When inhaled into the lungs these particles give a radiation dose which may damage cells in the lung and eventually lead to lung cancer.

The RPII has undertaken a detailed review of the radon situation in Ireland. Following this review, the RPII has produced the following map of levels of Radon throughout the country.



As can be seen from the attached map, the town of Balbriggan is in an area where levels of Radon are considered to be low. Whereas the countryside to the North and West of the town is considered a High Radon Area.

A "high radon area" is one in which more than 10% of houses are predicted to have radon levels in excess of the 200Bq/m³ reference level .

The radon level in a house can be measured simply and inexpensively. The RPII provides a radon measurement service to householders at a price of €56. Further information may be obtained from the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII).

BTC/53/09

CONCERTS IN ARDGILLAN DEMESNE

Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Buckley

To ask the Manager has he plans to provide concerts in Ardgillan Demesne as these concerts could bring in revenue which could be put back into amenities in Balbriggan.

Reply: Ardgillan has been offered to the music industry each year since the first concerts in 2005 but no suitable offers have been forthcoming.

BTC/54/09

CONCRETE BARRIERS AT ROUNDABOUT

Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Buckley

To ask the Manager can he provide concrete barriers at the unfinished exit at the roundabout adjacent EEC Hardware on the Stephenstown Link Road to replace the mounds of soil currently there.

Reply: Arrangements are being made for the location referred to in the question to be examined and for a reply to be issued to the Councillor.

BTC/55/09

WEATHER GLAZE IN HOUSES

Question submitted by Councillor Monica Harford

To ask the Manager when houses with no weather glaze become vacant are they automatically fitted with weather glaze before being reallocated?

Reply: All Council dwellings built since the late 1990s have double glazing. With regard to the allocation of casual vacancies, an assessment of the condition of the windows is carried out before the dwelling is re-let. Should the windows be in a condition that necessitate replacement, the windows are replaced with double glazing. Apart from the pre-let repair programme, the condition of the windows is also addressed through routine repair requests and the cyclical maintenance programme.

BTC/56/09

NEW PORT AT BREMORE

Question submitted by Councillor Larry Dunne

To ask the Manager, in the light of recent speculation, to give a report in respect of the proposed new port at Bremore.

Reply : The management of both Fingal and Meath County Council were recently given a presentation of the project by Bremore Port Irl. Project Team.

The Project Team is currently proceeding with the required background work and studies and also their suggested masterplanning and landside proposals.

The Project Team has indicated an alternative location for the Port facility further north of the Bremore headland, that is, to the north of the Delvin River, within the administrative area of Meath County Council, having regard to the significant archaeological complex that exists at Bremore headland.

The specific implications of this indicative change in port location for the landside within Fingal including Bremore and Balbriggan is not known at this time as this will depend on the outcome of the background work and studies currently being undertaken.

The Town Council will be further briefed when a further progress report is received

BTC/57/09

DEFIBRILLATOR FOR TOWN HALL

The following motion in the name of Councillor Gertie Shields, was submitted by Councillor May McKeon, seconded by Councillor Monica Harford.

"Balbriggan Town Council agrees to purchase a defibrillator from the funds received from Balbriggan Community Leisure Centre Committee for use in the Town Hall and Library where trained staff are available to use such equipment in an emergency."

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/58/09

CONCEALMENT OF TRANSACTION FROM EXTERNAL AUDIT

The following motion in the name of Councillor Stephen Kilgallon, was submitted by Councillor Stephen Kilgallon, seconded by Councillor Gerry Buckley.

"Balbriggan Town Council calls upon the Dept of Justice & Law Reform to bring forward proposals to make the concealment of transactions from an external audit of a limited company a criminal offence."

Following discussion, it was agreed to amend the text of the motion to read as follows :

"Balbriggan Town Council calls upon the Dept of Justice & Law Reform to bring forward proposals to make the concealment of transactions from an external audit of financial institutions a criminal offence."

Following discussion, the amended motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/59/09

OVERCROWDING IN COURTHOUSE

The following motion in the name of Councillor Gerry Buckley, was submitted by Councillor Gerry Buckley, seconded by Councillor Larry Dunne.

"Balbriggan Town Council on the Courts Service to review the serious overcrowding in Balbriggan courthouse in the interest of public safety."

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/60/09

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Councillor Harford proposed a suspension of Standing orders at 8.37 p.m. to discuss her concerns regarding planning issues in the town in particular the application for planning permission in respect of a leisure emporium on the Main Street.

Following a brief discussion, it was **agreed** by the members to suspend standing orders to discuss the matter immediately for a period of fifteen minutes

Councillor Harford informed the meeting that a planning application had been submitted by Fitzpatricks Leisure Emporium for a leisure and gaming facility at Drogheda Street. She stated this is unacceptable as it is on the Main Street and adjacent to two schools, there were already four fast food outlets in the Supervalu complex and others on the main street along with five off licence outlets. She also stated these type of retail outlets do not bring a lot of employment to the town as they quite often family run businesss and by their nature there would not be to much day time activity at these premises.

A discussion followed in which all the members present contributed expressing their concerns in relation to the situation and how best to express their objection to the application.

The Manager informed the meeting that the Planning Department of Fingal

County council is resourced to deal with planning applications and a senior planner is assigned to the Balbriggan area. Planning applications are professionally assessed by the planner. In this case, an application has been lodged and people have an opportunity to express their views on the application.

It is not the Town Manager's function to seek to bring influence to the outcome of a planning application. He informed the meeting that it is open to the elected members to contact the planner to express their views on an application.

He informed the meeting that he would invite a member of the Planning Department to meet with the elected members to discuss the processes relating to planning applications the forthcoming Development Plan.

BTC/61/09

SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN BALBRIGGAN

The following motion in the name of Councillor Monica Harford was submitted by Councillor Monica Harford, seconded by Councillor Ned Pyne.

"Balbriggan Town Council call on the Minister for Education & Science to give priority to pupils who have been unsuccessful in securing a place in the secondary schools in Balbriggan when accepting applicants for the new secondary school in Castlelands."

Following discussion, it was agreed to amend the text of the motion to read as follows :

"Balbriggan Town Council call on the County Dublin VEC to give priority to pupils who have been unsuccessful in securing a place in the secondary schools in Balbriggan when accepting applicants for the new secondary school in Castlelands."

Following discussion, the amended motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/62/09

TARA COVE AND CLONARD STREET

The following motion in the name of Councillor Larry Dunne was submitted by Councillor Larry Dunne, seconded by Councillor Monica Harford.

"Balbriggan Town Council calls upon Fingal Council to as a matter of urgency and in the interest of public safety to take action to bring the open

space and shrubbery between Tara Cove and Clonard Court under proper management."

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/63/09

TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME

The following motion in the name of Councillor Gertie Shields, was submitted by Councillor Monica Harford, seconded by Councillor May McKeon.

"Balbriggan Town Council call on the Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government and Fingal County Council to consider a special purchase scheme to enable tenants renting over 30 years (who are not deemed suitable for a mortgage) to enable them to buy their property over a period of time."

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/64/09

TOWN & REGIONAL BUS SERVICES

The following motion in the name of Councillor Stephen Kilgallon, was submitted by Councillor Stephen Kilgallon, seconded by Councillor Kathleen Hammond.

"Balbriggan Town Council requests that Bus Éireann meet with the Council and review the Town & Regional Bus services."

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/65/09

PARKING AT GRAVEYARD

The following motion in the name of Councillor Gerry Buckley was submitted by Councillor Gerry Buckley, seconded by Councillor May McKeon.

"Balbriggan Town Council calls on Fingal County Council to review the provision of car parking in and around Balbriggan graveyard."

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/66/09

SOCIAL WORKERS IN BALBRIGGAN

The following motion in the name of Councillor Monica Harford was submitted by Councillor Monica Harford, seconded by Councillor Larry Dunne.

"Balbriggan Town Council call on the Minister for Social Welfare & Children to furnish this Council and the people of Balbriggan with the following information:

1. How many social workers are allocated to Balbriggan and what other areas are they responsible for.
2. How can access be gained to names and contact numbers and times of availability."

Following discussion, it was **agreed** to amend the text of the motion to read as follows :

"Balbriggan Town Council call on the Health Service Executive and the Minister for Social Welfare to furnish this Council and the people of Balbriggan with the following information:

- 1 How many social workers are allocated to Balbriggan and what other areas are they responsible for.
- 2 How can access be gained to names and contact numbers and times of availability."

Following discussion, the amended motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/67/09

OMBUDSMAN IN RESPECT OF MANAGEMENT COMPANIES

The following motion in the name of Councillor Larry Dunne was submitted by Councillor Larry Dunne, seconded by Councillor Monica Harford.

"Balbriggan Town Council calls upon the Minister to establish an independent ombudsman to investigate completes that arise in respect of the actions of Management companies.

Following discussion, it was **agreed** to amend the text of the motion to read as follows :

"Balbriggan Town Council calls upon the Minister to establish an independent ombudsman to investigate complaints that arise in respect of the actions of Management companies.

Following discussion, the amended motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/68/09

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS - FARMERS MARKET

The Town Manager gave a verbal report of the meeting held in the Town Hall on Monday 9th February 2009 with local fishermen, grower's representatives, Chamber of Commerce, Minister Trevor Sargent and elected members regarding the establishment of a farmers market in Balbriggan.

Following the meeting, it was decided to publish an advertisement seeking the views of the local community as the viability of a farmers market will greatly depend on the support from the public.

BTC/69/09

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The following report was circulated and **noted**.

BALBRIGGAN TOWN COUNCIL
 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
 January 2009

EXPENDITURE		
Programme Item	Budget 2009	Expenditure 2009 to date
CORPORATE PROPERTY		
Insurance	9,000.00	8,559.84
Rates & Water Charges	10,200.00	0.00
Light & Heat	1,700.00	0.00
Service Charges / Maintenance	7,500.00	0.00
Hall Staffing	5,600.00	0.00
Sub-total	34,000.00	8,559.84
GENERAL		
General Expenses	21,900.00	255.44
Members Allowance	20,000.00	1,260.00
Conference Expenses	8,000.00	0.00
Cathaoirleach's Allowance	1,700.00	0.00
Leas Cathaoirleach's Allowance	300.00	0.00
Town Clerk Allowance	7,200.00	0.00
AMAI Subscription	3,900.00	3,950.00
Town Improvement/Decoration	9,000.00	4,000.00
Community Awards	5,000.00	0.00
Local Elections	2,000.00	0.00
Audit Fees	2,750.00	0.00
Legal Fees	5,000.00	0.00
Bank Charges	250.00	50.00
Other Expenses	0.00	1,000.00
Capital Account	0.00	0.00
Sub-total	87,000.00	10,515.44
TOTALS:	121,000.00	19,075.28
RECEIPTS		
Programme Item	Budget 2009	Receipts 2009 to date
CORPORATE PROPERTY		
Retail Unit Rental Income	14,000.00	0.00
Office Unit Rental Income	6,000.00	0.00
Rental Income - Fingal Co. Co.	6,800.00	0.00
Hall Hire Charges	10,200.00	690.00
Sub-total	37,000.00	690.00
GENERAL		
Demand - Fingal Co. Co.	84,000.00	0.00
Other Receipts	0.00	1,090.00
Sub-total	84,000.00	1,090.00
TOTAL	121,000.00	1,780.00

BTC/70/09

BALBRIGGAN TOWN BOUNDARY ALTERATION

The Town Manager informed the meeting that the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government had signed the order for the alteration of the boundary with effect from 1st February 2009.

He thanked the elected members of the Town Council, the elected members of Fingal County Council and the Minister and officials in the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for their co-operation and assistance.

He also wished to acknowledge the selflessness of the elected members in proposing the alteration.

BTC/71/09

UPDATE ON BALBRIGGAN URBAN IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

This item was deferred to the March meeting.

BTC/72/09

ST PATRICKS DAY

This item was deferred to the March meeting.

Meeting finished at 9.30 p.m.

SIGNED: L. Dunne.
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE 10/3/2009



BALBRIGGAN TOWN COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE AN BHAILE
BAILE BRIGIN

4th March 2009

To each Member of Balbriggan Town Council

Dear Councillor,

I wish to inform you that a meeting of the **Town Council** will be held on 10th March 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, George's Square, and Balbriggan to consider the following agenda:

Brian Murray
Meetings Administrator

AGENDA

1. Confirmation of Minutes
 - (i) Minutes of Balbriggan Town Council statutory meeting held on 10th February 2009 (circulated herewith).

2.

A. Correspondence from Government Departments and Ministers

- (i) Letter dated 6/2/2009 received from Social Welfare Services Department of Social & Family Affairs regarding Rent Supplement (circulated herewith).
- (ii) Acknowledgement letter dated 5/2/2009 received from Office of the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform (circulated herewith).
- (iii) Acknowledgement letter dated 20/2/2009 received from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (circulated herewith).
- (iv) Acknowledgement letter dated 20/2/2009 received from the Office of the Minister for Social & Family Affairs regarding social workers in Balbriggan (circulated herewith).

2.

B. Correspondence from Fingal County Council

- (i) Letter dated 19/02/2009 received from Housing Revenue regarding Rent Assessment (circulated herewith).

2.

C. Correspondence from other Local Authorities and Public Bodies

- (i) Letter dated January 2009 received from Councillor Tomas O'Brien Kinsale Town Council regarding method of billing at Cork University Hospital (circulated herewith).
- (ii) Acknowledgement letter dated 20/02/2009 received from the Court Service regarding overcrowding in Balbriggan courthouse (circulated herewith).
- (iii) Letter dated 16/02/2009 received from Dublin Bus regarding an update on future plans (circulated herewith).
- (iv) Acknowledgement letter dated 20/2/2009 received from the Health Service Executive Department regarding comments made in the Fingal Independent (circulated herewith).
- (v) Letter dated 23/2/2009 received from the Health Service Executive Department regarding comments made in the Fingal Independent (circulated herewith).
- (vi) Letter dated 23/2/2009 received from the Health Service Executive Department regarding the provision of Social Work Services (circulated herewith).

D. Other Correspondence

- (i) Letter dated 4/2/2009 received from Balbriggan & District Chamber of Commerce regarding planning permission for a take away business (circulated herewith).
- (ii) Letter dated 6/2/2009 received from Reilly Group regarding planning permission for a take away business (circulated herewith).

3. Conferences

- (i) No business under this heading.

4. Questions

(i) **Question submitted by Councillor Kilgallon**

To ask the Manager to provide details of capital projects (over & above maintenance) greater than 1 million Euro undertaken in Balbriggan over the last 5 years?

(ii) **Question submitted by Councillor Hammond**

To ask the Manager for a report on the provision of traffic lights at Hamlet Lane / Dublin Road junction.

(iii) **Question submitted by Councillor Buckley**

To ask the Manager will he ensure that clean up of all playgrounds is carried out before the summer holidays commence.

(iv) **Question submitted by Councillor Harford**

To ask the Manager is the proprietor of the Pop Inn take away which was located in Georges Square in receipt of any financial payment in compensation for not being open for business within a designated stated time.

(v) **Question submitted by Councillor Dunne**

To ask the Manager when will the remedial works be carried out on the open space between Tara Cove and Clonard Court that was requested last July.

5. Motions

(i) **Motion submitted by Councillor Kilgallon**

Balbriggan Town Council call upon Fingal County Council to examine the opportunity presented by the changes introduced by the Minister of Communications Energy and Natural Resources in relation to the selling back of electricity to the grid, with reference to planning permissions & powering Fingal property.

(ii) **Motion submitted by Councillor Hammond**

Balbriggan Town Council calls on the Health Service Executive to review the cleaning practices in Our Lady of Lourdes hospital in Drogheda.

(iii) **Motion submitted by Councillor Buckley**

Balbriggan Town Council call on the Government to provide tax relief on the cost of transport for attending school or college.

- (iv) **Motion submitted by Councillor Shields**
Balbriggan Town Council call on the Drogheda Port Company to review its proposal to re-locate the port from Bremore to the County Meath area, in light of the loss of such a facility and the spin off in revenue from the same. Not to mention the huge loss of employment badly needed in the town of Balbriggan.
 - (v) **Motion submitted by Councillor Harford**
Balbriggan Town Council call on Fingal County Council and the Minister for the Environment to allow renting tenants of 30 years and over to purchase their homes under the affordable housing scheme or a family member on the tenancy.
 - (vi) **Motion submitted by Councillor Dunne**
Balbriggan Town Council calls upon the revenue commissioners and the customs service to take immediate action to enforce the legislation relating to the registration of motor vehicles from outside the state.
 - (vii) **Motion submitted by Councillor Kilgallon**
Balbriggan Town Council calls upon Fingal County Council to mandate a locally representative committee for the development of a retail strategy for Balbriggan.
 - (viii) **Motion submitted by Councillor Hammond**
Balbriggan Town Council call on Bus Eireann to provide a bus shelter at Flemington / Cardy Rock in the interest of public safety and comfort.
 - (ix) **Motion submitted by Councillor Buckley**
Balbriggan Town Council call on the Minister for Education and Science to reverse his decision to cut funding for special needs classes in our schools.
 - (x) **Motion submitted by Councillor Harford**
Balbriggan Town Council call on the taxi regulation office to allow taxi / hackney operators in the Balbriggan area immediately switch their licence to the Dublin Metropolitan region including those residing in Louth or Meath who have been operating in Balbriggan and can produce proof of such.
6. **Cathaoirleach's Business**
 7. **Presentation by Director of Services, Community Recreation and Amenities Department, Fingal County Council**
 8. **Proposal to change of date of April Statutory Meeting - 21st April 2009**
 9. **Statutory Audit Report and Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31st December 2007**

10. Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31st December 2008
11. Monthly Financial Statement
12. Balbriggan Joint Policing Committee
13. Update on Balbriggan Urban Improvement Scheme
14. St. Patricks Day



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- (i) No business under this heading.

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14. St. Patricks Day

Minutes of Statutory Meeting of Balbriggan Town Council
held on Tuesday 10th March 2009
in The Council Chamber, Town Hall at 7.30 p.m.

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Councillors

Buckley, Gerry
Dunne, Larry
Harford, Monica
Kilgallon, Stephen

Councillors

McKeon, May
Pyne, Ned
Shields, Gertie

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mr. Peter Caulfield, Town Manager
Mr. Brian Murray, Meetings Administrator
Mr. Senan Turbull, Director of Services
Ms. Maureen Finn, Clerical Officer
Ms. Kym Coughlan, Clerical Officer

Apologies for inability to attend were received from an Cathaoirleach Sean Brown,
and Councillor Hammond.

Acting Cathaoirleach, Councillor Larry Dunne presided.

BTC/73/09

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of Balbriggan Town Council statutory meeting held on 10th
February 2009 which were circulated were submitted, **approved** as a true
record and signed.

BTC/74/09

VOTE OF SYMPATHY

Councillor Dunne proposed a vote of sympathy to Councillor May McKeon
on the recent death of her brother-in-law, Mr. Ray Fulam. Councillor
Harford proposed a letter of condolences be sent to the Fulam family.
Councillor McKeon thanked the members for their expressions of
sympathy.

BTC/75/09

RECENT KILLINGS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Councillor McKeon expressed her condemnation of the recent killings in Northern Ireland and this was supported by the members.

BTC/76/09

PRESENTATION BY DIRECTOR OF SERVICES, COMMUNITY RECREATION AND AMENITIES DEPARTMENT, FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr Senan Turnbull, Director of Services from the Community Recreation and Amenities Department in Fingal County Council gave a presentation to the members on current issues relating to his department in the town.

Mr Turnbull informed the meeting that the playground in Moylaragh/Chieftains Way was not in charge of the council and is the responsibility of the developer. The council owned playgrounds have a daily maintenance programme.

Mr Turnbull informed the meeting that there have been difficulties in selecting a location for the proposed multi use games area in Cardy Rock. A meeting is to be held with the residents in the near future. The department's preference is a location that has some supervision without being an undue burden on residents living nearby.

Mr Turnbull informed the meeting that It was hoped to carry out the tree planting in Pinewood Estate by the end of the month if it could be scheduled into the winter works programme. If this could not happen, the planting will be carried out in the autumn.

Mr Turnbull gave the members a brief overview of the proposed shared community facility at Flemington. He stated that the Community Department will be working with the Department of Education & Science to provide the facility which will be managed and used on a shared basis between the community and the school. He circulated a drawing of the proposed Flemington facility.

Mr Turnbull gave the members a brief overview of the current position regarding the proposal for a new swimming pool for North East Fingal. He wished to state that media reports that a decision had been made were not based on fact. There are ongoing considerations in respect of the location for the proposed facility but no final decision as yet.

Mr Turnbull gave the members a brief overview of the current position regarding the proposed community facilities at Bremore. The Council has purchased 10 acres of land and a further 15 acres is being acquired by the council. The 25 acres will be held in trust for the long term and O'Dwyers GAA club could come back to the Council with new proposals for use of the land.

A number of questions were raised by the members which were dealt with by Mr Turnbull.

BTC/77/09

RENT SUPPLEMENT

Letter dated 6/2/2009 received from Social Welfare Services Department of social & Family Affairs regarding Rent Supplement was circulated and **noted**.

Councillor Harford requested that clarification be sought in respect of the short term nature of the payments and to ascertain if periodic reviews are carried out on applicants in receipt of rent supplement which was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/78/09

USER NAME ON INTERNET

Acknowledgement letter dated 5/2/2009 received from Office of the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform regarding user name and details on internet use was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/79/09

SPECIAL PURCHASE SCHEME

Acknowledgement letter dated 20/2/2009 received from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/80/09

SOCIAL WORKERS IN BALBRIGGAN

Acknowledgement letter dated 20/2/2009 received from the Office of the Minister for Social & Family Affairs regarding social workers in Balbriggan circulated and **noted**.

BTC/81/09

RENT ASSESSMENT

Letter dated 19/02/2009 received from Housing Department, Fingal County Council, regarding Rent Assessment was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/82/09

CORK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Letter dated January 2009 received from Councillor Tomas O'Brien Kinsale Town Council regarding method of billing at Cork University Hospital was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/83/09

OVERCROWDING IN COURTHOUSE

Acknowledgement letter dated 20/02/2009 received from the Court Service regarding overcrowding in Balbriggan courthouse was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/84/09

DUBLIN BUS

Letter dated 16/02/2009 received from Dublin Bus regarding an update on future plans was circulated and **noted**.

Councillor Kilgallon requested that Dublin Bus be invited to meet with the Town Council to review their current level of service to Balbriggan which was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/85/09

HSE AND FINGAL INDEPENDENT

Acknowledgement letter dated 20/2/2009 received from the Health Service Executive Department regarding comments made in the Fingal Independent was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/86/09

HSE AND FINGAL INDEPENDENT

Letter dated 23/2/2009 received from the Health Service Executive Department regarding comments made in the Fingal Independent was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/87/09

SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

Letter dated 23/2/2009 received from the Health Service Executive Department regarding the provision of Social Work Services was circulated and **noted**.

Councillor Harford requested that clarification be sought in respect of what service is available and what procedures are in place should a person require the services of the social workers out of normal working hours.

BTC/88/09

PLANNING ISSUES

Letter dated 4/2/2009 received from Balbriggan & District Chamber of Commerce regarding planning permission for a take away business was circulated and **noted**.

Councillor Harford requested that a reply be sent to the Chamber of Commerce to inform them that the Town Council as a body cannot object to planning applications and the Town Council shared their concerns in relation to the planning issues raised in their letter and were awaiting a meeting with the Planning department to discuss these issues.

BTC/89/09

PLANNING ISSUES

Letter dated 6/2/2009 received from Reilly Group regarding planning permission for a take away business was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/90/09

CONFERENCES

No business under this heading.

BTC/91/09

CAPITAL PROJECTS IN BALBRIGGAN

Question submitted by Councillor Kilgallon

To ask the Manager to provide details of capital projects (over & above maintenance) greater than 1 million Euro undertaken in Balbriggan over the last 5 years?

Reply: The information is currently being compiled and will be circulated when it is available.

BTC/92/09

TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT HAMLET LANE / DUBLIN ROAD

Question submitted by Councillor Hammond

To ask the Manger for a report on the provision of traffic lights at Hamlet Lane / Dublin Road junction.

Reply : Planning permission was granted by An Bord Pleanala under planning Register Reference F06A/0754 for a development which included the retention and completion of traffic management improvement measures to the road networks at Moylaragh, Barons Hall, Castle Mill and Hamlet Lane, Balbriggan.

A condition of the permission required that improvement works including the provision of a signalised junction be carried out on the section of Hamlet Lane to the south of O'Dwyers GAA Club on or before the first day of June, 2009.

The works in question cannot be carried out at present because the Developers do not have full ownership of the lands in question. The Developers have indicated that they are in discussion with O'Dwyers GAA Club in relation to this matter.

In the meantime, this junction will be examined by the Traffic Engineer in relation to the provision of additional traffic management measures in the form of signing and lining and the restoration of road markings where appropriate. It is noted that a "Stop" sign and associated road markings are in position on Hamlet Lane at its junction with Drogheda Road in addition to road markings being in place on the Drogheda Road at this location.

BTC/93/09

CLEAN UP OF PLAYGROUNDS

Question submitted by Councillor Buckley

To ask the Manager will he ensure that clean up of all playgrounds is carried out before the summer holidays commence.

Reply : Playgrounds under the responsibility of Fingal County Council are cleaned on a daily basis. Graffiti is removed from play equipment generally twice a year.

BTC/94/09

POP INN TAKE AWAY

Question submitted by Councillor Harford

To ask the Manager is the proprietor of the Pop Inn take away which was located in Georges Square in receipt of any financial payment in compensation for not being open for business within a designated stated time.

Reply : The Council has no information in respect of any compensation being paid.

BTC/95/09

OPEN SPACE BETWEEN TARA COVE AND CLONARD COURT

Question submitted by Councillor Dunne

To ask the Manager when will the remedial works be carried out on the open space between Tara Cove and Clonard Court that was requested last July.

Reply : A clean up was carried out in this area approximately two months ago. Pruning works will not be carried out as they are prohibited under the Wildlife Act until after 31st August. However this area shall be re-examined and any permitted remedial works shall be carried out as is deemed necessary.

BTC/96/09

SELLING BACK OF ELECTRICITY

The following motion in the name of Councillor Stephen Kilgallon , was submitted by Councillor Stephen Kilgallon , seconded by Councillor Monica Harford.

Balbriggan Town Council call upon Fingal County Council to examine the opportunity presented by the changes introduced by the Minister of Communications Energy and Natural Resources in relation to the selling back of electricity to the grid, with reference to planning permissions & powering Fingal property.

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/97/09

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HOSPITAL

The following motion in the name of Councillor Kathleen Hammond was **not moved**.

Balbriggan Town Council calls on the Health Service Executive to review the cleaning practices in Our Lady of Lourdes hospital in Drogheda. Balbriggan Town Council calls upon Fingal County Council to mandate a locally representative committee for the development of a retail strategy for Balbriggan.

BTC/98/09

TAX RELIEF ON TRANSPORT

The following motion in the name of Councillor Gerry Buckley, was submitted by Councillor Gerry Buckley, seconded by Councillor Ned Pyne .

Balbriggan Town Council call on the Government to provide tax relief on the cost of transport for attending school or college.

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/99/09

BREMORE PORT

The following motion in the name of Councillor Gertie Shields was submitted by Councillor Gertie Shields, seconded by Councillor Monica Harford.

Balbriggan Town Council call on the Drogheda Port Company to review its proposal to re-locate the port from Bremore to the County Meath area, in light of the loss of such a facility and the spin off in revenue from the same. Not to mention the huge loss of employment badly needed in the town of Balbriggan.

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/100/09

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The following motion in the name of Councillor Monica Harford, was submitted by Councillor Monica Harford, seconded by Councillor Ned Pyne.

Balbriggan Town Council call on Fingal County Council and the Minister for the Environment to allow renting tenants of 30 years and over to purchase their homes under the affordable housing scheme or a family member on the tenancy.

Following discussion, it was agreed to **amend** the text of the motion to read as follows :

Balbriggan Town Council call on Fingal County Council and the Minister for the Environment to allow renting tenants of 25 years and over to purchase their homes under the affordable housing scheme or allow a family member on the tenancy.

Following discussion, the amended motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/101/09

REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

The following motion in the name of Councillor Larry Dunne, was submitted by Councillor Larry Dunne.

Balbriggan Town Council calls upon the Revenue Commissioners and the Customs Service to take immediate action to enforce the legislation relating to the registration of motor vehicles from outside the state.

Following discussion, the motion was **deferred** to the April Meeting by the members.

BTC/102/09

DEVELOPMENT OF A RETAIL STRATEGY

The following motion in the name of Councillor Stephen Kilgallon, was submitted by Councillor Stephen Kilgallon, seconded by Councillor Monica Harford.

Balbriggan Town Council calls upon Fingal County Council to mandate a locally representative committee for the development of a retail strategy for Balbriggan.

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/103/09

BUS SHELTER AT FLEMINGTON / CARDY ROCK

The following motion in the name of Councillor Kathleen Hammond was **not moved**.

Balbriggan Town Council call on Bus Eireann to provide a bus shelter at Flemington / Cardy Rock in the interest of public safety and comfort.

BTC/104/09

SPECIAL NEEDS CLASSES

The following motion in the name of Councillor Gerry Buckley, was submitted by Councillor Gerry Buckley, seconded by Councillor May McKeon.

Balbriggan Town Council call on the Minister for Education and Science to reverse his decision to cut funding for special needs classes in our schools.

The motion was **agreed** by the members without discussion.

BTC/105/09

TAXI REGULATION

The following motion in the name of Councillor Monica Harford, was submitted by Councillor Monica Harford.

Balbriggan Town Council call on the taxi regulation office to allow taxi / hackney operators in the Balbriggan area immediately switch their licence to the Dublin Metropolitan region including those residing

in Louth or Meath who have been operating in Balbriggan and can produce proof of such.

Following discussion, the motion was **deferred** to the April Meeting by the members.

BTC/106/09

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE OF DATE OF APRIL STATUTORY MEETING

On the proposal of Councillor Monica Harford, seconded by Councillor Gertie Shields it was **agreed** to alter the date for the April meeting to 21st April 2009.

BTC/107/09

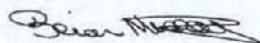
STATUTORY AUDIT REPORT AND ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2007

The following report was circulated:

"The Draft Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31st December 2007 was considered by the Council at its meeting held on 8th April 2008.

The Statement was then forwarded to the Local Government Audit Service.

In accordance with Section 121 of the Local Government Act 2001 the Auditors Report and the final accounts are now before the meeting.



Brian Murray
Town Clerk



LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDIT SERVICE
(Seirbhis Iniucha Rialtais Aitiuil)

Statutory Audit Report

to the

Members

on the Accounts of

Balbriggan Town Council

for the

Year Ended 31st December 2007

**COMHAIRLE
BHAILE BRIGIN**

24 FEB 2009



Comhshaol, Oidhreacht agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Heritage and Local Government

AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF BALBRIGGAN TOWN COUNCIL

1. Introduction

- 1.1 I have completed the statutory audit of the accounts of Balbriggan Town Council for the year ended 31st December 2007.
- 1.2 In accordance with the requirements of Section 120(4) of the Local Government Act, 2001, the Audit Report was presented to the Town Manager for his comments. The Town Manager responded that he agreed with the factual accuracy of the report and that he had no other comments that he wished to make.

2. Respective Responsibilities

- 2.1 The officers of Balbriggan Town Council are by law, responsible for the maintenance of all accounting records, including the preparation and presentation of the Annual Financial Statement.
- 2.2 It is the duty of the Local Government Auditor based on the audit, to form an independent opinion on the accounts and to certify the correctness of the Annual Financial Statement.

3. Basis of Opinion

- 3.1 The audit was carried out in accordance with the principles and practice of Local Government Audit. An audit includes an examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts in the Annual Financial Statement. The audit was planned and performed to obtain all the information and explanations considered necessary, in order to provide sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the Annual Financial Statement was free from material misstatement.

4. Opinion

4.1 In my opinion;

- (i) I obtained all the information and explanations considered necessary for the purpose of the audit.
- (ii) Balbriggan Town Council, having received Ministerial consent to depart from the requirements set out in the Accounting Code of Practice in relation to the preparation of the Annual Financial Statement, complied with the requirements laid down in previous legislation in relation to;
 - The preparation and presentation of the Annual Financial Statement.
 - The maintenance of proper books and records.
 - The procedures and duties relating to the statutory audit.
- (iii) The Annual Financial Statement is in agreement with the underlying records.

5. Certification

5.1 The audit certificate of correctness has been entered on the Annual Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2007.

6. Revenue Account

6.1 A summary of the transactions on the revenue account is detailed below:

	2007	2006
	€	€
Receipts for year	131,162	84,664
Expenditure	<u>129,372</u>	<u>84,928</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	1,790	(264)
Balance in favour at start of year	<u>4,119</u>	<u>4,383</u>
Balance in favour at end of year	<u>5,909</u>	<u>4,119</u>

Included in receipts for the year of €131,162 was €20,612 transferred from the capital account.

7. Capital Account

7.1 A summary of the capital account is as follows:

	2007	2006
	€	€
Receipts for year	16,814	11,799
Expenditure	20,612	-
Surplus / (Deficit) for Year	<u>(3,798)</u>	<u>11,799</u>
Balance in favour at Start of Year	<u>45,405</u>	<u>33,606</u>
Balance in favour at End of Year	<u>41,607</u>	<u>45,405</u>

Included in receipts for the year of €16,814 was €16,000 transferred from the revenue account.

7.2 The Council received a sum of £23,508 (€29,849) from the Balbriggan Community Leisure Centre Committee in 1996. This money is for the sole purpose of funding the redevelopment of the civic offices and town hall facilities for community use. It is accounted for in the capital account of the Annual Financial Statement. As at 31 December 2007, €20,612 of the funds have been used to purchase equipment for use by the local community in the new Town Hall. The Town Clerk has indicated that the remaining money will be spent to purchase further equipment.

8. Audit Memorandum

8.1 An audit memorandum has been issued listing items requiring attention. The matters raised will be reviewed at the next audit.

9. **Acknowledgement**

- 9.1 I wish to record my appreciation for the assistance, co-operation and courtesy afforded me by the Town Manager, Town Clerk and the other members of the Council's staff during the audit.



Patrick Guiney
Principal Local Government Auditor.

22nd January 2009.



**COMHAIRLE AN BHAILE BAILE BRIGIN
BALBRIGGAN TOWN COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER 2007**



ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNTS OF THE BALBRIGGAN TOWN COUNCIL
REVENUE ACCOUNT 2007

RECEIPTS	AMOUNT	TOTAL	EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT	TOTAL
Balance (if any) in favour at close of 2006		4,119.43	Balance (if any) against at close of 2006		
Corporate Property			Corporate Property		
Corporate Property Rent	24,506.65		Insurance	8,311.34	
Hall Hire Charges	7,950.00	32,486.65	Rates	9,368.80	
			Light & Heat	1,500.00	
			Service Charges / Maintenance	828.52	
			Hall Staffing	3,000.00	23,008.66
General			General		
Demand - Fingal Co.Co	76,000.00		Office Expenses	18,217.67	
Other Receipts	2,063.62	78,063.62	Members Expenses / Conferences	19,044.82	
			Conference Expenses	6,976.63	
			Cathaoirleachs Allowance	1,200.00	
			Town Clerk Allowance	7,200.00	
			AMAI Contributions	3,500.00	
Cancelled PO's		-	Town Improvement/Decoration	8,216.69	
			Community Awards	4,721.63	
			Audit Fees	2,530.00	
			Legal Fees	-	
			Town Hall Equipment (transfer from capital a/c)	20,611.62	90,219.26
			Bank Charges		144.64
Transfer from Capital A/C			Transfer to Capital Account		
Town Hall Equipment		20,611.62	Legal Fees	9,000.00	
			Town Hall Service/Maintenance	5,000.00	
			Local Elections	2,000.00	16,000.00
		136,281.32			129,372.56
Balance (if any) against at close of 2007			Balance (if any) in favour at close of 2007		5,908.76

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF REVENUE ACCOUNT 2007

	CHARGE			DISCHARGE			
	Balance in favour at close of last year	RECEIPTS	Balance against at close of this year	TOTALS	Balance against at close of last year	EXPENDITURE	Balance in favour of this year
	4,119.43	131,161.89		135,281.32		129,372.56	5,908.76
TOTALS	4,119.43	131,161.89	-	135,281.32	-	129,372.56	5,908.76

STATEMENT OF BALANCES AT CLOSE OF FINANCIAL YEAR 2007

	€	€	Treasurer, due by him:-	€	€
Treasurer, due to him:-			No. 1 Account	26,209.81	
Unpaid Bills	11,524.54	11,524.54	No. 2 Account	32,803.37	59,013.18
Balances in favour:-			Officers' Imprest Account		126.97
Capital Account	41,606.85	47,515.61	Balances Against:-		
Revenue Account	5,908.75		Capital Account		
			Revenue Account		
TOTALS		59,140.15	TOTALS		59,140.15

INDEBTEDNESS ON FOOT OF LOANS

Loans for Sundry Purposes			Due to lenders		
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STATEMENT OF CASH ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

ASSETS	€	€	LIABILITIES	€	€
Balance in hands of treasurer at close of 2007			Balance due to treasurer at close of 2007		
No. 1 Account	26,209.81	59,013.18			
No. 2 Account	32,803.37				
Balance in hands of other officers at close of December 2007		126.57			
Other Assets					
Hall Hire Charges Outstanding		1,780.00	Hall Hire Charges Prepaid		136.00
			Unpaid Bills		11,524.54
			Corporate Property Rent Prepaid		1,696.67
TOTAL		60,920.16	TOTAL		13,426.21

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF CAPITAL MONEY 2007

PURPOSE FOR WHICH OBTAINED	Balance (if any) unexpended at close of last year 2006	Total Receipts	Balance (if any) unexpended in excess at close of this year 2007	Total Expenditure	Balance (if any) unexpended at close of this year 2007
Town Hall Development	31,989.76	813.61	32,803.37	20,611.62	12,191.75
Local Elections	4,000.00	2,000.00	6,000.00	-	6,000.00
Legal Fees	9,415.10	9,000.00	18,415.10	-	18,415.10
Town Hall Service/Maint	-	5,000.00	5,000.00	-	5,000.00
TOTALS	45,404.86	16,813.61	62,218.47	20,611.62	41,606.85

PARTICULARS OF RENT COLLECTION 2007

	Arrears due at close of last year 2006 €	Rents & Purchase Annuities Accrued €	Total for Collection €	Total Collected €	Due at close of this year 2007 €
	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
			Percentages		


STATEMENT OF NET CHARGE ON REVENUE IN RESPECT OF THE PROVISION OF HOUSING

Total Number of Houses	Expenditure (Including Loan Charges)	Receipts (Including subsidy)	Government (Note)	Deficit Falling on Rates	Loss per House
0					

CERTIFICATION BY CLERK:

I certify that the foregoing figures are correctly abstracted from the books and accounts of the Balbriggan Town Council.

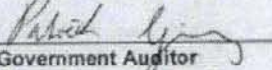
Dated this 21st day of January 2008


Town Clerk

AUDITORS CERTIFICATE:

I have audited the books and accounts of the Balbriggan Town Council for the year ended on the 31st day of December 2007 and I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true abstract therefrom.

Dated this 22nd day of January 2008


Local Government Auditor

The Town Clerk outlined the background to the report and responded to queries raised by the members in relation to same. The Auditor's report and Annual Financial Statement for 2007 were then **noted**.

BTC/108/09

**CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2008
AND AUTHORISATION FOR APPROVAL OF OVER – EXPENDITURE**

The following report was circulated:

"As required under the Local Government Act 2001, Section 108, I forward, herewith, a copy of the draft Annual Financial Statement for the year 2008.

The total expenditure on Revenue Account for 2008 was €135,218.46. This expenditure was funded by a combination of the Demand from Fingal County Council, Corporate Property Rent and Hall Hire charges. At year-end, the Revenue Account had a surplus of €7,699.48.

The Town Council at its Budget Meeting held on 18th November 2008 approved revised expenditure of €129,000 and revised receipts of €129,000.

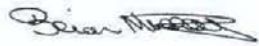
It was also agreed to transfer expenditure on capital equipment for the conference facilities in the sum of €3,738.41 to the Revenue account. The actual expenditure in respect of these items amounted to €3,738.41.

Section 108 of the Local Government Act 2001 requires me to furnish, with the Annual Financial Statement, details of authorisations to over-expenditure.

The Council's approval is now sought to the following additional areas of over-expenditure:-

Expenditure Heading	Revised Budget 2008	Actual 2008	Over Revised Budget
Hall Staffing	6,100.00	9,114.00	3,014.00
General Expenses	31,000.00	34,529.00	3,529.00
Other Expenses	750.00	6,179.00	5,429.00

The draft Annual Financial Statement will now be forwarded by me to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. On receipt of the Auditor's report, I will report back to the Council on the audited Statement.



Brian Murray
Town Clerk



COMHAIRLE AN BHAILE BAILE BRIGIN
BALBRIGGAN TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER 2008

(Unaudited)

March 2009

ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNTS OF BALBRIGGAN TOWN COUNCIL
REVENUE ACCOUNT 2008

RECEIPTS	AMOUNT	TOTAL	EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT	TOTAL
Balance (if any) in favour at close of 2007		5,900.70	Balance (if any) in favour at close of 2007		
Corporate Property	12,833.34		Corporate Property	7,928.84	
Retail Unit Rental Income	5,115.37		Insurance	6,720.20	
Office Unit Rental Income	6,545.00		Rules & Wailer Charges	1,500.00	
Rental Income - Fingal Co. Co.	21,060.00	47,553.71	Light & Heat	6,113.87	28,363.01
Hall Hire Charges			Service Charges / Maintenance		
			Hall Staffing		
General	5,717.06		General	34,529.04	
Demand - Fingal Co. Co.	80,000.00	85,717.06	General Expenses	16,587.50	
Other Receipts			Members Allowance	6,197.25	
			Conference Expenses	1,700.00	
Cancelled PCT's			Catholics/Protestants Allowance	500.00	
			Late Catholics/Protestants Allowance	7,200.00	
Transfer from Capital A/C			Town Clerk Allowance	2,750.00	
Town Hall Equipment	3,738.41	3,738.41	AAUAI Subscription	7,450.93	
			Town Improvement/Decoration	3,271.84	
			Community Awards		
			Audit Fees	2,630.00	
			Legal Fees	6,231.50	
			Other Expenses	99.51	
			Bank Charges	6,178.47	
			Other Expenses	3,738.41	102,855.45
			Town Hall Equipment (from Capital A/C)		
			Transfer to Capital Account	2,000.00	
			Service Charges	2,000.00	4,000.00
			Local Elections		
Balance (if any) against at close of 2008		142,217.54	Balance (if any) in favour at close of 2008		135,215.46
					7,000.48

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF REVENUE ACCOUNT 2008

	CHARGE			TOTALS	DISCHARGE		
	Balance in favour at close of last year	RECEIPTS	Balance against at close of this year		Balance against at close of last year	EXPENDITURE	Balance in favour of this year
	5,908.76	137,009.18		142,917.94		135,218.46	7,699.48
TOTALS	5,908.76	137,009.18	-	142,917.94	-	135,218.46	7,699.48

STATEMENT OF BALANCES AT CLOSE OF FINANCIAL YEAR 2008

	€	€		€	€
Treasurer, due to him:-			Treasurer, due by him:-		
Unpaid Bills	12,198.85	12,198.85	No. 1 Account	28,836.43	62,350.76
			No. 2 Account	33,514.33	
			Officers Imprest Account		126.97
Balances in favour:-			Balances Against:-		
Capital Account	42,579.40		Capital Account		
Revenue Account	7,699.48	50,278.88	Revenue Account	-	
TOTALS		62,477.73	TOTALS		62,477.73

INDEBTEDNESS ON FOOT OF LOANS

Loans for Sundry Purposes			Due to Lenders		
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STATEMENT OF CASH ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

ASSETS			LIABILITIES		
	€	€		€	€
Balance in hands of treasurer at close of 2008			Balance due to treasurer at close of 2008		
No. 1 Account	28,836.43	62,350.76			
No. 2 Account	33,514.33				
Balance in hands of other officers: at close of December 2008			Unpaid Bills		12,198.85
Other Assets		126.97			
Hall Hire Charges Outstanding		1,355.00	Hall Hire Charges Prepaid		10.00
TOTAL		63,832.73	TOTAL		12,208.85

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF CAPITAL MONEY 2008

PURPOSE FOR WHICH OBTAINED	Balance (if any) unexpended at close of last year 2007	Total Receipts	Balance (if any) unexpended in excess at close of this year 2008	Total Expenditure	Balance (if any) unexpended at close of this year 2008
Town Hall Development	12,191.75	710.96	12,902.71	3,738.41	9,164.30
Local Elections	6,000.00	2,000.00	8,000.00	-	8,000.00
Legal Fees	18,415.10	-	18,415.10	-	18,415.10
Town Hall Service/Maint	5,000.00	2,000.00	7,000.00	-	7,000.00
TOTALS	41,606.85	4,710.96	46,317.81	3,738.41	42,579.40

PARTICULARS OF RENT COLLECTION 2008

	Arrears due at close of last year 2007 €	Rents & Purchase Annuities Accrued €	Total for Collection €	Total Collected €	Due at close of this year 2008 €	
	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	
			Percentages			

STATEMENT OF NET CHARGE ON REVENUE IN RESPECT OF THE PROVISION OF HOUSING

Total Number of Houses	Expenditure (Including Loan Charges)	Receipts (Including subsidy)	Government (Note)	Deficit Falling on Rates	Loss per House	
0						

CERTIFICATION BY CLERK:

I certify that the foregoing figures are correctly abstracted from the books and accounts of the Balbriggan Town Council.

Dated this _____ day of _____ 2009

Town Clerk

AUDITORS CERTIFICATE:

I have audited the books and accounts of the Balbriggan Town Council for the year ended on the _____ day of _____ 2009 and I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true abstract therefrom.

Dated this _____ day of _____ 2009

Local Government Auditor

The Town Clerk outlined the background to the report and responded to queries raised by the members in relation to same. The Annual Financial Statement for 2008 was then **noted**.

BTC/109/09

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The following report was circulated and **noted**.

BALBRIGGAN TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
February 2009

EXPENDITURE		
Programme Item	Budget 2009	Expenditure 2009 to date
CORPORATE PROPERTY		
Insurance	9,000.00	8,559.84
Rates & Water Charges	10,200.00	5,022.50
Light & Heat	1,700.00	0.00
Service Charges / Maintenance	7,500.00	0.00
Hall Staffing	5,600.00	0.00
Sub-total	34,000.00	13,582.34
GENERAL		
General Expenses	21,900.00	1,423.29
Members Allowance	20,000.00	2,520.00
Conference Expenses	8,000.00	0.00
Cathaoirleach's Allowance	1,700.00	0.00
Leas Cathaoirleach's Allowance	300.00	0.00
Town Clerk Allowance	7,200.00	0.00
AMAI Subscription	3,900.00	3,950.00
Town Improvement/Decoration	9,000.00	4,000.00
Community Awards	5,000.00	0.00
Local Elections	2,000.00	0.00
Audit Fees	2,750.00	0.00
Legal Fees	5,000.00	0.00
Bank Charges	250.00	50.00
Other Expenses	0.00	1,000.00
Capital Account	0.00	0.00
Sub-total	87,000.00	12,943.29
TOTALS:	121,000.00	26,525.63
RECEIPTS		
Programme Item	Budget 2009	Receipts 2009 to date
CORPORATE PROPERTY		
Retail Unit Rental Income	14,000.00	1,000.00
Office Unit Rental Income	6,000.00	2,333.34
Rental Income - Fingal Co. Co.	6,800.00	6,813.00
Hall Hire Charges	10,200.00	1,645.00
Sub-total	37,000.00	11,791.34
GENERAL		
Demand - Fingal Co. Co.	84,000.00	42,000.00
Other Receipts	0.00	1,090.00
Sub-total	84,000.00	43,090.00
TOTAL	121,000.00	54,881.34

BTC/110/09

BALBRIGGAN JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

The following report was circulated:

"Introduction:

This briefing document has been prepared to assist members of the Town Council following the publication of updated guidelines in respect of Joint Policing Committees. Members should refer to the full set of guidelines for further issues not covered in this document regarding public meetings and reporting procedures.

The Garda Síochána Act 2005 makes provision for the establishment of Joint Policing Committees. The Committees are now being rolled out to all 114 local authority areas.

Section 36 provides for the establishment of a JPC in each local authority administrative area. The purpose of these JPC's is to provide a forum where a

local authority and the senior Garda officers responsible for the policing of that area, with the participation of Oireachtas members and community interests, can consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the area.

Functions:

The function of the JPC's is set out in section 36(2) of the Garda Síochána Act, which states:

"The joint policing committee's function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area, and in particular to –

(a) keep under review –

(i) the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in that area (including the patterns and levels of misuse of alcohol and drugs), and

(ii) the factors underlying and contributing to the levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the area,

(b) advise the local authority concerned and the Garda Síochána on how they might best perform their functions having regard to the need to do everything feasible to improve the safety and quality of life and to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within the area,

(c) arrange and host public meetings concerning matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area,

(d) establish, in consultation with the local Garda superintendent, as the committee considers necessary within specific neighbourhoods of the area, local policing fora to discuss and make recommendations to the committee concerning matters that it is to keep under review under paragraph (a) or on which it is to advise under paragraph (b), in so far as those matters affect their neighbourhoods, and
(e) co-ordinate the activities of local policing fora under paragraph (d) or otherwise."

Establishment:

Section 36(1) of the Garda Síochána Act provides: "A local authority and the Garda Commissioner shall arrange for the establishment of a joint policing committee in accordance with guidelines issued ..."

The guidelines state that a local authority shall, after consultation with the Garda Commissioner or an officer authorised by him or her to consult with the local authority, by resolution establish a JPC.

The Garda Síochána representatives on the JPC shall be appointed by the Garda Commissioner. The other members first appointed shall be appointed by resolution of the local authority by which it was established, and subsequent appointments shall be by such resolution or in such other manner as that local authority may provide for by resolution.

Membership of Joint Policing Committees – Town Council with 9 members:

The number of members of each JPC is based on the number of elected members of the town council and shall be as follows:

- All local authority elected members of the Borough/Town Council;
- 3 members of the Oireachtas, chosen from among their number by those members of the Oireachtas who have registered with the Borough/Town Council their interest in being a member. The Oireachtas membership shall rotate every second year on a basis to be decided by the Oireachtas members who have registered. The selection process shall be facilitated by the Borough/Town Council. Each political grouping represented by Oireachtas members for the Borough/Town Council area shall to the greatest extent possible have representation among the three. If the members of the Oireachtas registered are unable to choose three members from among their number, they shall be chosen by lot;

- 2 officials nominated by the county manager, one of whom may be the county manager. They may be accompanied to meetings of the JPC by such other officials as he or she considers appropriate, having regard to the agenda for the meeting;
- 2 Garda officers nominated by the Commissioner, accompanied by such Garda officers as they deem appropriate;
- 3 persons representing the community and voluntary sector in each town, selected in accordance with local arrangements which may include consultation with the community and voluntary forum and any relevant RAPID Programme Area Implementation Teams or Community Safety Sub-Groups.

Members of JPC's subcommittees shall not be entitled to appoint substitutes to attend and participate as members of any JPC, with the exception of officials and members of the Garda Síochána as provided for in these Guidelines.

A person appointed to fill a casual vacancy shall hold office for the remainder of the term of the person in whose place he or she is appointed. A member who is a local authority elected member shall cease to be a member of the committee if (i) he or she resigns by notice in writing to the local authority; (ii) he or she becomes disqualified for membership of the local authority; or (iii) he or she ceases to be a member of the local authority. A member other than a local authority elected member shall cease to be a member if (i) he or she resigns by notice in writing to the local authority; or (ii) he or she ceases to be a member of the grouping which originally nominated him or her to the committee. A person whose term of office expires or who has resigned shall be eligible for re-appointment subject to compliance with membership requirements outlined in this section.

Chairperson:

Section 35(2)(c) of the Garda Síochána Act provides that the chairperson of a committee will be drawn from the elected members nominated to the JPC by the relevant local authority. The local authority elected members of the JPC shall appoint the chairperson of the JPC. The term of office of a chairperson shall be not less than two years and, after the first term, rotate between the local authority elected members of the JPC. In view of the central role of the chairperson in the success of the JPC, JPC's are encouraged to consider a term of office longer than two years.

Public Meetings:

Section 36(2)(c) of the Garda Síochána Act provides that the function of a JPC is, inter alia, to "arrange and host public meetings concerning matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area".

Co-operation and Joint Action with Other Joint Policing Committees :

If two or more JPC's consider it appropriate to do so, they may, by resolution of each of the JPC's, co-operate and perform joint actions. A JPC may co-operate and perform joint actions with more than one JPC or group of JPCs. In particular, a JPC for a town shall co-operate and act jointly on matters of common concern with the JPC for the county in which it is located and with the JPCs for any other towns in the county. The JPC for the county shall similarly co-operate and act jointly with the JPC's for the towns in the county.

The Acting Manager gave a brief overview of the updated guidelines and informed the members that a resolution of the members to establish a JPC was required to commence the process.

On the proposal of Councillor May McKeon, seconded by Councillor Gertie Shields it was **agreed** to establish a Joint Policy Committee.

The acting manager informed the members that the procedures to appoint the various members to the committee would commence and it was hoped to have the first meeting in May 2009.

BTC/111/09

UPDATE ON BALBRIGGAN URBAN IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

This was **deferred** to the April Meeting.

BTC/112/09

ST. PATRICKS DAY

It was **agreed** to discuss the arrangements after the meeting.

Meeting finished at 9.30 p.m.

SIGNED: 
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE 21/4/2009

**Minutes of Statutory Meeting of Balbriggan Town Council
held on Tuesday 21st April 2009
in The Council Chamber, Town Hall at 7.30 p.m.**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Councillors

Brown, Sean
Buckley, Gerry
Dunne, Larry
Hammond, Kathleen
Harford, Monica

Councillors

Kilgallon, Stephen
McKeon, May
Pyne, Ned
Shields, Gertie

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mr. Peter Caulfield, Town Manager
Mr. Brian Murray, Meetings Administrator
Ms. Brenda Barlow, Clerical Officer
Ms. Margaret Wilde, Clerical Officer

BTC/113/09

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

Councillor Harford proposed a vote of sympathy on the recent deaths of two former clergy of Balbriggan parish, Fr. Jim O'Sullivan & Fr. Michael Hassett.

A minutes silence was observed. It was **agreed** that the Town Clerk forward letters of sympathy to the families.

BTC/114/09

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of Balbriggan Town Council statutory meeting held on 10th March 2009 which were circulated were submitted, **approved** as a true record and signed.

BTC/115/09

SOCIAL WORKERS IN BALBRIGGAN

Letter dated 2/3/2009 received from Office of the Minister Department of Health & Children regarding Social Workers in Balbriggan was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/116/09

INTERNET SAFETY

Letter dated 3/3/2009 received from Office of the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform regarding internet was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/117/09

SPECIAL PURCHASE SCHEMES

Letter dated 20/3/2009 received from the Office of Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government regarding special purchase scheme for long term rental tenants was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/118/09

SPECIAL NEEDS CLASSES

Letter dated 27/3/2009 received from Office of the Minister for Education & Science regarding discontinuation of classes for children with special needs was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/119/09

CONCEALMENT OF TRANSACTIONS

Letter dated 27/3/2009 received from Office of the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform regarding concealment of transactions from an external audit of financial institution was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/120/09

OVERCROWDING IN COURTHOUSE

Letter dated 1/4/2009 received from the Court Service regarding over crowding in the Balbriggan Courthouse was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/121/09

SUBMISSIONS ON SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET

Letter dated 1/4/2009 received from the Office of Minister for the Finance regarding submission in relation to the supplementary Budget was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/122/09

TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME

Letter dated 24/2/2009 received from Richard Brady, Housing Department regarding Tenant Purchase Scheme was circulated and **noted**.

Following discussion, it was **agreed** that the a meeting be arranged with the Housing Department and the elected members and to invite a delegation of four or five people affected by this issue.

BTC/123/09

V.A.T., THIRD LEVEL FEES AND RATES

Letter dated 26/2/2009 received from Monaghan Town Council regarding vat rate, third level fees and rate paying retail shops was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/124/09

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Letter dated 3/3/2009 received from Longford Town Council regarding Rural Development Programme 2009/2013 was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/125/09

POST BOXES IN BALBRIGGAN

Letter dated 6/3/2009 received from An Post regarding post boxes in Balbriggan was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/126/09

ARDGILLAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE ADMISSIONS POLICY

Letter dated 3/9/2009 received from the County Dublin Vocational Education Committee regarding Ardgillan Community College Admissions Policy 2009 was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/127/09

SOCIAL WORKERS

Letter dated 12/3/2009 received from Health Service Executive regarding Social Workers was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/128/09

IRISH COLLEGES IN GAELTACHT

Letter dated 25/3/2009 received from Monaghan Town Council regarding cuts to support for summer courses in Irish colleges in the Gaeltacht was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/129/09

SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

Letter dated 3/4/2009 received from Health Service Executive regarding Social Work Services was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/130/09

29th ANNUAL LAMA CONFERENCE

Conferences

LAMA 29th Annual Conference will be held on the 16th – 17th April 2009 in the Portlaoise Heritage Hotel was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/131/09

WORKS FRONTING LAMBEECHER ESTATE

Question submitted by Councillor Gertie Shields

To ask the Manager can the Roads Department give a definite date when work on the boundary fence and wall fronting Lambeecher Estate will re-commence.

Reply: The outstanding works in Lambeecher Estate are scheduled to re-commence on the 20th April 2009.

These works will take approximately 12 weeks to complete.

BTC/132/09

NEW HAVEN ESTATE

Question submitted by Councillor Ned Pyne

To ask the Manager when are Fingal County Council going to take over the New Haven Estate in Balbriggan.

Reply: The Developers of New Haven Estate, Balbriggan have requested Fingal County Council to take this Estate in charge. The 'As Constructed' drawings have not yet been submitted to the Transportation department. When the necessary documentation is received the Estate will be snagged and the completion of outstanding works pursued with the Developers.

Subject to the satisfactory completion of any outstanding works, the final taking in charge drawings will be prepared to enable the statutory taking in charge procedure to be initiated.

BTC/133/09

MOUNT ROCHFORD ESTATE

Question submitted by Councillor Ned Pyne

To ask the Manager when are Fingal County Council going to take over the Mount Rochford Estate in Balbriggan.

Reply: Mount Rochford Estate, Balbriggan was taken in charge by Fingal County Council on the 11th February 2008.

BTC/135/09

VACANT/BOARDED UP HOUSE OFFERS

Question submitted by Councillor Monica Harford

To ask the Manager are Fingal County Council Housing Department putting vacant / boarded up houses on offer prior to works being carried out.

Reply: It is Council policy to ensure that dwellings which become vacant and which are subject to pre-let repairs are offered to qualified applicants on the Council's housing list as quickly as possible in accordance with the Scheme of Letting Priorities.

This means that offers of accommodation may issue on dwellings which are not actually available for letting at the time of offer. This ensures that housing applicants are ready to take up occupation of a dwelling as soon as pre-let repairs are carried out.

Pre-let repairs are carried out in accordance with current building regulations and best practice prior to the occupation of the dwelling by the tenant.

BTC/136/09

COLLECTION OF COUNCIL BINS

Question submitted by Councillor Larry Dunne

To ask the Manager when will bins be collected from residents who have opted for private refuse collection and who still have council bins? A reply to a previous question on this subject some time ago indicated that this was to take place forthwith however in some areas residents have not had their council bins removed.

Reply: The service used to be provided on an area basis when the Council had a dedicated crew assigned only to this task. However, due to recent cutbacks this service is now provided by the Council subject to the availability of staff resources and other work on hand.

A general take back of bins from the Balbriggan area was carried out in November 2008. Since then the take back of bins in other areas has been carried out however, there is a backlog of take back request yet to be finished.

Any urgent requests from residents with storage problems are dealt with as soon as possible by the Council.

BTC/137/09

WATER PRESSURE NORTHWEST BALBRIGGAN

Question submitted by Councillor Stephen Kilgallon

To ask the Manager to investigate fully and provide a report on proposed actions in relation to the poor mains water pressure occurring in Northwest Balbriggan (especially around Bremore Pasture).

Reply: The pressures in this area of Balbriggan are dependant on the construction of a new high-level reservoir at Balscadden and its associated pumping station and watermains. This reservoir was to be built by a Developer-led consortium as a Public-Private Partnership. This consortium has disbanded and hence the construction of the reservoir has been delayed.

Fingal County Council are consequently proceeding with the provision of the reservoir, and associated assets, directly. This process will take a minimum of two to three years, and will be dependant on funding being made available by Central Government. In the meantime the pressures in the higher areas of Balbriggan will be low.

BTC/138/09

TAXI/HACKNEY OPERATORS

The following motion in the name of Councillor Monica Harford was submitted by Councillor Monica Harford, seconded by Councillor Larry Dunne.

Balbriggan Town Council call on the taxi regulation office to allow taxi / hackney operators in the Balbriggan area immediately switch their licence to the Dublin Metropolitan region including those residing in Louth or Meath who have been operating in Balbriggan and can produce proof of such.

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/139/09

REFERENDUM TO ABOLISH SENAD EIREANN

The following motion in the name of Councillor Sean Brown was submitted by Councillor Sean Brown.

Balbriggan Town Council call on the Government to arrange a referendum of the people to decide on the abolition of Seanad Eireann.

The motion was not seconded.

BTC/141/09

ENFORCE PLANNING CONDITIONS

The following motion in the name of Councillor Gertie Shields was submitted by Councillor Gertie Shields, seconded by Councillor May McKeon.

Balbriggan Town Council call on the Planning Department Fingal County Council to enforce planning conditions laid down by their own department, when giving permission to proceed with a change of use of premises.

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

The Manager informed the meeting he would contact the Planning Department regarding the issues raised, the procedures in place to deal with these issues and report back to the members.

BTC/142/09

FINGAL SWIMMING POOL

The following motion in the name of Councillor Larry Dunne was submitted by Councillor Larry Dunne, seconded by Councillor Monica Harford.

Balbriggan Town Council condemns as totally unacceptable the misleading report given to it by the Director of Community Services Fingal County Council at its last meeting concerning the situation pertaining to correspondence between Fingal County Council and the Ministers Office in respect of the Fingal Swimming Pool Project and calls on the County Manager to immediately clarify the position relating to the dates of all correspondence relating to this project and the relevant government department.

Following discussion, An Cathaoirleach called for a show of hands and declared the motion **defeated**.

BTC/143/09

BYE-LAWS IN RELATION TO LANDS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

The following motion in the name of Councillor Stephen Kilgallon was submitted by Councillor Stephen Kilgallon, seconded by Councillor Ned Pyne.

Balbriggan Town Council calls upon Fingal County Council to introduce the following bye-law in relation to lands under development "That any site issued planning consent for more than 5 dwellings must be placed under a competent custodian to maintain the common areas no later than 1 month after 90% of the dwellings are at completion of contract".

Following discussion, Councillor Kilgallon informed the meeting that he wished to **withdraw** the motion.

BTC/144/09

PROPOSED GRAVEYARD AT FLEMINGTON

The following motion in the name of Councillor Monica Harford was submitted by Councillor Monica Harford, seconded by Councillor Larry Dunne.

Balbriggan Town Council call on Fingal County Council to immediately start developing or at least part develop the proposed new graveyard in Flemington to serve the requirements of the Balbriggan people and to treat the current serious situation with urgency.

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/145/09

T.D.'S. EXPENSES

The following motion in the name of Councillor Sean Brown was submitted by Councillor Sean Brown, seconded by Councillor Monica Harford.

Balbriggan Town Council call on the Government to cap the expenses of all T.D.'s to a maximum of €15,000.

Following a show of hands, An Cathaoirleach declared the motion **agreed**.

BTC/146/09

TRAFFIC CALMING SEAPOINT/HAMPTON COVE

The following motion in the name of Councillor Larry Dunne was submitted by Councillor Larry Dunne, seconded by Councillor Monica Harford.

Balbriggan Town Council calls upon Fingal County Council in the interest of public safety to instigate traffic calming measures on the back road between Seapoint and Hampton Cove as the speed of vehicles using this stretch of road is a cause of extreme concern for both the residents of the area and the general public using the road.

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members. It was also **agreed** to write to Balbriggan Gardai to monitor this location.

BTC/147/09

REGISTRATION SCHEME FOR MANAGEMENT COMPANIES

The following motion in the name of Councillor Stephen Kilgallon was submitted by Councillor Stephen Kilgallon, seconded by Councillor May McKeon.

Balbriggan Town Council calls upon Fingal County Council to institute a self financing registration scheme for all management companies with responsibility for 5 or more dwellings. The scheme will require that an annual report be furnished to the Council and will also provide a mediation and grievance process for all stakeholders.

Following discussion, the motion was **amended** as follows:

Balbriggan Town Council calls upon Fingal County Council and the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to institute a registration scheme for all management companies with responsibility for 5 or more dwellings. The scheme will require that an annual report be furnished to the Council and will also provide a mediation and grievance process for all stakeholders.

An Cathaoirleach called for a show of hands and declared the amended motion **passed**.

BTC/148/09

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Councillor Monica Harford, it was **agreed** to suspend Standing Orders to extend the meeting to 9.40 p.m.

BTC/149/09

**CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS
- ARDGILLAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

An Cathaoirleach congratulated Mr. Michael O'Leary on his appointment as principal of the new school and wished Michael and the teaching staff of Ardgillan Community College on their success in achieving the forthcoming opening of the school.

BTC/150/09

**CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS
- ST. WENDEL VISIT**

The Town Manager informed the members that the Town Manager and Town Clerk paid a short visit to St. Wendel in the past few days in order to further the twinning initiative and the development of a school exchange. An Cathaoirleach had planned to travel but had to was unable to travel at the last minute due to a bereavement. The Manager informed the members that Mayor of St. Wendel Klaus Bouillon extended his best wishes to the elected members. It was hoped to invite representatives of St. Wendel to visit Balbriggan to discuss the schools exchange in Autumn 2009.

BTC/151/09

**CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS
- SCOTTISH GRAND NATIONAL WINNER**

Councillor May McKeon wished to congratulate Seamus Murphy on his success with his horse Hello Bud on winning the Scottish Grand National.

BTC/152/09

**CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS
- PROPOSAL TO CHANGE OF MEETING TIME**

An Cathaoirleach proposed to change the start time to 7.00 p.m. for the May Meeting which would allow an early conclusion in order to facilitate a small reception after the meeting. This was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/153/09

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The following report was circulated and noted.

BALBRIGGAN TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
March 2009

EXPENDITURE		
Programme Item	Budget 2009	Expenditure 2009 to date
CORPORATE PROPERTY		
Insurance	9,000.00	8,559.84
Rates & Water Charges	10,200.00	5,022.50
Light & Heat	1,700.00	0.00
Service Charges / Maintenance	7,500.00	0.00
Hall Staffing	5,600.00	0.00
Sub-total	34,000.00	13,582.34
GENERAL		
General Expenses	21,900.00	7,499.68
Members Allowance	20,000.00	3,780.00
Conference Expenses	8,000.00	0.00
Cathaoirleach's Allowance	1,700.00	0.00
Leas Cathaoirleach's Allowance	300.00	0.00
Town Clerk Allowance	7,200.00	0.00
AMAI Subscription	3,900.00	3,950.00
Town Improvement/Decoration	9,000.00	9,271.38
Community Awards	5,000.00	0.00
Local Elections	2,000.00	0.00
Audit Fees	2,750.00	2,760.00
Legal Fees	5,000.00	0.00
Bank Charges	250.00	50.00
Other Expenses	0.00	1,073.62
Capital Account	0.00	2,682.00
Sub-total	87,000.00	31,066.68
TOTALS:	121,000.00	44,649.02
RECEIPTS		
Programme Item	Budget 2009	Receipts 2009 to date
CORPORATE PROPERTY		
Retail Unit Rental Income	14,000.00	1,500.00
Office Unit Rental Income	6,000.00	3,500.01
Rental Income - Fingal Co. Co.	6,800.00	6,813.00
Hall Hire Charges	10,200.00	2,942.50
Sub-total	37,000.00	14,755.51
GENERAL		
Demand - Fingal Co. Co.	84,000.00	42,000.00
Other Receipts	0.00	1,402.30
Sub-total	84,000.00	43,402.30
TOTAL	121,000.00	58,157.81

BTC/154/09

UPDATE ON BALBRIGGAN URBAN RENEWAL SCHEME

An Cathaoirleach informed the meeting he chaired the last meeting of the Monitoring committee which was attended by residents of High Street. It was agreed at the meeting that High Street be restored to two way traffic. The next meeting of the monitoring committee will take place on 11th May 2009 at 1.30 p.m.

Meeting finished at 9.40p.m.

SIGNED


CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE

12/5/09

**Minutes of Statutory Meeting of Balbriggan Town Council
held on Tuesday 12th May 2009
in The Council Chamber, Town Hall at 7.00 p.m.**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Councillors

Brown, Sean
Buckley, Gerry
Dunne, Larry
Hammond, Kathleen
Harford, Monica

Councillors

Kilgallon, Stephen
McKeon, May
Pyne, Ned
Shields, Gertie

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mr. David O Connor, County Manager
Mr. Peter Caulfield, Town Manager
Mr. Brian Murray, Meetings Administrator
Ms. Kym Coughlan, Clerical Officer
Ms. Margaret Wilde, Clerical Officer

BTC/155/09

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of Balbriggan Town Council statutory meeting held on 21st April 2009 which were circulated were submitted, **approved** as a true record and signed.

BTC/156/09

AFFORDABLE HOUSING/TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME

Acknowledgement letter dated 14/04/2009 received from Office of the Minister Department of Health & Children regarding affordable housing and tenant purchase scheme was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/157/09

AFFORDABLE HOUSING/TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME

Letter dated 03/04/2009 received from the Housing Department in Fingal County Council regarding affordable housing and tenant purchase scheme was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/158/09

TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES

Letter dated 28/04/2009 received from the Transportation Department in Fingal County Council regarding traffic calming measures was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/159/09

NOTIFICATION TO VEHICLE OWNERS OF NCT

Letter dated 22/04/09 received from Monaghan Town Council regarding a motion they passed regarding notification to vehicle owners when their NCT is due was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/160/09

ADVERTISEMENT IN THE FINGAL INDEPENDENT

Letter dated 19/04/2009 received from the Fingal Independent regarding article published in the newspaper in May 2008 was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/161/09

DEMENTIA SUFFERERS AND CARERS

Letter dated 21/04/2009 received from Mullingar Town Council regarding more support for dementia sufferers and their carers was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/162/09

TOWN CREST AND SEAT ON THE SQUARE

Question submitted by Councillor Ned Pyne

To ask the Manager when will the seat and Town Crest stone be re-instated at the Square.

Reply: The seat outside the Court House was removed by the contractor while carrying out paving works as part of the Urban Improvement Scheme. The contractor has been requested to replace the seat without further delay. It is expected that this work will be completed by the end of May 2009.

The Town Crest Stone will be replaced as part of the re-design of the entrance to the Town Hall and Library building. It is not possible to give an exact timeframe for the works to commence. It is hoped works will commence before the year end.

BTC/163/09

BOROUGH OF BELMAR

Question submitted by Councillor Stephen Kilgallon

To ask the Borough of Belmar (Balbriggan's Partner Town) in New Jersey to provide details on the Marina redevelopment undertaken, in terms of sources of funding, business plans & any subsequent evaluation reports.

Reply: The Borough of Belmar have been contacted and any details received will be forwarded to the elected members in due course.

BTC/164/09

PARTY SHOPS

The following motion in the name of Councillor Gertie Shields was submitted by Councillor Gertie Shields, seconded by Councillor Monica Harford.

"Balbriggan Town Council call on the Minister for Health to expedite legislation that will close so called 'party shops' in particular "Rasta Power" which has re-located to Station Street in Balbriggan."

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/165/09

SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICE IN BALBRIGGAN

The following motion in the name of Councillor Sean Brown was submitted by Councillor Sean Brown, seconded by Councillor May McKeon.

"Balbriggan Town Council call on the Department of Social & Family Affairs to immediately open a social welfare office in Balbriggan."

Following discussion, the Town Manager informed the meeting that he would contact the Department of Social and Family Affairs to meet with the personnel involved to explore all options including using the Town Hall and report back to the members. The motion was then **agreed** by the members.

BTC/166/09

LOW MAINS WATER PRESSURE IN NORTHWEST

The following motion in the name of Councillor Stephen Kilgallon was submitted by Councillor Stephen Kilgallon, seconded by Councillor Kathleen Hammond.

"Balbriggan Town Council calls upon Fingal County Council to take immediate steps to remedy the extremely low mains water pressure in Northwest Balbriggan."

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/167/09

A.I.B. BUILDING ON GEORGE'S SQUARE

The following motion in the name of Councillor Gerry Buckley was submitted by Councillor Gerry Buckley, seconded by Councillor May McKeon.

"Balbriggan Town Council calls upon Allied Irish Bank to ensure that their building on Georges Square is maintained to the highest standard upon the relocation of the bank facility."

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/168/09

BALBRIGGAN HARBOUR

The following motion in the name of Councillor Gertie Shields was submitted by Councillor Gertie Shields, seconded by Councillor Monica Harford.

"Balbriggan Town Council call on call on the Government to provide funds to Fingal County Council to do extensive work to upgrade Balbriggan Harbour which is in a deplorable state at this present time."

Following discussion, the Town Manger informed the meeting that Fingal County Council had prepared reports on the condition of the harbour and were concentrating on maintenance pending funding being available and he undertook to update the members at the next meeting. The motion was then **agreed** by the members.

BTC/169/09

ABOLISH MANAGEMENT COMPANIES

The following motion in the name of Councillor Sean Brown was submitted by Councillor Sean Brown, seconded by Councillor Stephen Kilgallon.

"We Balbriggan Town Council call on the Government to abolish Management Companies for residential estates leaving them only for apartment blocks."

Following discussion, the Town Manager informed the meeting he would make enquiries to ascertain the roads and open spaces proposed to be taken in charge. There is also a review underway in the Department of Justice on the management and operation of management companies and he undertook to check the position and report back to the members. The motion was then **agreed** by the members.

BTC/170/09

REMOVAL OF GRAFFITI

The following motion in the name of Councillor Stephen Kilgallon was submitted by Councillor Stephen Kilgallon, seconded by Councillor Gerry Buckley.

"Balbriggan Town Council calls upon Fingal County Council to provide resources for the removal of Graffiti in Balbriggan."

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/171/09

LAND AT BREMORE / MARTELLO TOWER

The following motion in the name of Councillor Gerry Buckley was submitted by Councillor Gerry Buckley, seconded by Councillor Monica Harford.

"Balbriggan Town Council calls on Fingal County Council to meet Balbriggan Football Club to review the development of the lands at Bremore/Martello Tower with a view to providing an all weather pitch at this location."

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/172/09

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Financial Statement was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/173/09

BALBRIGGAN URBAN IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

An Cathaoirleach informed the meeting he chaired the Monitoring Committee meeting on 11th May 2009 and gave a brief progress report on the works and issues raised at the meeting. The minutes of the meeting will be circulated to the members in due course. An Cathaoirleach thanked the Chamber of Commerce, the Council staff and the contractor for their co-operation.

BTC/174/09

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS - FARMERS MARKET

An Cathaoirleach requested the Manager to update the members. The Town Manager informed the meeting that a series of meetings have been held on the establishment of a farmers market. It is proposed, with the support of Balbriggan Town Council, to establish a farmers market for a trial period of twelve weeks on Georges Square to be held on Fridays starting in the second half of June.

It is also proposed to part fund the establishment of the market, along with Fingal County Council on the purchase of canopies. A number of expressions of interest have been received and will be assessed by a steering group and a stallholders committee. It is envisaged that the market will be self financing and self-reliant basis after a number of weeks but in the initial stages, assistance will be required and provided.

BTC/175/09

**CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS -
PRESENTATIONS TO RETIRING COUNCILLORS**

An Cathaoirleach informed the members that this was the last meeting of the present council before the local elections and wished to mention some of the achievements since 2004 in which the Town Council played a part. He reflected on the establishment of the cinema, increased Garda numbers, new footpaths, bicycle lanes, enhanced open spaces and trees, new playgrounds and the proposed swimming pool.

An Cathaoirleach stated the Town Council's proposal to alter the town boundary which was signed by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will give residents living in the newer areas of Balbriggan an opportunity to vote for the Town Council in the forthcoming elections.

An Cathaoirleach thanked all the elected members for their participation for the motions raised over the years and their commitment to the town. He mentioned their dedication to the community.

An Cathaoirleach thanked the Town Clerk and the staff of the Town Council in facilitating the Town Council meetings and their assistance to the elected members and the public.

An Cathaoirleach thanked the County Manager for his support and continuing interest in Balbriggan.

An Cathaoirleach thanked the Town Manager for his support and assistance to the members and acknowledged his commitment to his role as Town Manager in Balbriggan.

An Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that four elected members: Gertie Shields, May McKeon, Kathleen Hammond and Ned Pyne were not contesting the local elections and wished to pay tribute to their service on behalf of the people of Balbriggan.

An Cathaoirleach requested the County Manger to make a presentation to each of the retiring councillors.

Tributes were also paid to each of the retiring councillors by all members present. Councillors Shields, McKeon, Hammond and Pyne each thanked the members for their kind words and best wishes.

The Town Manager acknowledged the wealth of experience leaving the Town Council and welcomed the members stepping down to visit the Town Hall at any time in the future.

The Town Manager thanked an Cathaoirleach for his stewardship and leadership over the past year and acknowledged there was a great amount of work done in the past year. The Town Manager also thanked an Leas Cathaoirleach and the Town Clerk along with the staff of the Town Council for their help over the past year. He wished the retiring Councillors all the best for the future and those contesting the local elections the best of luck.

The County Manager paid tribute to the elected members for their dedication to their office and acknowledged the faith they showed on behalf of the people of Balbriggan. He also noted the improvements to the town since he first visited Balbriggan in 1995 and acknowledged the member's participation in the public private partnership in the re-development of the Town Hall and Library building. He also wished to pay tribute to the inclusiveness shown by the members and their commitment to democracy in voting to extend the town boundaries.

The County Manager acknowledged the contribution of an Cathaoirleach over the past year and stated he had been an outstanding ambassador for the town. The County Manager also acknowledged the role of all the elected members as ambassadors for the country in the town's relationship with St. Wendel.

The County Manager concluded by wishing An Cathaoirleach well and presented him with a photo album to commemorate his year in office.

An Cathaoirleach thanked everyone and concluded by wishing all the members well in the forthcoming elections.

Meeting finished at 9.55 p.m.

SIGNED: *Monica Harford*
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE 14/7/09

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF BALBRIGGAN TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 15th JUNE 2009**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Councillors

Brown, Sean
Dunne, Larry
Harford, Monica
Kelleher, Terry
Kilmurry, Grainne

Councillors

Maguire, Grainne
Murray, Dermot
O'Kelly, Peadar
Snowe, Frank

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mr. David O'Connor, County Manager
Mr. Brian Murray, Town Clerk
Ms. Kym Coughlan, Clerical Officer
Ms. Rosemary Moonan, Clerical Officer

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean Brown presided.

BTC/176/09

ADDRESS BY OUTGOING CATHAOIRLEACH

An Cathaoirleach welcomed the members and officials present to the Annual Meeting.

An Cathaoirleach hoped we have a very productive period for the next five years. He then asked Mr. Brian Murray to formally read out the names of those who were elected to Balbriggan Town Council.

The Town Clerk read out the names of the persons elected following the poll taken on the 5th June 2009 as follows :

Sean Brown
Monica Harford
Dermot Murray
Larry Dunne
Grainne Maguire
Grainne Kilmurry
Terry Kelleher
Frank Snowe
Peadar O'Kelly

BTC/177/09

ELECTION OF CATHAOIRLEACH

An Cathaoirleach asked for nominations for the election of Cathaoirleach.

It was proposed by Councillor Larry Dunne, seconded by Councillor Dermot Murray "that Councillor Monica Harford be elected as Cathaoirleach"

As there were no other nominations, Councillor Monica Harford was declared elected as Cathaoirleach of Balbriggan Town Council.

Councillor Harford then took the chair and was presented with the Chain of Office by the outgoing Cathaoirleach, Councillor Brown.

BTC/178/09

ADDRESS BY AN CATHAOIRLEACH, COUNCILLOR MONICA HARFORD

Councillor Harford began by thanking her proposer and seconder and the members for putting their trust in her to represent them for the next year. She stated she will do her utmost for them with great dignity and pride as they will all be representing the people of Balbriggan and that is their duty. She stated it was great to see new faces and also familiar faces, faces that are in associations within the town and are familiar with the town and indeed have the goodness of the town at heart.

An Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that she knows that they have a hard five years ahead of them and there are a lot of issues that she did not want to go into on the night, but they all know that there a lot of issues which need to be addressed and the current Town Council will be the very people who will address them, take them on board and not give up until they have satisfaction for the people they represent.

An Cathaoirleach paid tribute to Councillor Sean Brown on his achievements during the past year as Cathaoirleach. An Cathaoirleach stated that she knows they will full co-operation from the County Manager, Town Manager, Town Clerk and especially from the staff of the Town Hall as they always do everything in their power to keep things running smoothly.

BTC/179/09

ELECTION OF LEAS CATHAOIRLEACH

An Cathaoirleach asked for nominations for election of Leas Cathaoirleach.

It was proposed by Councillor Murray, seconded by Councillor Kilmurry "that Councillor Dunne be elected Leas Cathaoirleach"

As there were no other nominations, Councillor Dunne was declared elected as Leas Cathaoirleach of Balbriggan Town Council.

The County Manger congratulated Councillor Harford and Councillor Dunne on their elections as Cathaoirleach and as Leas Cathaoirleach. He also congratulated all the Councillors on their election to Balbriggan Town Council.

He stated it was great to see many new faces and looked forward to getting to know all of them. He informed the meeting that the Council staff regarded themselves as at one completely with the Council and we all have a common purpose in that regard.

The County Manager gave apologies on behalf of Peter Caulfield, the Town Manager who was unable to attend the meeting due to family commitments. He informed the members that Mr Caulfield is very committed to the position of Town Manager and he intends on having some informal meetings with the Town Clerk and the newer Councillors to get to know them.

The County Manager also informed the meeting that in the Autumn the members will have the opportunity to meet the Directors of Services within Fingal County Council.

He stated that the big difference this time around is the members have a mandate for the entire town due to the extension of the town boundary.

The County Manager noted that we are facing into difficult times and that both the Town Council and the County Council have to make sure that we try to maintain our costs as much as possible this year and that we recognise that there are a lot of burdens on businesses and we want to use every penny we can to the best outcome for the Town itself and the County in general. He told the meeting that the staff have helped him to reduce costs for the Council and keep within budget. The County Council and the Town Council have always managed to stay within the budget during the years and that this year is probably the most important.

The County Manager stated it was very nice that the first item he can report on for the town this year is that Balbriggan was placed in 7th position in the most recent IBAL Awards. This is a direct result of commitment that has been delivered through Peter Caulfield, Brian Murray and the staff of both the County Council and the Town Council and that things are looking up for the Town.

The County Manager hopes to give a general presentation in the Autumn about the level of investment that has been made in the town itself in terms of infrastructure and the ongoing commitment of the County Council to Balbriggan. He said that those who have worked with him for a longer period know of his absolute belief and faith in the strength of the town and he looked forward to working with the members during the year.

An Cathaoirleach thanked the County Manager for his kind words and formally brought the meeting to a close.

The meeting concluded at 8.20 p.m.

Monica Hurford
CATHAOIRLEACH

14/7/09
DATE

Minutes of Statutory Meeting of Balbriggan Town Council
held on Tuesday 14th July 2009
in The Council Chamber, Town Hall at 7.30 p.m.

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Councillors

Dunne, Larry
Harford, Monica
Kelleher, Terry
Kilmurry, Grainne

Councillors

Maguire, Grainne
Murray, Dermot
O'Kelly, Peadar
Snowe, Frank

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mr. Peter Caulfield, Town Manager
Mr. Brian Murray, Meetings Administrator
Ms. Margaret Wilde, Clerical Officer
Ms. Rosie Moonan, Clerical Officer

BTC/180/09

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of Balbriggan Town Council statutory meeting held on 12th May 2009 which were circulated were submitted, **approved** as a true record and signed.

BTC/181/09

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - ANNUAL MEETING

Minutes of Balbriggan Town Council Annual General Meeting held on 15th June 2009 which were circulated were submitted, **approved** as a true record and signed.

BTC/182/09

REGISTRATION OF MANAGEMENT COMPANIES

Acknowledgement letter dated 8/5/2009 received from Office of the Minister for Housing, Urban Renewal and Developing Areas, Environment, Heritage & Local Government regarding registration scheme for management companies was circulated and noted.

BTC/183/09

BALBRIGGAN HARBOUR

Acknowledgement letter dated 20/5/2009 received from Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food regarding Balbriggan Harbour was circulated and noted.

BTC/184/09

MANAGEMENT COMPANIES

Acknowledgement letter dated 21/5/2009 received from Office of the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform regarding management companies was circulated and noted.

BTC/185/09

PROVISION OF SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICE

Acknowledgement letter dated 21/5/2009 received from Office of the Minister for Social & Family Affairs regarding provision of a Social Welfare Office in Balbriggan was circulated and noted.

BTC/186/09

CLOSURE OF RASTA SHOPS

Letter dated 21/5/2009 received from Office of the Minister Department of Health & Children regarding closure of Party Shops was circulated and noted. It was **agreed** that the Town Clerk would follow up on the current status of purposed legislation.

BTC/187/09

PARTY SHOPS

Letter dated 29/5/2009 received from Office of the Minister Department of Health & Children regarding Party Shops was circulated and noted.

BTC/188/09

UPGRADING OF HARBOUR

Letter dated 10/6/2009 received from Office of the Minister for Environment, Heritage & Local Government regarding upgrading of Balbriggan Harbour was circulated and noted.

BTC/189/09

REGISTRATION OF MANAGEMENT COMPANIES

Letter dated 8/6/2009 received from the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government regarding registration of management companies was circulated and noted.

BTC/190/09

UPGRADING OF BALBRIGGAN HARBOUR

Letter dated 10/6/2009 received from Office of the Minister for Environment, Heritage & Local Government regarding upgrading of Balbriggan Harbour was circulated and noted.

BTC/191/09

TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME

Letter dated 13/6/2009 received from Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government regarding present Tenant Purchase Scheme was circulated and noted.

BTC/192/09

COMPANIES ACT

Letter dated 24/6/2009 received from Tánaiste & Office of the Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment regarding the Companies Acts was circulated and noted.

BTC/193/09

MANAGEMENT COMPANIES

Letter dated 22/6/2009 received from Office of the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform regarding management companies was circulated and noted.

BTC/194/09

PROVISION OF SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICE

Letter dated 26/6/2009 received from Department of Social & Family Affairs regarding provision of social welfare office in Balbriggan was circulated and noted.

BTC/195/09

LOW WATER PRESSURES IN NORTHWEST BALBRIGGAN

Email dated 29/5/2009 received from Colin Gallagher regarding low water pressures in the Northwest Balbriggan area was circulated and noted.

BTC/196/09

NATURAL RESOURCES

Letter dated 10/6/2009 received from Macroom Town Council regarding Natural Resources was circulated and noted.

Following discussion, it was **agreed** to support this motion and the Town Clerk to write to the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources and reply to Macroom Town Council.

BTC/197/09

AMAI ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Letter dated 24/6/2009 received from AMAI regarding 96th Annual Conference to be held in Killarney 9/11th September was circulated and noted.

BTC/198/09

ROAD SAFETY MEASURES AT FLEMINGTON LANE

Question submitted by Councillor Grainne Kilmurry

To ask the Manager to include in his 2010 estimate the necessary finance for road safety measures on Flemington Lane, Balbriggan.

Reply: The provision of traffic calming measures on Flemington Lane, Balbriggan will be considered in the context of the preparation of the Draft Transportation Programme of Works for 2010

BTC/199/09

BREMORE CASTLE ESTATE - TAKING IN CHARGE

Question submitted by Councillor Grainne Kilmurry

To ask the Manager to report on the delay in the taking in charge of Bremore Castle Estate, Balbriggan, and to list the outstanding issues, including the replacement of the damaged bollards, and the refitting of loose cobble-locking; to confirm if the necessary finance for the carrying out of these works are available to the Council from the Development Bond, and if so will he utilise this to complete the estate to the satisfaction of the residents.

Reply: A request to take Bremore Castle Estate, Balbriggan in charge has been made to the Council by the Developers. A recent meeting was held with representatives of the residents in this Estate to discuss this matter. In addition, a recent inspection has been undertaken in this Estate by the Building Control Engineer in the Transportation Department in relation to determining:

- Any outstanding works which are not completed in accordance with Council's requirements

- Areas to be taken in charge
- Replacement of damaged bollards
- Costs of works.
- Any other outstanding issues.

The public consultation process for the taking in charge of this Estate will commence at an early date. As soon as the Estate is in charge, arrangements will be made for the outstanding works to be undertaken with the least possible delay.

A further meeting will be held with the residents at an early date in relation to the above matters.

BTC/200/09

HAMPTON COVE ESTATE – GRASS MAINTENANCE

Question submitted by Councillor Peadar O’Kelly

To ask the Manager to ensure that the grass on the Green Space in Hampton Cove is cut as a matter of urgency, given that young children and teenagers are forced to play football on the road as the grass is too high, which is a dangerous situation, and given that a rat infestation is also occurring.

Reply: Current conditions have necessitated the introduction of a differential hierarchy of grass maintenance (involving 7 levels of input) throughout the county. There are two types of grass cutting taking place on the large class 2 open space at Hampton Cove. The area along the roadside and extending inwards to approximately 40% of its width and one pass along the side next to the cliff is cut as part of our regular mowing regime (level 3- the same as the majority of public open spaces) and is intended for informal kick about and passive usage, while the area closest to the sea is cut on a less frequent basis (level5/6) and has pathways mown through it.

This cutting regime has been introduced not only in the Balbriggan area but throughout the county. This is due to our reduced resources in budgetary and manpower terms as well as the increased areas of open space which have been taken in charge. Grass Maintenance Staff have been reduced by almost 25% in the last 10 years. Meanwhile the area under maintenance has increased by over 25% (>1000acres or 400 Hectares). We maintain grass verges (level 4) for the Transportation Dept. on a contract basis and used to carry out this work at the weekends. Since January 2009 we are not maintaining Grass Verges on weekend overtime, but instead this maintenance has been incorporated into our core work

during normal working week. This further limits our ability to deal with open space grass maintenance as we once did.

Appropriately located areas of meadow combined with more regularly maintained grass margins, grass paths and informal kick about areas provide for enhanced biodiversity and are a workable response to the limited resources available to us.

Sufficient grassed area within Hampton Cove has been cut to facilitate informal kick-about by kids and larger areas exist within reasonable distance of Hampton Cove which can facilitate more organised games.

In relation to alleged rat infestation on the open space it should be noted that rats do not nest in open space grassed areas but rather build nests or burrows in warm dry hidden places using shredded paper or fabrics. The possible presence of rodents will be notified to the local depot for investigation and the usual appropriate action taken if deemed necessary.

BTC/201/09

HAMLET LANE ROAD SURFACE

Question submitted by Councillor Peadar O'Kelly

To ask the Manager to include in his 2010 estimate the necessary finance to resurface Hamlet Lane, Balbriggan.

Reply: The following Motion and Report came before the Balbriggan/Swords Area Committee at its meeting on 15th April, 2009:

Motion:

“That the Manager would report on the steps taken to provide the necessary road and footpath improvements around Hamlet Lane, including traffic lights at the Cardy Rock junction, and how he sees this situation being resolved given that the developer who is conditioned to do the works has been unable to acquire the land to carry it out and the over-riding safety concerns which need to be urgently addressed.”

Report:

“The upgrading of Hamlet Lane in the area of the R132 (Drogheda Road) is a condition of the Planning Permission granted under Planning Reference No. F06A/0754 by An Bord Pleanala to Parkway Properties, who are the developers of much of the lands in the area. The condition must be complied with no later than June 2009.

The Transportation Department has had several meetings with Parkway Properties in an effort to have the junction improvement works carried out before that date, but this Company has always stated that it cannot carry out the works as it does not have full ownership of the lands in question. It is noted that discussions have taken place between Parkway Properties and the Community Department of the Council and O'Dwyer's GAA Club in the past with a view to relocating O'Dwyer's GAA Club to a new location and the sale of their Club grounds to Parkway Properties but agreement has not been reached in relation to this matter. Recent indications suggest that this agreement is not likely to be in place in the near future.

The latest meeting with representatives from Parkway Properties took place on 6th April, 2009 in the context of these Developers undertaking a temporary road improvement scheme which can be implemented at this location pending the carrying out of permanent works at a future date. The works to be undertaken at this junction were identified with the Developers as follows:

- Provide a footpath on the southern side of Hamlet Lane from its junction with Drogheda Road to the existing footpath.
- Resurface the carriageway in this area.
- Remove part of the wall and vegetation alongside the O'Dwyer's GAA lands and provide appropriate boundary treatment to improve vision in this area.
- Undertake appropriate drainage improvements.

It was noted that the extent of the works to be carried out is dependent on the availability of the necessary land to undertake the work. It was felt that O'Dwyer's GAA Club might make available a sliver of land to undertake the appropriate works pending the confirmation of a permanent agreement between the Club and Parkway Properties regarding the land issues at this location. However, if the Club does not agree to make this land available, there would still be sufficient land available to provide significant safety improvements at the junction.

The Developers agreed to examine this matter further and to issue a response to the Transportation Department at an early date.

Every effort has been made by the Transportation Department to deal fairly and reasonably with the Developers in relation to this matter. However, in a letter received today from the Developers it is clear that the Developers have no intention of carrying out the works at this junction in the immediate future. Therefore, notwithstanding the obligations of the Developers under the conditions of their Planning Permission and having regard to the considerable

number of representations made in relation to safety at this junction, the Transportation Department has decided to carry out junction improvement works directly at this location in consultation with the GAA Club. The Council will seek to recover the cost of the works from the Developers. Details of the works to be carried out will be agreed in the coming days”.

Following discussion the Committee NOTED the foregoing report.

Present Position

Due to financial cutbacks it has not been possible to undertake any work at this location to date. This matter is being kept under review in the context of the undertaking of the works when finance becomes available.

BTC/202/09

BALBRIGGAN RECYCLING CENTRE

Question submitted by Councillor Peadar O’Kelly

To ask the Manager to report the circumstances by which Fingal County Council withdrew its subsidy to the Balbriggan Recycling Centre, which has resulted in the closing of the facility; and recommends that this decision be reconsidered.

Reply: The Balbriggan Recycling Centre was run by FMW Recycling Ltd on behalf of Fingal County Council. Following a review of expenditure of the Environment Budget a number of cutbacks have been made due to the current economic climate and a reduction in funds available to the Council.

The funding of Balbriggan Recycling Centre was terminated as the quantity and range of materials it collected no longer justified the cost of the subvention to FMW Recycling.

The range of materials accepted at the recycling centre is well catered for by other services available in the Balbriggan area.

Paper, cardboard, drink cans, food tins and plastic packaging can be deposited in the green bin. The types of plastic accepted in the green bin increased substantially in January 2009 with the new contract for the operation of the service - the green bin now accepts all clean plastic packaging. In the first 4 months of 2009, 40 tonnes of “green bin type” material were collected at Balbriggan recycling centre – that was 36% of the overall material collected.

Glass can be deposited in 5 bottle banks provided in Balbriggan. In the first 4 months of 2009, 24 tonnes of this material were collected at Balbriggan recycling centre – that was 22% of the overall material collected.

WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) can be given back to retailers on a like for like and one for one basis when new equipment is purchased. In the first 4 months of 2009, 38 tonnes of this material were collected at Balbriggan recycling centre – that was 34% of the overall material collected.

For other items that customers wish to recycle, Estuary Recycling Centre at Swords is open Wednesday to Saturday 09.00am to 4.00pm. Details of items accepted are listed on our website www.fingalcoco.ie/Environment/Recycling.

FMW Recycling have indicated they intend to keep running the site and charge users accessing the service. This is carried out independently from Fingal County Council and details of these operations can be obtained from FMW Recycling.

BTC/203/09

BREMORE CASTLE ESTATE- TAKING IN CHARGE

Question submitted by Councillor Dermot Murray

To ask the Manager for a detailed report, in relation to the taking in charge of the Bremore Castle Estate Balbriggan. In reporting will be the Manager also give the details of the Bond held by F.C.C.

Reply: A request to take Bremore Castle Estate, Balbriggan in charge has been made to the Council by the Developers. A recent meeting was held with representatives of the residents in this Estate to discuss this matter. In addition, a recent inspection has been undertaken in this Estate by the Building Control Engineer in the Transportation Department in relation to determining:

Any outstanding works which are not completed in accordance with Council's requirements

Areas to be taken in charge

Replacement of damaged bollards

Costs of works.

Any other outstanding issues.

This matter is now being assessed in the context of the Developers completing any outstanding works or in the absence of these works being undertaken by the Developers, for the Bond to be held by the Council to finance the carrying out of any outstanding works in order that the statutory public consultation process to take the Estate in charge can commence at the earliest possible date.

A further meeting will be held with the residents at an early date in relation to the above matters.

BTC/204/09

BREMORE DRIVE ESTATE – ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Question submitted by Councillor Grainne Maguire

To ask the Manager in an effort to curtail anti social behaviour and the cul de sac at Bremore Drive being used as a short cut, can the appropriate department of Fingal County Council provide funding to raise the wall at the end of the cul de sac or alternatively give permission to allow the residents to do so themselves.

Reply: The general position in relation to boundary walls is that the raising of them is a matter for the householder concerned in consultation with the Council in the context of ensuring that this matter is in compliance with the Planning Code. The wall at the location referred to in the question will be examined in this context with the residents involved.

It should be noted that the subject of the extinguishment of public right of ways (closing of laneways permanently) at a number of locations in the Bremore Court Estate, Balbriggan which is adjacent to Bremore Drive has been the subject of a request from the residents of this area and discussions between the Transportation Department and the local residents has taken place in the recent past. By virtue of there being a number of laneways involved, the residents have been requested to prioritise the laneways which they wish to have permanently closed (right of way over them extinguished) in order that this matter can be considered further by the Transportation Department. It should be noted that any closing of a laneway permanently (extinguishment of the public right of way over it) may have an impact on the pedestrian movements at other locations in the area.

BTC/205/09

NEW GRAVEYARD

Question submitted by Councillor Grainne Maguire

To ask the Manager to confirm when the preparatory work for the new graveyard at Flemington Road Balscadden will commence.

Reply: The design works and site investigation works for the proposed Flemington Graveyard are almost complete and it is hoped to present the proposed works to the Balbriggan Swords Area Committee of the County Council in September 2009 under Part VIII Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (Public Consultation Process).

BTC/206/09

BOARDED UP HOUSING STOCK

Question submitted by Councillor Monica Harford

To ask the Manager to examine and monitor the existing number of food outlets in Balbriggan which currently exceeds 40 which includes a small number not up and running yet but with permission granted, before considering permission for further business of a similar nature.

Reply: The Planning Department has undertaken an assessment of the position with regard to the current establishment of take-away food outlets in Balbriggan. Following a complete town site inspection, the Planning Department has identified that there are 13 no. existing Take-away/Fast Food Outlets within Balbriggan [2 of which are in the existing Local Services Centre, 'Castlemills' at Moylaragh]. There are a further 2 no. with extant planning permissions within the town centre. These planning permissions have not yet been availed of.

The Planning Department will monitor this use through the Development Management Process. It is proposed that this matter will be considered in the context of the review of the County Development Plan and in this regard the members of the Town Council can, if they wish, identify their specific concerns to the Town Manager and / or make a submission directly to the Area Senior Planner / Planning Manager.

BTC/207/09

COMMERCIAL RATES

Question submitted by Councillor Monica Harford

To ask the Manager the rates of businesses in the town will be substantially increased what improvement in services or negotiations have taken place to provide some help towards the survival of many struggling traders locally.

Reply: The Commissioner of Valuation signed a Valuation Order on 14th March 2007 to commence the Revaluation Process in the Fingal area. The Order is known as the Valuation Act 2001 (Fingal County Council) Valuation Order 2007.

The revaluation process will see the production, by the Commissioner of Valuation, of a new and up-to-date Valuation List of all commercial and industrial property in the Fingal area, by reference to property rental valuations at a specified valuation date. This process is due to be completed by the end of 2009 with the Valuation List being published on the 31st December 2009 and effective for rating purposes from the 1st January 2010.

The Commissioner of Valuation issued Proposed Valuation Certificates to approximately 5,000 of our ratepayers on the 16th June 2009 and the balance of certificates will issue in September 2009.

The revaluation process will convey no financial advantage to the Council. In fact, if trends from the South Dublin County Council revaluation appeal process were to be repeated in Fingal, we will be looking at a significant drop in our overall rates income going forward.

When you look at the impact revaluation has on a sectoral basis, the clear trend is that the retail sector (particularly prime retail shops and warehouses) will bear the brunt of some significant increases. The industrial and office sectors are more difficult to analyse on a global basis as there are many "winners" and "losers" in both categories.

To ensure ratepayers appreciated the significance of proposed valuation certificates being issued by the Valuation Office, we wrote to all ratepayers on the 30th June advising them of the position and of the importance of the documentation being issued by the Valuation Office.

The Council will be legally obliged to assess and levy rates for next year based on the valuation list as published by the Commissioner of Valuation on the 31st December 2009. It is important therefore that ratepayers ensure their valuations are correct in all respects. In this regard, ratepayers need to be mindful of their right to make representations to the Valuation Office (deadline 13th July 2009).

When final valuation certificates issue in December, ratepayers will have a further right of appeal, in the first instance to the Commissioner of Valuation and then if necessary to the independent Valuation Tribunal.

BTC/208/09

ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE TO FINGAL COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

An Cathaoirleach asked for nominations for the election of representative to the Fingal County Development Board.

It was proposed by Councillor Monica Harford, seconded by Councillor Larry Dunne "that Councillor Dermot Murray be elected as representative to the Fingal County Development Board".

As there were no other nominations An Cathaoirleach declared Councillor Dermot Murray elected.

BTC/208/09

ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE TO FINGAL LEADER PARTNERSHIP

It was proposed by Councillor Monica Harford, seconded by Councillor Grainne Maguire "that Councillor Frank Snowe be elected as representative to Fingal Leader Partnership".

As there were no other nominations An Cathaoirleach declared Councillor Frank Snowe elected.

BTC/209/09

ELECTION OF TWO DELEGATES TO LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

It was proposed by Councillor Grainne Kilmurry, seconded by Councillor Larry Dunne "that Councillor Monica Harford be elected as representative to Local Authorities Members Association".

It was proposed by Councillor Monica Harford, seconded by Councillor Grainne Maguire "that Councillor Grainne Kilmurry be elected as representative to Local Authorities Members Association".

As there were no other nominations An Cathaoirleach declared Councillor Monica Harford and Councillor Grainne Kilmurry elected.

BTC/210/09

ELECTION OF TWO DELEGATES TO ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES OF IRELAND

It was proposed by Councillor Monica Harford, seconded by Councillor Grainne Kilmurry "that Councillor Grainne Maguire be elected as representative to Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland.

It was proposed by Councillor Monica Harford, seconded by Councillor Grainne Kilmurry "that Councillor Peadar O'Kelly be elected as representative to Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland.

As there were no other nominations An Cathaoirleach declared Councillor Grainne Maguire and Councillor Peadar O'Kelly elected as representatives to Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland.

BTC/211/09

ELECTION OF DELEGATE TO IRISH PUBLIC BODIES LTD.

It was proposed by Councillor Frank Snowe, seconded by Councillor Monica Harford "that Councillor Peadar O'Kelly be elected as representative to Irish Public Bodies Ltd."

As there were no other nominations An Cathaoirleach declared Councillor Peadar O'Kelly elected as representative to Irish Public Bodies Ltd.

BTC/212/09

**ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE FOR BALBRIGGAN AREA
PROJECT ASSOCIATION AND SUBSTITUTE
REPRESENTATIVE**

It was proposed by Councillor Dermot Murray, seconded by Councillor Monica Harford "that Councillor Frank Snowe be elected as representative to Balbriggan Area Project Association."

As there were no other nominations An Cathaoirleach declared Councillor Frank Snowe elected as representative to Balbriggan Area Project Association.

It was proposed by Councillor Frank Snowe, seconded by Councillor Monica Harford "that Councillor Peadar O'Kelly be elected as substitute representative to Balbriggan Area Project Association".

As there were no other nominations An Cathaoirleach declared Councillor Peadar O'Kelly elected as substitute representative to Balbriggan Area Project Association.

BTC/213/09

ELECTION OF ANNUAL AWARDS COMMITTEE

It was **agreed** that all the elected members be members of the Annual Awards Committee.

BTC/214/09

ELECTION OF ST. PATRICK'S DAY COMMITTEE

It was **agreed** that all the elected members be members of the St. Patrick's Day Committee

BTC/215/09

AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS

The Town clerk circulated proposals to amend standing orders and explained the purposed amendments to the members.

On the proposal of Councillor Frank Snowe, seconded by Councillor Grainne Kilmurry it was **agreed** that Standing Orders be adopted as presented.

BTC/216/09

CUT BACK IN SERVICES

The following motion in the name of Councillor Peadar O'Kelly was submitted by Councillor Peadar O'Kelly, seconded by Councillor Larry Dunne

“Balbriggan Town Council deploras the effects of the cutback in services imposed on the people of Balbriggan, particularly in the areas of Grass Cutting, Services to the Tidy Towns, Beach Maintenance etc; and calls on the County Manager to reinstate these important services.”

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/217/09

FUNDING FOR SWORDS DUBLIN FIRE BRIGADE AMBULANCE STATION

The following motion in the name of Councillor Dermot Murray was submitted by Councillor Dermot Murray, seconded by Councillor Monica Harford

“Balbriggan Town Council call on the Minister for Health to provide the funding for the Dublin Fire Brigade Ambulance station at No 13 Station (Swords).”

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/218/09

DEVELOPMENT LEVIES FUND

The following motion in the name of Councillor Terry Kelleher was submitted by Councillor Terry Kelleher, seconded by Councillor Larry Dunne

“Balbriggan Town Council condemns the decision to prevent Fingal County Council to spend its development levy fund. We demand the immediate unfreezing of this fund which can give much needed investment and stimulus, in particular to Balbriggan which has not seen its fair share of investment.”

The Town Manager informed the meeting that authorization was of the €70m in the fund received from the Government in the past few days to release €40m in order to meet contractual commitments.

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/219/09

CLOSURE OF BALBRIGGAN RECYCLING CENTRE

The following motion in the name of Councillor Grainne Maguire, was submitted by Councillor Grainne Maguire, seconded by Councillor Monica Harford

“In response to the public outcry and dismay at the closing of our Recycling centre and in an effort to retain the recycling service we the members of Balbriggan Town Council call on the Environmental section of Fingal County Council to meet with us and with the support of the community to discuss any incentives or alternatives to re-establish this service.”

The Town Manager informed the members that he will invite the Director of Services in Environmental Services, Fingal County Council to the September meeting.

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/220/09

VACANT HOUSING STOCK

The following motion in the name of Councillor Monica Harford was submitted by Councillor Monica Harford, seconded by Councillor Grainne Kilmurry

“Balbriggan Town Council call on Fingal County Council to ensure that vacated houses which are boarded up will not be left unoccupied for any longer than three months maximum before being re-allocated and that the necessary repair works be completed where possible one month after acceptance of offer.”

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/221/09

LORETO SCHOOL ENROLMENT POLICY

The following motion in the name of Councillor Frank Snowe, was submitted by Councillor Frank Snowe, seconded by Councillor

“Balbriggan Town Council call on Board of Management of Loreto School to postpone the proposed implementation of the new enrolment policy for the year 2010 to allow further discussion with public representatives.”

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

It was **agreed** that the Town Clerk would write to the Combined Parents Association to confirm the Town Council would facilitate a public meeting on this issue.

BTC/222/09

BLUE FLAG STATUS 2010

The following motion in the name of Councillor Grainne Kilmurry, was submitted by Councillor Grainne Kilmurry, seconded by Councillor Maguire

“Balbriggan Town Council hereby calls on the County Manager to ensure that all the necessary works are completed to enable the town to be successful in its Blue Flag status in 2010.”

The Town Manager informed the members he will bring a report on the requirements for Blue Flag Status to the September meeting.

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/223/09

FOOTPATH TO WESTBROOK PARK

The following motion in the name of Councillor Dermot Murray, was submitted by Councillor Dermot Murray, seconded by Councillor Monica Harford

“Balbriggan Town Council as a matter of urgency and in the interest of public safety calls upon the County Manager to provide a permanent and safe footpath along the Naul Road from the traffic lights at the cemetery to the entrance at Westbrook Park.”

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/224/09

PEDESTRIAN ACCESS FROM NAUL ROAD TO WESTBROOK AVENUE

The following motion in the name of Councillor Grainne Maguire was submitted by Councillor Grainne Maguire, seconded by Councillor Monica Harford

“Following a request from the residents of Westbrook Avenue that in the interest of public safety that Balbriggan Town Council support the closure of the pedestrian access from Naul Road.”

The Town Manager informed the meeting that he will arrange a site meeting with an Engineer from the Transport Department.

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/225/09

CLOSURE OF RASTA POWER SHOPS

The following motion in the name of Councillor Monica Harford, was submitted by Councillor Monica Harford, seconded by Councillor Gainne Kilmurry

“Balbriggan Town Council call on the Government to immediately introduce emergency legislation to declare all Rasta Power shops illegal.”

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/226/09

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS- TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT CHURCH

An Cathaoirleach reported that the lights are changing too quickly at this location and are dangerous for elderly and people with disabilities.

It was **agreed** that the Town Clerk will arrange to have this examined.

BTC/227/09

**CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS – PINWOOD GREEN ESTATE
COMMITTEE**

An Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that she received a request from the Pinewood Green Estate Management Committee for a meeting.

It was **agreed** to meet representatives on Tuesday 20th July 2009 at 8 p.m.

BTC/228/09

**CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS – GRASS CUTTING CHAPEL
STREET/FULLAM TERRACE FLATS**

An Cathaoirleach reported that grass cutting was required at this location.

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the Housing Department had engaged a contractor to carry out this work.

BTC/229/09

**CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS - PRESENTATION TO FR. BARRY
MURPHY**

An Cathaoirleach proposed that a presentation be made to Fr. Barry Murphy on his forthcoming retirement. This was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/230/09

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS – OFFICIAL OPENING OF EDUCATE TOGETHER SCHOOL

An Cathaoirleach expressed her disappointment at not receiving an invitation to the official opening of the Educate Together School and requested a letter be sent to the school.

BTC/231/09

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS – BALBRIGGAN SUMMER FEST

An Cathaoirleach congratulated the Balbriggan Summer Fest committee on arranging the festival held over last weekend, which was a huge success.

It was **agreed** that the Town Clerk forward a letter of congratulations to the committee.

BTC/232/09

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS – FISH AND FARMERS MARKET

An Cathaoirleach congratulated the Balbriggan Fish and Farmers Market stallholders committee for their work on the Market launched last month which was a great success.

BTC/233/09

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS – TITLE OF MAYOR OF BALBRIGGAN

An Cathaoirleach informed the meeting she was requested to consider changing the title of Cathaoirleach to Mayor and requested the views of the members. There was now the option of having a Mayor of Balbriggan or keeping the name Cathaoirleach.

Following discussion, it was **agreed** that the title Cathaoirleach remain in place.

BTC/234/09

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS – HALL HIRE

An Cathaoirleach requested details of the availability of Rooms for hire in the Town Hall with a view to generating more activity.

The Town Clerk **agreed** to circulate details of the Calendar Bookings to the members.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The following report was circulated and **noted**.

BALBRIGGAN TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
June 2009

EXPENDITURE		
Programme Item	Budget 2009	Expenditure 2009 to date
CORPORATE PROPERTY		
Insurance	9,000.00	8,591.84
Rates & Water Charges	10,200.00	10,045.00
Light & Heat	1,700.00	0.00
Service Charges / Maintenance	7,500.00	367.74
Hall Staffing	5,600.00	0.00
Sub-total	34,000.00	19,004.58
GENERAL		
General Expenses	21,900.00	15,120.33
Members Allowance	20,000.00	8,158.44
Conference Expenses	8,000.00	651.65
Cathaoirleach's Allowance	1,700.00	850.00
Leas Cathaoirleach's Allowance	300.00	150.00
Town Clerk Allowance	7,200.00	0.00
AMA! Subscription	3,900.00	3,950.00
Town Improvement/Decoration	9,000.00	21,324.34
Community Awards	5,000.00	0.00
Local Elections	2,000.00	546.75
Audit Fees	2,750.00	2,760.00
Legal Fees	5,000.00	0.00
Bank Charges	250.00	50.00
Other Expenses	0.00	1,000.00
Capital Account	0.00	2,682.00
Sub-total	87,000.00	57,243.51
TOTALS:	121,000.00	76,248.09
RECEIPTS		
Programme Item	Budget 2009	Receipts 2009 to date
CORPORATE PROPERTY		
Retail Unit Rental Income	14,000.00	5,833.33
Office Unit Rental Income	6,000.00	2,500.00
Rental Income - Fingal Co. Co.	6,800.00	6,813.00
Hall Hire Charges	10,200.00	6,305.00
Sub-total	37,000.00	21,451.33
GENERAL		
Demand - Fingal Co. Co.	84,000.00	42,000.00
Other Receipts	0.00	1,622.30
Sub-total	84,000.00	43,622.30
TOTAL	121,000.00	65,073.63

BTC/235/09

**JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR
COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES**

Following discussion it was **agreed**, that the Town Clerk would invite expressions of interest for three community representatives for the Joint Policing Committee.

Meeting finished at 8.50 p.m.

SIGNED

Monica Harford
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE

1/9/09

**Minutes of Statutory Meeting of Balbriggan Town Council
held on Tuesday 6th October 2009
in The Council Chamber, Town Hall at 7 p.m.**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Councillors
Brown, Sean
Dunne, Larry
Harford, Monica
Kelleher, Terry
Kilmurry, Grainne

Councillors
Maguire, Grainne
Murray, Dermot
O'Kelly, Peadar
Snowe, Frank

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mr. Peter Caulfield, Town Manager
Mr. Brian Murray, Meetings Administrator
Mr. Alan Carthy, Director of Services Water and Drainage Department
Ms. Margaret Wilde, Clerical Officer
Ms. Rosie Moonan, Clerical Officer

BTC/276/09

VOTE OF SYMPATHY

Councillor Harford proposed a vote of sympathy on the recent death of John O'Sullivan husband of Deirdre Tuckey. A minutes silence was observed. It was **agreed** that the Town Clerk forward a letter of sympathy to the family.

BTC/277/09

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of Balbriggan Town Council statutory meeting held on 1st September 2009 which were circulated were submitted. Councillor Kelleher requested that the minutes be amended in respect of minute BTC/273/09 that it was Councillor Kelleher who raised the matter. This was **agreed**.

BTC/278/09

PRESENTATION BY MR. ALAN CARTHY

Mr Alan Carthy, Director of Services, Water Services Department gave a presentation to the members on water supply and drainage issues affecting the Balbriggan Area.

Mr Carthy informed the meeting of the sources of water to the Fingal region and the improvements in the water supply infrastructure to meet the demands caused by the large population increases in the county. Mr Carthy informed the meeting that there are water pressure issues in parts of Balbriggan at the 40 meter contour level in the North West area. This will be addressed by the provision of a high level reservoir.

Mr Carthy informed the meeting that the water supply in Balbriggan contains a large amount of lime scale which has raised complaints from the public. This is a naturally occurrence and is perfectly safe for consumption.

Mr Carthy gave a brief overview of the water drainage issues affecting Balbriggan. There is a problem in Balbriggan which has a combined drain system where surface water and wastewater go into the same pipe system. Works were carried out on the main street last year as part of the paving work to upgrade the drainage network. This will be continued along with the installation of a new pump house at the Church cark park.

Mr Carthy informed the meeting that the improvement works required funding to be identified and consent from Central Government.

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Monica Harford thanked Mr. Carthy for his presentation. Mr Carthy dealt with a number of questions raised by the members.

BTC/279/09

SOCIAL WELFARE BENEFIT PAYMENTS

Acknowledgement letter dated 11/9/2009 received from Office of the Minister for Social & Family Affairs regarding benefit payments were circulated.

BTC/280/09

REPRESENTATION ON REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM

Letter dated 23/9/2009 received from Department of Health & Children regarding council representation on Regional Health Forum for Dublin North East were circulated.

BTC/281/09

FILTER LIGHT AT HARRY REYNOLDS ROAD

Letter dated 22/9/2009 received from Transportation Department regarding provision of a filter light at Harry Reynolds Road/Chapel Gate/Westbrook/Moylaragh and Northwest Balbriggan were circulated and **noted**.

BTC/282/09

INSPECTION OF CHAPEL STREET/NAUL ROAD

Letter dated 23/9/2009 received from Transportation Department regarding inspection of Chapel Street/Naul Road were circulated.

BTC/283/09

PRE LET REPAIRS TO HOUSING STOCK

Letter dated 21/9/2009 received from Housing Department regarding pre-let repairs were circulated and **noted**.

BTC/284/09

PROPOSAL TO ABOLISH TOWN COUNCILS

Letter dated 17/9/2009 received from Kilrush Town Council regarding McCarthy Report to abolish Town Councils were circulated and **noted**.

BTC/285/09

OVERGROWN BRIARS OLD FANCOURT ROAD

Letter dated 18/9/2009 received from Iarnród Éireann regarding overgrown briars at old Fancourt Road were circulated and **noted**.

BTC/286/09

REINTRODUCTION OF THIRD LEVEL FEES

Letter dated 21/9/2009 received from South Tipperary County Council regarding re-introduction of third level tuition fees were circulated and **noted**.

BTC/287/09

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AT BLACK ROCK

Question submitted by Councillor Larry Dunne

To ask the Manager in the light of commitments given to Balbriggan Town Commissioners and Balbriggan Town Council when will the community facilities promised for Black Rock be commenced.

Reply: There are no proposals to undertake works at Blackrock in the foreseeable future.

BTC/288/09

HOUSING UNITS OCCUPIED BY FOREIGN NATIONALS

Question submitted by Councillor Frank Snowe

To ask the Manager to give the number of council housing units in Balbriggan and how many of these are occupied by foreign nationals.

Reply: "The Council has a social housing stock of 1,213 in the Balbriggan housing area of which 217 have been allocated to non Irish applicants. It should be noted that all allocations are made strictly in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Letting Priorities and every applicant must satisfy the Council that they are eligible for housing support, have a long term housing need and are not capable of providing accommodation from their own resources and have no record of anti-social behaviour."

BTC/289/09

GENERATOR AT MILLFIELD SHOPPING CENTRE

Question submitted by Councillor Frank Snowe

To ask the Manager to look into an issue at the Millfield Shopping Centre site on the Naul road opposite Westbrook. Apparently they have a generator running all night which is very loud and the residents facing the site are unhappy about it. Residents have contacted the contractors directly but with no success.

Reply: Such noise complaints are investigated under Section 108 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 which makes it an offence to create noise which is 'so loud, so continuous, so repeated of such duration or pitch or occurring at such times as to give reasonable cause for annoyance'. This matter has been brought to the attention of the Environmental Health Officer in the Noise Pollution Section who will contact the complainant and fully investigate the complaint. A more detailed response will be forwarded to the elected members when the investigation is concluded.

BTC/290/09

CAR LOT ON NAUL ROAD

Question submitted by Councillor Frank Snowe

To ask the Manager with regard to the new "car lot" on the Naul Road at the Westbrook estate entrance could the manager confirm the status of this site. Is it a private site with permission to display cars for sale or is it a business that is paying rates to the Council.

Reply: The site referred to in the question is in the charge of Fingal County Council. The Transportation Department has made contact with the resident of Westbrook Park who has claimed possession of the vehicles and notified him that they are parked illegally at this location. The resident has been instructed to remove the vehicles in question.

BTC/291/09

PLANNING APPLICATION QUERY

Question submitted by Councillor Monica Harford

To ask the Manager to supply details of planning application F07/A/1249.

Reply: Planning application reg. ref. F07A/1249 is an application for permission for a Housing Development on a site of 36.08 hectares comprising 1057 dwelling units with 5 development areas and all associated site works on a site to the north of Naul Road, south of Flemington Lane, east of Clonard-Bridgefoot Road and west of Moylaragh, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin.

This application was the subject of a decision to grant permission by Fingal County Council on 14th August 2008, subject to 34 no. conditions.

This decision of Fingal County Council approved a total of 999 housing units on the site.

Following a third party appeal to An Bord Pleanála, An Bord granted permission by order dated 20th April 2009 for a housing development with a total of 998 housing units subject to 28 no. conditions.

BTC/292/09

AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE FACILITY PRESENTATION

Question submitted by Councillor Monica Harford

To ask the Manager is there any further progress with the request to have the committee of the Affordable Childcare facility give a presentation to Balbriggan Town Council.

Reply: A presentation for all public representatives has been arranged by the Affordable Childcare Committee to take place on Saturday 17th October at 2.30 pm in Tankerville House.

BTC/293/09

DEVELOPMENT OF LANDS AT BRACKENWOOD

Question submitted by Councillor Terry Kelleher

To ask the Manager what plans are there in place for the development of the lands in front of Brackenwood that were purchased for €3.5m for the purpose of building a school?

Reply: Fingal County Council acquired 2 adjoining sites at Bremore, Balbriggan comprising a total area of circa 4.5 acres. Both sites were disposed of to Department of Education of Science. The development of the lands is therefore a matter for the Department.

I have attached drawing nos. LA-04-07 and LA-06-06A showing the lands in question.

BTC/294/09

LIGHT POLE OUTSIDE 10 HAMPTON STREET

Question submitted by Councillor Dermot Murray

To ask the Manager to arrange for the necessary repairs to be carried out to the light pole number 10 on Hampton Street, Balbriggan.

Reply: A request has been submitted to the ESB Public Lighting Section to arrange for the public light to be repaired on their next patrol in Balbriggan.

BTC/295/09

GLEBE NORTH FOOTBALL GROUNDS ENTRANCE

Question submitted by Councillor Dermot Murray

To ask the Manager to make provisions in the 2010 estimates for the resurfacing of the entrance to the Glebe North Football Grounds at Balbriggan. In the meantime could the Manager arrange to have the entrance road inspected with a view to carrying out any remedial works needed.

Reply: The resurfacing at this location will be considered in the context of the Draft Transportation Departments Programme of Works for 2010.

In the meantime, arrangements are being made for the location referred to in the question to be examined and for necessary remedial works to be undertaken as soon as this work can be fitted into the Area Engineer's Programme of Works for the area.

BTC/296/09

DEPOT AT FANCOURT HEIGHTS

Question submitted by Councillor Dermot Murray

To ask the Manager in the interest of the Public Health of the residents whose homes are adjacent to the Fingal Council Depot at Fancourt Heights.

1. Will the Manager ensure that the Council or any contractors engaged in the cleaning of roadside gullies or any kind of drain will not dump the contents of

these tankers at the depot. Will he also arrange for the speedy removal of any such materials that have been dumped at the depot.

2. Will he also give a commitment that the storing of soiled wheelie bins at the site would cease, and arrange to have badly soiled wheelie bins de-contaminated off site? As they are causing unpleasant odors and attracting birds and vermin to the area.

Reply: The resurfacing at this location will be considered in the context of the Draft Transportation Departments Programme of Works for 2010.

In the meantime, arrangements are being made for the location referred to in the question to be examined and for necessary remedial works to be undertaken as soon as this work can be fitted into the Area Engineer's Programme of Works for the area.

BTC/297/09

BREMORE CASTLE DEVELOPMENT

Question submitted by Councillor Grainne Maguire

To ask the Manager to give an up to date account of the development of Bremore Castle and also give us a time table on all future work and the expected time of completion.

Reply: Work is progressing on weatherproofing the castle building and we expect this phase to be completed over the next year. Work on obtaining licences to carry out archaeological assessment on the external gardens and castle surroundings is being advanced. The results of these assessments will determine how quickly these external areas can be restored and made available for public access.

BTC/298/09

DUMPING AT REAR OF DEBRUNS/CANAL WALKWAY

Question submitted by Councillor Grainne Maguire

To ask the Manager for a report on illegal dumping and the unsatisfactory condition of the land at the rear of DeBruns/Canal Walkway.

Reply: The land to the rear of DeBruns/Canal Walkway is private land however its ownership is not registered with Land Registry. It is noted that the owners of De Bruns currently maintain this area and have removed rubbish and other dumped items on a number of occasions. Once the Environment Department has established the owners of the land, they will be contacted with a view to maintaining the land on an ongoing basis and securing it to prevent further

dumping. Failure to do so will result in a notice being issued under Section 9 Notice of the Litter Pollution Acts, 1997 – 2003.

BTC/299/09

TRAFFIC CALMING SEAPOINT/HAMPTON COVE

The following motion in the name of Councillor Larry Dunne was submitted by Councillor Larry Dunne, seconded by Councillor Grainne Kilmurry

Balbriggan Town Council call on Fingal County Council to introduce traffic calming measures on the road between Seapoint and Hampton Cove as a matter of urgency in the interest of public safety.

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/300/09

SOCIAL WELFARE STATISTICS FOR BALBRIGGAN

The following motion in the names of Councillor Frank Snowe was submitted by Councillor Frank Snowe, seconded by Councillor Grainne Maguire

Balbriggan Town Council call on the Minister for Social Welfare and the Health Service Executive to disclose the following information:

1. The number of housing units in Balbriggan that rent supplement is paid.
2. The number of the above claims that are paid to foreign nationals.
3. The amount of money paid on Rent Supplement in Balbriggan in a twelve month period.

Following a show of hands the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/301/09

BREMORE CASTLE

The following motion in the name of Councillor Monica Harford was submitted by Councillor Monica Harford, seconded by Councillor Dermot Murray

Balbriggan Town Council call on Fingal County Council to supply the funding necessary for Fás to proceed with the next phase of Bremore Castle which may provide employment/apprenticeship for local people.

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/302/09

PARKING RATES IN BALBRIGGAN

The following motion in the name of Councillor Peadar O'Kelly were submitted by Councillor Peadar O'Kelly, seconded by Councillor Frank Snowe

Balbriggan Town Council call on Fingal County Council to have a uniform parking rate for parking in different areas of the town and to enable the user to use the unused amount at different locations if required.

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/303/09

ROUTE 33X BUS SERVICE

The following motion in the name of Councillor Terry Kelleher, was submitted by Councillor Terry Kelleher, seconded by Councillor Monica Harford

Balbriggan Town Council notes the success of the 33X bus from Balbriggan during peak times. It agrees that a similar service should continue on a permanent basis. Therefore this Council agrees to write to the area manager of Dublin Bus with a view to promote the success of the service and the relevance of continuing it for the people of Balbriggan.

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/304/09

DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN CONFERENCE ATTENDANCES

The following motion in the name of Councillor Dermot Murray was submitted by Councillor Dermot Murray, seconded by Councillor Sean Brown

Balbriggan Town Council in recognition of the financial difficulties facing countries local Authorities and the uncertainty facing public sector workers calls on the Minister of the Environment to direct all City and County Managers to cease the funding of all Local Authority members attending conferences both domestic and foreign.

Following a show of hands, An Cathaoirleach declared an equal division of votes and used her casting vote against the motion. Motion **not** passed.

BTC/305/09

PROPOSAL TO ABOLISH TOWN COUNCILS

The following motion in the name of Councillor Grainne Maguire was submitted by Councillor Grainne Maguire, seconded by Councillor Monica Harford

Balbriggan Town Council oppose and reject any move by the Minister of Environment & Local Government to down grade or abolish Town Councils (formerly Town Commissioners).

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/306/09

MEANS TESTING FOR RENT ALLOWANCE

The following motion in the name of Councillor Frank Snowe was submitted by Councillor Frank Snowe, seconded by Councillor Peadar O'Kelly

Balbriggan Town Council call on the Minister of Social Welfare to explain how people in receipt of welfare and receiving rent allowances can afford to purchase and run large vehicles costing up to €30,000. Are the value of these vehicles considered when testing a person's means.

Following discussion, Councillor Snowe **agreed** to withdraw the motion.

BTC/307/09

EMERGENCY SCHOOL PLACES

The following motion in the name of Councillor Monica Harford was submitted by Councillor Monica Harford, seconded by Councillor Grainne Kilmurry

Balbriggan Town Council call on the Minister for Education to provide emergency school places for children 6 years and upwards who are not receiving education due to no fault of their own.

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/308/09

OPEN SPACES BRACKENWOOD AND MARTELLO ESTATES

The following motion in the name of Councillor Terry Kelleher was submitted by Councillor Terry Kelleher, seconded by Councillor Dermot Murray

Balbriggan Town Council notes with concern the continued neglect of the open space beside the Brackenwood estate and in front of the Martello estate. This Town Council will seek to clarify who is responsible for this area and calls on Fingal County Council to pressurize those whose responsibility it is for its upkeep to clean up this area.

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/309/09

REPLACEMENT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICE

The following motion in the name of Councillor Grainne Maguire was submitted by Councillor Grainne Maguire, seconded by Grainne Kilmurphy

Balbriggan Town Council call on the Minister for Social & Family Affairs to give an update on the replacement Social Welfare Office for Balbriggan.

Following discussion, the motion was agreed by the members.

BTC/310/09

**CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS –
COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM**

It was agreed to meet with the co-ordinator of the Community Policing Forum on 20th October at 7.00 p.m.

BTC/311/09

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS – TOWN BUS SERVICE

Councillor Kilmurphy requested that Bus Éireann be contacted with a view to increasing the frequency of the Town Bus service and to extend it to other areas of the town. It was **agreed** that Bus Éireann be invited to meet the Town Council.

BTC/312/09

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS – NEW PARISH TEAM

An Cathaoirleach requested that a letter be forwarded to the newly appointed Parish Team to welcome them to Balbriggan. It was **agreed** that the Town Clerk forward a letter.

BTC/313/09

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS – DISINFECTANT DISPENSERS

An Cathaoirleach requested that disinfectant dispensers be provided in reception at entrance to Town Hall and Library.

BTC/314/09

**CATHAOIRLEACHS BUSINESS –
MEDIA ARTICLE REGARDING BALBRIGGAN HARBOUR**

An Cathaoirleach raised the issue of a recent article in the Fingal Independent regarding the condition of Balbriggan Harbour which referred to a lack of commitment from Balbriggan Town Council.

An Cathaoirleach expressed her disappointment that Balbriggan Town Council were not given an opportunity to respond to the allegation raised. The condition of Balbriggan Harbour has been raised repeatedly by the members of Balbriggan Town Council with Fingal County Council.

Councillor Dunne stated that the article does not reflect the true position of work done, and that a letter should go to the Fingal Independent.

An Cathaoirleach proposed that a meeting be arranged with the Harbour Improvement Group.

BTC/315/09

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The following report was circulated and noted.

BALBRIGGAN TOWN COUNCIL
 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
 30th September 2009

EXPENDITURE		
Programme Item	Budget 2009	Expenditure 2009 to date
CORPORATE PROPERTY		
Insurance	9,000.00	8,591.84
Rates & Water Charges	10,200.00	10,045.00
Light & Heat	1,700.00	0.00
Service Charges / Maintenance	7,500.00	367.74
Hall Staffing	5,600.00	0.00
Sub-total	34,000.00	19,004.58
GENERAL		
General Expenses	21,900.00	20,492.17
Members Allowance	20,000.00	11,668.44
Information Technology	0.00	2,000.00
Conference Expenses	8,000.00	1,259.03
Cathaoirleach's Allowance	1,700.00	850.00
Leas Cathaoirleach's Allowance	300.00	150.00
Town Clerk Allowance	7,200.00	0.00
AMAI Subscription	3,900.00	3,950.00
Town Improvement/Decoration	9,000.00	23,332.86
Community Awards	5,000.00	283.10
Local Elections	2,000.00	546.75
Audit Fees	2,750.00	2,760.00
Legal Fees	5,000.00	0.00
Bank Charges	250.00	50.00
Other Expenses	0.00	1,000.00
Capital Account	0.00	2,682.00
Sub-total	87,000.00	71,024.35
TOTALS:	121,000.00	90,028.93
RECEIPTS		
Programme Item	Budget 2009	Receipts 2009 to date
CORPORATE PROPERTY		
Retail Unit Rental Income	14,000.00	10,499.99
Office Unit Rental Income	6,000.00	4,500.00
Rental Income - Fingal Co. Co.	6,800.00	6,813.00
Hall Hire Charges	10,200.00	9,405.00
Sub-total	37,000.00	31,217.99
GENERAL		
Demand - Fingal Co. Co.	84,000.00	84,000.00
Other Receipts	0.00	3,851.71
Sub-total	84,000.00	87,851.71
TOTAL	121,000.00	119,069.70

Meeting concluded 9 p.m.

SIGNED Monica Harford DATE 3rd NOV '09
CATHAOIRLEACH

**Minutes of Statutory Meeting of Balbriggan Town Council
held on Tuesday 1st September 2009
in The Council Chamber, Town Hall at 7 p.m.**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Councillors
Dunne, Larry
Harford, Monica
Kelleher, Terry
Kilmurry, Grainne

Councillors
Maguire, Grainne
O'Kelly, Peadar
Snowe, Frank

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mr. Peter Caulfield, Town Manager
Mr. Brian Murray, Meetings Administrator
Mr. P.J. Howell, Director of Services Environmental Services Department
Ms. Margaret Wilde, Clerical Officer
Ms. Kym Coughlan, Clerical Officer

Apologies for inability to attend were received from Councillor Sean Brown and Councillor Dermot Murray

BTC/236/09

VOTE OF SYMPATHY

Councillor Harford proposed a vote of sympathy on the recent death of Martin Mullen. A minutes silence was observed. It was **agreed** that the Town Clerk forward a letter of sympathy to the Mullen family.

BTC/237/09

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of Balbriggan Town Council statutory meeting held on 14th July 2009 which were circulated were submitted, **approved** as a true record and signed.

BTC/238/09

PRESENTATION BY MR. P.J.HOWELL DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. P. J. Howell, Director of Services from the Environmental Services Department in Fingal County Council gave a brief presentation to the members on a number of issues.

Harbour: Mr. P. J. Howell gave background information regarding the Council becoming responsible for the Harbour and the lack of funding on the handover from Dublin Port and Docks. Major structural works were carried out in 2007 at an approximate cost of €1million funded by Central Government. Further structural / stabilising works are required and funding has been sought from central Government but not forthcoming.

Fingal County Council have appointed a staff member to monitor the operation of the Council's harbours and the Council is anxious to improve the appearance and tidy up the harbour area. The council has looked at the operation of other harbours and noted that the better ones are managed under bye-laws. The first draft of bye-laws have been brought to the Environment S.P.C. and following approval by the S.P.C will go on public display.

The Council is concerned with a number of safety issues at the Harbour and is considering controlling access by lockable gates. The issue of abandoned wrecks is an ongoing complex situation. The Law Department are looking at the possibility of pursuing the various parties involved for the removal of the wrecks.

The painting of the lighthouse was budgeted for this year but had to be put on hold due to budget cuts. This will be reviewed in the 2010 Budget.

Beach – Blue Flag: Mr. P. J. Howell explained that before the Waste Treatment Plant at Barnageera came into operation all waste water (foul and surface) went into the sea untreated. The waste treatment plant has improved the situation but there is a difficulty with the draining system in Balbriggan which is a combined system. The problem arises with heavy rainfall, resulting in foul and surface water going into the same pipes causing overflows into the stream/harbour. A new Drainage Scheme has been designed and is awaiting funding from the Department of the Environment & Local Government but it will take approximately 2/3 years before the upgrade is in place so it is not possible to seek Blue Flag Status in the interim as breaches will occasionally occur. Mr Howell wished to make it clear that this does not mean that the beach is unsafe to swim in most of the time and that breaches of the water quality limits have been minimal.

Litter Management: Mr Howell informed the meeting that Balbriggan is in good condition in terms of being litter free and this has been recognised in the recent I.B.A.L Awards. It is hoped to put in new litter bins along Hampton Street in the near future.

Re-Cycling Centre: Mr Howell gave background information on the establishment of the centre which was operated by Fingal Recycling with a subvention from Fingal County Council. Due to budgetary constraints, the Council withdrew the subvention and the recycling centre closed on 29th August 2009. Mr Howell informed the meeting that a number of other recycling options are available to the public.

Bin Service: Mr. Howell informed the members that he had contacted them recently with details of the re-structuring of the green bin service which is now operated by Greyhound on behalf of the Council.

Burial Grounds: Mr. Howell informed the members that there were approximately fifty available plots at the end of 2008 which should give capacity until the end of 2010. There is a proposal to develop a new burial ground at Flemington. It is hoped that the proposals will go out on public display in October.

Mr Howell then dealt with a number of queries raised by the members.

Councillor O'Kelly requested priority be given to the re-painting of the lighthouse.

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Monica Harford expressed her disappointment with the funding situation which has affected the maintenance of the Harbour, the withdrawal of the subvention for the recycling centre and the delay in the upgrade of the drainage system.

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Monica Harford requested an update on the number of available plots in the graveyard and an estimated cost for the repainting of the lighthouse. Councillor Harford requested that consideration be given to erecting more seats at St. Peter & Paul's Graveyard.

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Monica Harford thanked Mr. Howell for his presentation.

BTC/239/09

MAJOR REVIEW OF GAMBLING

Letter dated 6/7/2009 received from Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform regarding major review of gambling was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/240/09

DUBLIN FIRE BRIGADE SWORDS

Letter dated 24/7/2009 received from Office of the Minister, Department of Health & Children regarding funding for Dublin Fire Brigade Swords was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/241/09

SWORDS AMBULANCE SERVICE

Letter dated 5/8/2009 received from Health Service Executive regarding Ambulance Service was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/242/09

RASTA POWER SHOPS

Letter dated 6/8/2009 received from Office of the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform regarding Rasta Power Shops was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/243/09

REGISTRATION OF MANAGEMENT COMPANIES

Letter dated 18/5/2009 received from Housing Department regarding registration of Management Companies was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/244/09

PEDESTRIAN ACCESS FROM NAUL ROAD

Letter dated 18/8/2009 received from Transportation Department regarding closure of pedestrian access from Naul Road was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/245/09

FOOTPATH AT NAUL ROAD

Letter dated 18/8/2009 received from Transportation Department regarding permanent footpath along the Naul Road was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/246/09

RECOMMENDATIONS TO ABOLISH TOWN COUNCILS

Letter dated 10/8/2009 received from Tuam Town Council regarding the recommendations to abolish Town Councils was circulated and **noted**.

It was **agreed** the Town Clerk would write letter of support.

BTC/247/09

HOME ENERGY SAVING SCHEME

Letter dated 18/8/2009 received from Mullingar Town Council regarding amendments to the Home Energy Saving Scheme was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/248/09

ADMISSION POLICY LORETO SECONDARY SCHOOL

Letter dated 19/8/2009 received from Mr. Edward Fynes, Principal, Loreto Secondary School regarding proposed significant amendment to Admission Policy was circulated and **noted**.

Councillor Kilmurry wished to express her congratulations to the Parents Committee for their work on this issue. Councillor Snowe expressed his disappointment that the role of the elected members was not acknowledged in the local media.

BTC/249/09

AMENDMENT TO LORETO SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSION POLICY

Letter dated 25/8/2009 received from Mr. Edward Fynes, Principal, Loreto Secondary School regarding approved amendment to the 2010 admission Policy was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/250/09

LEVELS OF GRASS CUTTING IN BALBRIGGAN AREA

Question submitted by Councillor Peadar O'Kelly

To ask the Manager to explain the different levels of grass cutting in the Balbriggan area.

Reply: Current conditions have necessitated the introduction of a differential hierarchy of grass maintenance (involving 7 levels of input) throughout the county.

This cutting regime is being introduced not only in the Balbriggan area but elsewhere throughout the county. This is due to our reduced resources in budgetary and manpower terms as well as the increased areas of open space which have been taken in charge. Grass Maintenance Staff have been reduced by almost 25% in the last 10 years. Meanwhile the area under maintenance has increased by over 25% (>1000acres or 400 Hectares). We maintain grass verges (level 4) for the Transportation Dept. on a contract basis and used to carry out this work at the weekends. Since January 2009 we are not maintaining Grass Verges on weekend overtime, but instead this maintenance has been incorporated into our core work during normal working week. This further limits our ability to deal with open space grass maintenance as we once did.

Appropriately located areas of meadow combined with more regularly maintained grass margins, grass paths and informal kick about areas provide for enhanced biodiversity and are a workable response to the limited resources available to us.

BTC/251/09

PROPORTION OF UNCUT GRASS TO CUT GRASS IN BALBRIGGAN

Question submitted by Councillor Peadar O'Kelly

To ask the Manager to explain the proportion of uncut grass to cut grass in Skerries, Lusk and Rush and in the different estates in Balbriggan. Why has Hampton Cove been singled out if it has.

Reply: Hampton Cove has not been singled out for any special treatment in terms of the grass management. Other areas in the North County where differing grass management regimes are in place include. :

- Open space associated with Cardy Rock, Balbriggan.
- Linear sections of coastline associated with Bremore and Lambeeher, Balbriggan.
- Bell's Field, Balbriggan.

- Barnageera distributor road and open spaces associated with the Ballast Pit and the rear of St. Patrick's Close, Skerries.
- Open space associated with the woodland at Lambay View and St. Catherine's Estate, Rush.
- Kenure Park, Rush.
- Open space at Rogerstown, Rush.
- Other smaller incidental areas in the North County villages.
- Other areas may need to be considered as time progresses

There are two types of grass cutting taking place on the large class 2 open spaces at Hampton Cove. The area along the roadside and extending inwards to approximately 40% of its width and one pass along the side next to the cliff is cut as part of our regular mowing regime (level 3- the same as the majority of public open spaces) and is intended for informal kick about and passive usage, while the area closest to the sea is cut on a less frequent basis and has pathways mown through it.

Sufficient grassed areas within Hampton Cove have been cut to facilitate informal kick-about by kids and larger areas exist within reasonable distance of Hampton Cove which can facilitate more organised games.

BTC/252/09

SEWERAGE PIPES AT CREDIT UNION OFFICE

Question submitted by Councillor Peadar O'Kelly

To ask the Manager to examine the sewer manhole and pipes outside Balbriggan Credit Union to see if there is a blockage as workers in the Credit Union Office are getting an odour from sewerage pipes.

Reply: On the 14th and 26th of August a drainage inspector investigated complaints of sewage odours in the area of Balbriggan Credit Union. On both of these occasions when he arrived he found that the sewers were flowing freely and no foul odour was detectable. In order to confirm or eliminate sewage as the source of the problem the inspector would need to be on site when the odour was detectable. The inspector has provided a Balbriggan Credit Union staff member with his contact details to facilitate a prompt response should there be a recurrence of the problem.

BTC/253/09

COMMENCEMENT OF WORK AT ENTRANCE TO LIBRARY AND TOWN HALL

Question submitted by Councillor Monica Harford

To ask the Manager to give an approximate date when work will commence on the entrance to the Library and Town Hall as the square is now recognised as a

beautiful area due to the good work of Fingal County Council and Balbriggan Town Council.

Reply: It is hoped to commence work on the entrance to the Library and Town Hall before the end of the year. The work is likely to take 8-10 weeks to complete once commenced.

BTC/254/09

GRASS MAINTENANCE AT MOYLARAGH CLOSE

Question submitted by Councillor Grainne Kilmurry

To ask the Manager why the grass island and verges of Moylaragh Close are not being maintained by the Council along with all other communal grass areas of Moylaragh Estate.

Reply: There are three different areas of influence in terms of the roadside verges and incidental environmental spaces within Moylaragh Estate.

In the first instance, there are areas which are and will remain the responsibility of the Management Company for the residences.

Secondly, there are areas which have recently been taken in charge as part of the internal road reservations within the estate. These small grassed areas of verge and other vegetated spaces are being managed to the same standard as other similar areas throughout the county, within the obvious constraints of current manpower and other resources. Some of these very small sub-areas present great challenges in terms of their management and on-going maintenance and may require to be re-defined and reconsidered, given the difficulties they present.

Thirdly, there are roadside reservation zones in the general environs of the estate which have yet to be taken in charge by Fingal County Council and will remain the responsibility of the developers until this process has taken place. Some of these areas are being indicated as being already under the management of the Council by representatives of the developers. This has resulted in frustrating many residents. In the recent past representatives of the residents have been furnished with a copy map indicating the correct position and this seems to have abated the level of complaint.

No areas of Class 1 or Class 2 open spaces within Moylaragh Estate have as yet been taken in charge. These areas will be taken in charge as soon as the developers have fully discharged their obligations in respect of the planning conditions and the appropriate Deeds of Dedication exchanged.

BTC/255/09

DISABLED PARKING SPACES AT BALBRIGGAN

Question submitted by Councillor Grainne Kilmurry

To ask the Manager to review the current disabled parking within the town. There are several parking spaces that are either boxed between two spaces which are extremely difficult to park within and/or disabled spaces positioned beside high kerbs which are difficult for any wheelchair user.

Reply: In conjunction with the completion of the Urban Improvement Scheme of the town. A review of the disabled parking facilities in Balbriggan will be undertaken in consultation with members of the Town Council's Access Group, Prosper Fingal and other interested parties.

A recent survey of all parking bays in the town highlighted a number of lining issues at disabled parking bays and these issues will be addressed in the coming weeks.

BTC/256/09

PROVISION OF BIN AT MARTELLO TOWER

Question submitted by Councillor Grainne Maguire

To ask the Manager in the interest of Health & Safety can a waste bin be provided at the King Strand adjacent to the Martello tower area.

Reply: Unfortunately due the anti-social behaviour in the environs of King Strand and the Martello tower, the Environment Department is not in a position to place a bin at this location.

The Litter Management Unit provides bags and gloves to community groups and residents associations who are interested in keeping their locality free of litter by arranging clean-up days. By prior arrangement, the filled bags will be collected by the staff of the Environment Department. Any community groups wishing to avail of this support can contact the Litter Management Unit on 8906799.

BTC/257/09

FLOODING AT RAILWAY BRIDGE BATH ROAD/LAMBEECHER

Question submitted by Councillor Grainne Maguire

To ask the Manager to request a full report from the Transportation Department on what efforts are being made to eliminate the periodical serious flooding under the railway bridge at Bath Road/Lambreecher which results in cutting off access to

the beach areas and causes inconvenience to the residents of the area and people going to the railway station.

Reply: The flooding at this location is due to the existing percolation system becoming overloaded following extreme and persistent rainfall events. It is proposed to increase the size of the existing percolation area in order to minimize the frequency of the flooding at this location. This work has been included in the Area Engineers Maintenance Programme.

BTC/258/09

PARKING SIGNS NEAR RING ROAD CAFÉ

Question submitted by Councillor Grainne Maguire

To ask the Manager to request on the Harry Reynolds Road the provision of a one hour parking sign in the vicinity of the Ring Road Café so to provide short time parking spaces for the business's of the area and thus preventing motorists from leaving their cars parked there from morning to night.

Reply: The provision of a one hour parking bay outside the Ring Road Café would require the approval of An Garda Síochána and would be considered by the Transportation Department.

BTC/259/09

STREET LIGHTING AT BALROTHERY

Question submitted by Councillor Frank Snowe

To ask the Manager to erect public street lighting on the stretch of road from the Hamilton Park Nursing Home to Balrothery as it is a matter that needs urgent attention.

Reply: There is no provision in the 2009 Transportation Programme of Works to erect public street lighting in this area. This matter will be considered in the context of the preparation of the 2010 Draft Transportation Programme of Works.

BTC/260/09

RE ALLOCATION OF VACANT HOUSES ESSENTIAL WORKS

The following motion in the name of Councillor Monica Harford, was submitted by Councillor Monica Harford, seconded by Councillor Grainne Kilmurry

“Balbriggan Town Council call on Fingal Housing Department and the Department of the Environment to immediately cease the ridiculous practice of when re-allocating a vacant house, removing the works of improvement carried

out by the previous tenant and replacing some of those improvements with materials of lesser quality.”

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

It was further **agreed** to invite a representative of the Housing Department to discuss the issues raised with the elected members.

BTC/261/09

REPRESENTATION ON REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM FOR DUBLIN NORTH EAST

The following motion in the name of Councillor Grainne Kilmurry was submitted by Councillor Grainne Kilmurry, seconded by Councillor Monica Harford

“Balbriggan Town Council call on the Minister for Health to allow a representative from the Town Council be a member of the Health Service Executive – Regional Health Forum for Dublin North East.”

Following discussion the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/262/09

OVERGROWTH ON WALLS AT OLD FANCOURT ROAD

The Following motion in the name of Councillor Grainne Maguire, was submitted Councillor Grainne Maguire, seconded by Councillor Monica Harford

“Balbriggan Town Council call on Iarnród Éireann to make arrangements to cut back the over growth of briars and bushes which is trailing over the walls of the footpath of old Fancourt Road and is obstructing pedestrians in this area.”

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/263/09

BREMORE CASTLE SITE DEVELOPMENT

The following motion in the name of Councillor Terry Kelleher was submitted by Councillor Terry Kelleher, seconded by Councillor Larry Dunne

“Balbriggan Town Council call on Fingal County Council to prioritise and fast track the Bremore Castle site development to meet the growing needs for community amenities in the town and to include possibly some of the following:

- Clean up of site
- Open it up to the public
- Site a playground at the site
- Site a mini-pitch
- Site communal garden/allotments”

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/264/09

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMME

The following motion in the name of Councillor Frank Snowe, was submitted by Councillor Frank Snowe, seconded by Councillor Peadar O’Kelly

“Balbriggan Town Council call on the Department of Justice to investigate the possibility of setting up a Community Service Programme in Balbriggan which would help the court system and also assist out community during a time of recession. Projects such as Grass Cutting for old folks, Beach cleaning, renovate the harbour etc. could be included as part of the programme.”

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/265/09

PROPOSED REDUCTIONS IN SOCIAL WELFARE BENEFITS

The following motion in the name of Councillor Monica Harford, was submitted by Councillor Monica Harford, seconded by Councillor Frank Snowe

“Balbriggan Town Council call on the Government not to attempt to consider reductions in payments to Social Welfare Benefit recipients in consideration of their tax paying employment which qualifies them for benefit payments.”

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/266/09

TRAFFIC AT NORTHWEST BALBRIGGAN

The following motion in the name of Councillor Grainne Maguire, was submitted by Councillor Grainne Maguire, seconded by Councillor Grainne Kilmurry

“Balbriggan Town Council call on the Transportation Department of Fingal County Council to examine the high level of traffic endeavouring to make a right turn at the graveyard junction onto the Harry Reynolds Road towards Chapel

Gate, Westbrook/Moylaragh and Northwest Balbriggan with a view to providing a filter light thus alleviating the traffic tail back from St. Peter & Paul's school to this junction at peak times."

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/267/09

NAMA SCHEME

The following motion in the name of Councillor Terry Kelleher, was submitted by Councillor Terry Kelleher, seconded by Councillor Monica Harford

"Balbriggan Town Council is extremely alarmed by the policy of this Government to risk billions of Euros of taxes through the NAMA scheme. While acknowledging the international economic crisis, the policy of NAMA is unique to this Government and may cost the taxpayer up to €40b. The cost of paying for NAMA will be devastating to this and future generations. Public services will be slashed, living standards will be driven down and communities starved of resources so that certain Bankers and big developers can be bailed out."

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/268/09

CHAPEL STREET/NAUL ROAD PROPOSED CLOSURE OR ONE WAY SYSTEM

The following motion in the name of Councillor Frank Snowe, was submitted by Councillor Frank Snowe, seconded by Councillor Grainne Kilmurry

"Balbriggan Town Council call on the Transportation Department of Fingal County Council to examine the closure of Chapel Street/Naul Road from the junction of the Harry Reynolds Road to the junction of Fullam Street or if closure is not possible, to consider making the route one-way from East to West."

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/269/09

**CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS –
PRESENTATION TO CLERGY**

An Cathaoirleach informed the members that she had made presentations to Fr. Barry Murphy and Fr. Michael Murtagh on behalf of the people of Balbriggan on their recent departure from the parish.

BTC/270/09

**CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS –
SENIOR CITIZENS PARTY**

An Cathaoirleach informed the members she had attended the Senior Citizens Party and congratulated the committee on behalf of the people of Balbriggan for their good work over the past years.

BTC/271/09

**CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS –
MEETING WITH GARDAI**

Councillor Harford requested that a meeting be arranged with Superintendent Joe Kelly which was **agreed**.

BTC/272/09

**CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS –
AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE COMMITTEE**

An Cathaoirleach requested that the Town Clerk contact the Affordable Childcare Committee and invite a representative to outline the services provided which was **agreed**.

BTC/273/09

**CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS –
RAILWAY BRIDGE COLLAPSE AND DISRUPTION TO COMMUTERS**

Councillor Kelleher raised concerns that Bus Éireann are not accepting Irish Rail tickets from people travelling from Balbriggan to Dublin. This is causing difficulties at off-peak times when the replacement services are not as frequent. It was **agreed** that the Town Clerk would contact Bus Éireann for clarification.

BTC/274/09

**CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS –
BLUE STAR COACHES**

Councillor Kilmurry circulated details of a direct service from Balbriggan to Dublin. Following a brief discussion, it was **agreed** that the Town Clerk would contact Mr. Peter Walsh of Blue Star Coaches on queries raised.

BTC/275/09

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The following report was circulated and **noted**.

BALBRIGGAN TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
31st August 2009

EXPENDITURE		
Programme Item	Budget 2009	Expenditure 2009 to date
CORPORATE PROPERTY		
Insurance	9,000.00	8,591.84
Rates & Water Charges	10,200.00	10,045.00
Light & Heat	1,700.00	0.00
Service Charges / Maintenance	7,500.00	367.74
Hall Staffing	5,600.00	0.00
Sub-total	34,000.00	19,004.58
GENERAL		
General Expenses	21,900.00	17,733.37
Members Allowance	20,000.00	10,498.44
Information Technology	0.00	2,000.00
Conference Expenses	8,000.00	651.65
Cathaoirleach's Allowance	1,700.00	850.00
Leas Cathaoirleach's Allowance	300.00	150.00
Town Clerk Allowance	7,200.00	0.00
AMAI Subscription	3,900.00	3,950.00
Town Improvement/Decoration	9,000.00	23,332.86
Community Awards	5,000.00	0.00
Local Elections	2,000.00	546.75
Audit Fees	2,750.00	2,760.00
Legal Fees	5,000.00	0.00
Bank Charges	250.00	50.00
Other Expenses	0.00	1,000.00
Capital Account	0.00	2,682.00
Sub-total	87,000.00	66,205.07
TOTALS:	121,000.00	85,209.65
RECEIPTS		
Programme Item	Budget 2009	Receipts 2009 to date
CORPORATE PROPERTY		
Retail Unit Rental Income	14,000.00	6,999.99
Office Unit Rental Income	6,000.00	3,000.00
Rental Income - Fingal Co. Co.	6,800.00	6,813.00
Hall Hire Charges	10,200.00	8,557.50
Sub-total	37,000.00	25,370.49
GENERAL		
Demand - Fingal Co. Co.	84,000.00	84,000.00
Other Receipts	0.00	2,420.28
Sub-total	84,000.00	86,420.28
TOTAL	121,000.00	111,790.77

Meeting concluded 8.30 p.m.

SIGNED Monica Harford DATE 6th Oct '09
CATHAOIRLEACH

**Minutes of Statutory Meeting of Balbriggan Town Council
held on Tuesday 3rd November 2009
in The Council Chamber, Town Hall at 7 p.m.**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Councillors
Brown, Sean
Dunne, Larry
Harford, Monica
Kelleher, Terry

Councillors
Maguire, Grainne
Murray, Dermot
O'Kelly, Peadar
Snowe, Frank

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mr. Peter Caulfield, Town Manager
Mr. Brian Murray, Meetings Administrator
Ms. Kim Coughlan, Clerical Officer
Ms. Maureen Finn, Clerical Officer

Apology for inability to attend was received from Councillor Grainne Kilmurry.

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Monica Harford presided.

BTC/316/09

VOTE OF SYMPATHY

Councillor Harford proposed a vote of sympathy on the recent deaths of Jack Benton and Walter McClean, father of Billy McClean, Transportation Department, Fingal County Council. A minutes silence was observed. It was **agreed** that the Town Clerk forward a letter of sympathy to the families.

BTC/317/09

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of Balbriggan Town Council statutory meeting held on 6th October 2009 which were circulated were submitted, approved as a true record and signed.

BTC/318/09

RENT SUPPLEMENT

Acknowledgement letter dated 12/10/2009 received from Office of the Minister for Social & Family Affairs regarding rent supplement was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/319/09

RENT SUPPLEMENT

Letter dated 14/10/2009 received from Health Service Executive regarding rent supplement was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/320/09

SCHOOL PLACES

Letter dated 15/10/2009 received from Office of the Minister for Education & Science regarding school places was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/321/09

ABOLITION OF TOWN COUNCILS

Letter dated 15/10/2009 received from Office of the Minister, Environment, Heritage & Local Government regarding the matter of the abolition of Town Councils was circulated and **noted**.

BTC322/09

RENT SUPPLEMENT

Letter dated 22/10/2009 received from Health Service Executive regarding rent supplement was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/323/09

BREMORE CASTLE PARK

Letter dated 21/10/2009 received from Community, Recreation & Amenities Department regarding Bremore Castle Park was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/324/09

BREMORE CASTLE WORKS

Letter dated 16/10/2009 received from Community, Recreation & Amenities Department regarding Bremore Castle works was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/325/09

BALBRIGGAN PARKING MANAGEMENT SCHEME

Letter dated 19/10/2009 received from Transportation Department regarding Balbriggan Parking Management Scheme was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/326/09

SEAPOINT/HAMPTON COVE

Letter dated 19/10/2009 received from Transportation Department regarding traffic calming Seapoint/Hampton Cove was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/327/09

ANNUAL/MONTHLY RAIL TICKETS

Letter dated 24/9/2009 received from Bus Éireann regarding Annual/Monthly rail tickets was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/328/09

CHRISTMAS / BONUS FROM SOCIAL WELFARE

Letter dated 1/10/2009 received from Clonmel Borough Council regarding Christmas bonus to Social Welfare recipients' was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/329/09

33X BUS FROM BALBRIGGAN

Letter dated 13/10/2009 received from Dublin Bus regarding 33X Bus from Balbriggan was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/330/09

VAT ON MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Letter dated 13/10/2009 received from South Tipperary County Council regarding VAT on medical equipment purchased through voluntary fundraising was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/331/09

MAGDALENE LAUNDRIES

Letter dated 14/10/2009 received from Shannon Town Council regarding redress scheme for women detained in Magdalene laundries was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/332/09

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

Letter dated 20/10/2009 received from Listowel Town Council regarding Family Resource Centre Programme was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/333/09

METER READERS

Letter dated 21/10/2009 received from Monaghan Town Council regarding Meter Readers leaving cards for absent householders and An Bord Snip

Nua's/McCarthy Reports threat to Town Councils was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/334/09

PARKING OUTSIDE THE NEW AIB BANK

Question submitted by Councillor Frank Snowe

To ask the Manager as a matter of urgency to look at the parking situation outside the new AIB bank. There is adequate customer parking at the rear of the branch but customers are parking on the street outside the front of the bank. Double yellow lines are in place but are being ignored. As this blind corner leads into a busy industrial estate it is only a matter of time before a serious accident takes place.

Reply:

The parking that is occurring at present on the road to BEAT (off Harry Reynolds Road) appears to be associated with the recently opened AIB Bank Branch. This parking is illegal in a number of respects (double yellow lines and parking on the footpaths) and the enforcement of these restrictions is a matter for An Garda Síochána. It should also be noted that it appears that patrons of the Bank are unaware of the availability of parking to the rear of the Bank and/or are disconcerted by the presence of barriers on the entrance/exit to same. It would appear that the entrance barrier rises automatically when an entering vehicle is detected but a code is required to exit the car-park which is only available within the Branch. An ATM fronts the rear car-park and appears to be available when the Branch is closed however, there are six parking spaces in front of the car-park barriers which should be sufficient to accommodate the ATM parking demand out-of-hours.

In order to address the issue the following measures would appear appropriate:-
Road signage notifying patrons of the presence/availability of parking for Bank Customers to the rear of the Bank;
Clarification at the entrance to the car-park regarding entry/exit to reassure customers that it safe to enter and use the car-park, e.g. "AIB Customer Parking – Exit Code available within Branch".
Responsibility for these measures would appear to rest primarily with the Bank, however there may be planning implications depending on what is proposed. Accordingly, the Transportation Department will contact AIB to discuss these proposals and how matters to address the illegal parking can be brought forward.

BTC/335/09

HARRY REYNOLDS ROAD

Question submitted by Councillor Frank Snowe

To ask the Manager to contact residents whose property have shrubs and trees overgrown on the Harry Reynolds Road between the Garda Station and Chapel Street with a view to cutting back the overgrowth.

Reply:

The area in question has been inspected by the Senior Operations Engineer and arrangements are being made for the residents concerned to be issued with Hedge cutting Notices under Section 70 of the Roads Act 1993.

BTC/336/09

BROWN BINS IN BALROTHERY

Question submitted by Councillor Frank Snowe

To ask the Manager when will the residents of Balrothery Gardens receive the roll out of the Brown Bins? Apparently one half of the road received their Brown Bin 18 months ago.

Reply:

The households currently having brown bins collected in Balrothery Gardens are on a main road and have a different collection route to the remaining houses which have not received a brown bin yet.

The route that the remaining houses are on is serviced by a smaller bin truck, this truck is the only size which can access the properties involved. The small truck is only capable of collecting black bins. No houses in the Fingal area which are serviced by the small truck have a brown bin collection currently. The feasibility of providing a brown bin service to these properties and similar throughout the county is being examined currently.

BTC/337/09

SAFETY PEDESTRIAN RAILING

Question submitted by Councillor Dermot Murray

To ask the Manager in the interest of public safety to arrange for a safety pedestrian railing to be put in place along the path inline with the side entrance at the local Scout Den at Market Green Balbriggan.

Reply:

Arrangements will be made for the erection of a pedestrian barrier at the location referred to in the question as soon as this work can be fitted into the Area Engineer's Programme of Works for the area.

BTC/338/09

ROAD SURFACE

Question submitted by Councillor Grainne Maguire

To ask the Manager can the Transportation Department of Fingal County Council examine and give a report on the road linking Seapoint Road to the Harbour via O'Shea's regarding the state of the road surface and when can it be expected to be repaired.

Reply:

The road referred to in the question requires to be resurfaced and this will be carried out when the necessary funding can be identified. In the meantime any necessary remedial repairs will be referred to the Maintenance Department for attention.

BTC/339/09

ADVERTISING ON ROUNDABOUTS

Question submitted by Councillor Grainne Maguire

To ask the Manager what are the regulations regarding advertising on roundabouts and can he contact Lidl to notify them that advertising at the Church Roundabout is subject to these regulations.

Reply:

It is understood that this question refers to an incident at the Church roundabout last Saturday week, 24th October 2009.

Fingal County Council's policy in relation to advertisement structures on the public road is defined by Section 254(d) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000. Advertisement structures generally require licences which are issued by the Transportation Department. No licence was issued to Lidl or any other company to erect signage on the roundabout in question.

A Licence Application form for an Advertisement Structure will be forwarded to Lidl along with Fingal County Council's Policy on Advertisement Structures on Public Roads.

BTC/340/09

GRAVEYARD IN FLEMINGTON

Question submitted by Councillor Monica Harford

To ask the Manager for an update on the development or part development of the Graveyard in Flemington.

Reply:

Staff in the Environment Department have been working on the proposed layout for the new burial ground in consultation with the various departments in the Council.

It is proposed to present the proposals to the members of Fingal County Council at the Area Committee Meeting on 26th November 2009. Any changes required by the Members will be included as part of the statutory public consultation process.

Following the public consultation process a report will be made to the Members of Fingal County Council seeking their consent to proceed with the development. It is hoped to present this report to the February meeting of the Council.

BTC/341/09

JUNCTION AT TRIMLESTON AND HAMLET LANE

Question submitted by Councillor Grainne Kilmurry

To ask the Manager to provide traffic calming measures at the junction of Trimleston and Hamlet Lane.

Reply:

The junction of Trimleston and Hamlet Lane will be investigated by Traffic Section Engineers and, if found warranted, a scheme of traffic calming measures prepared.

BTC/342/09

SAINT PETER'S & PAUL'S CEMETERY

The following motion in the name of Councillor Dermot Murray was submitted by Councillor Dermot Murray, seconded by Councillor Monica Harford

Balbriggan Town Council call on the County Manager to extend Saint Peter & Paul's Cemetery at Balbriggan by incorporating the section of disused road along its boundary.

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

The Town Manager agreed to update the members on this in the coming week.

BTC/343/09

LITTER OUTSIDE PUBLIC HOUSES

The following motion in the names of Councillor Grainne Maguire was submitted by Councillor Grainne Maguire, seconded by Councillor Frank Snowe

Balbriggan Town Council call on the Fingal County Council to investigate the scourge of littering our streets with cigarette butts outside Public House premises.

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/344/09

CORRESPONDENCE TO PUBLIC BODIES

The following motion in the name of Councillor Monica Harford was submitted by Councillor Monica Harford, seconded by Councillor Dermot Murray

Balbriggan Town Council call on the relevant Government departments to make it compulsory for all Government departments, Local Authority departments and HSE departments to acknowledge receipt of documentation or communication within 7 days of receiving same.

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/345/09

POSTERS ON PUBLIC LIGHTING POLES

The following motion in the name of Councillor Grainne Maguire was submitted by Councillor Grainne Maguire, seconded by Councillor Monica Harford

Balbriggan Town Council call on Fingal County Council to investigate the practice of posters being erected on the new public lighting poles with sticky tape which is leaving a residue and causing damage to the poles.

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

The Town Manager informed the meeting that the elected members should consider the making of bye-laws to restrict advertising / posters etc. This was supported by the members.

BTC/346/09

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS – ANNUAL AWARDS

An Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that she has received great feedback from the people of Balbriggan about the Annual Awards. She was delighted that the awards went very well on the night. She thanked the Councillors, the Town Clerk, the Manager and especially the staff of Balbriggan Town Council for their part in making the awards a great success. An Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that the representatives of the Gary Kelly Cancer Centre gave very positive feedback and were very supportive of the Town Council Awards.

BTC/347/09

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS – HALLOWEN EVENT

An Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that she attended a Halloween event on George's Square last Friday night which was arranged by a number of organisations including Balbriggan Youth Services, Fingal County Council Community Department and the Community Policing Forum. It was a great event for the community and she was delighted to have been present on the night.

BTC/348/09

**CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS –
BRACKEN BOXING CLUB**

An Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that she attended an awards night arranged by Bracken Boxing Club in Balscadden last week. The awards were to recognise the achievements of people within the club and was a great success.

BTC/349/09

**CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS –
PEGGY SEEGAR**

An Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that she attended a concert in the Town Hall by American folk singer, Peggy Seegar. The concert was organised by the Balbriggan Fish and Farmers Market. It was one of the most enjoyable evenings and she was delighted to have attended. An Cathaoirleach informed the meeting she made a presentation to Ms Seegar to mark the occasion on behalf of the Town Council and the people of Balbriggan

BTC/350/09

**CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS –
AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE COMMITTEE**

An Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that there was an open day recently at the new crèche in Tankardville House. She informed the meeting that she was unable to attend the open day as she was unwell and received criticism from one person for not attending. She wanted it noted that when she had previously requested a presentation to the Town Council by the Affordable Childcare Committee she was not seeking an open day.

BTC/351/09

**CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS –
BUS EIREANN EXPRESS SERVICE**

An Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that the Bus Eireann Express service to Dublin City which commenced following the collapse of the Dublin-Belfast railway line at Malahide was only for a temporary period and she felt the Town Council should support its retention. It was **agreed** that the Town Clerk would write to Bus Eireann seeking the continuation of the express service when the railway re-opens.

BTC/352/09

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS – SPORTING FINGAL

The Town Manager informed the meeting that Sporting Fingal Football Club have reached the FAI Cup Final which is a great achievement for a community club which is only in existence for two years.

The final will take place on Sunday 22nd November 2009 in Tallaght Stadium. The Manager hoped the soccer community in Balbriggan will support Sporting Fingal by attending the game.

Transport will be arranged to and from Balbriggan as part of the price of the match ticket, if there is sufficient demand. The club have received a big allocation of children's tickets and requested the elected members to seek the support of the community. The Manager wished Sporting Fingal well in the Final.

BTC/353/09

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The following report was circulated and noted.

BALBRIGGAN TOWN COUNCIL
 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
 31st October 2009

EXPENDITURE		
Programme Item	Budget 2009	Expenditure 2009 to date
CORPORATE PROPERTY		
Insurance	9,000.00	8,591.84
Rates & Water Charges	10,200.00	10,045.00
Light & Heat	1,700.00	0.00
Service Charges / Maintenance	7,500.00	858.06
Hall Staffing	5,600.00	0.00
Sub-total	34,000.00	19,494.90
GENERAL		
General Expenses	21,900.00	21,049.22
Members Allowance	20,000.00	12,838.44
Information Technology	0.00	2,000.00
Conference Expenses	8,000.00	1,415.73
Cathaoirleach's Allowance	1,700.00	850.00
Leas Cathaoirleach's Allowance	300.00	150.00
Town Clerk Allowance	7,200.00	0.00
AMAI Subscription	3,900.00	3,950.00
Town Improvement/Decoration	9,000.00	23,332.86
Community Awards	5,000.00	3,990.02
Local Elections	2,000.00	12,546.75
Audit Fees	2,750.00	2,760.00
Legal Fees	5,000.00	0.00
Bank Charges	250.00	50.00
Other Expenses	0.00	1,000.00
Capital Account	0.00	2,682.00
Sub-total	87,000.00	88,615.02
TOTALS:	121,000.00	108,109.92
RECEIPTS		
Programme Item	Budget 2009	Receipts 2009 to date
CORPORATE PROPERTY		
Retail Unit Rental Income	14,000.00	11,666.66
Office Unit Rental Income	6,000.00	5,000.00
Rental Income - Fingal Co. Co.	6,800.00	6,813.00
Hall Hire Charges	10,200.00	10,660.00
Sub-total	37,000.00	34,139.66
GENERAL		
Demand - Fingal Co. Co.	84,000.00	84,000.00
Other Receipts	0.00	3,707.94
Sub-total	84,000.00	87,707.94
TOTAL	121,000.00	121,847.60

BTC/354/09

JANUARY STATUTORY MEETING DATE

It was agreed that the January Statutory Meeting be set for Tuesday 12th January 2010 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

BTC/355/09

BUDGET 2010 MEETING DATE

It was agreed that the Annual budget Meeting for 2010 Budget be set for Tuesday 15th December 2009 at 7 p.m.

BTC/356/09

COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM

The Town Manager reminded the members of the proposal to have one Joint Community Policing Forum. He informed the meeting that all the participants are happy to have one steering group to deal with the issue of policing in Balbriggan and that all of the town councillors will have an opportunity over the lifetime of the Council to actively participate in it.

The suggested number of representatives from the Town Council is four members in addition to the Cathaoirleach who will chair the group in an ex-official capacity.

The Gardai have confirmed they are happy with the proposal to have one body to be known as the Balbriggan Joint Community Policing Forum. This approach will satisfy the Council's obligation for a Joint Policing Committee and avoid duplication with the Community Policing Forum.

An Cathaoirleach called for nominations :

Councillor G. Kilmurry was proposed by Councillor Harford, seconded by Councillor Maguire.

Councillor F. Snowe was proposed by Councillor Snowe, seconded by Councillor Harford.

Councillor G. Maguire was proposed by Councillor Dunne, seconded by Councillor Harford.

Councillor P. O'Kelly was proposed by Councillor Snowe, seconded by Councillor Dunne.

It was **agreed** that the Councillors Kilmurry, Snowe, Maguire and O'Kelly be elected to represent Balbriggan Town Council on the Board of the Balbriggan Joint Community Policing Forum.

Meeting concluded 7.41 p.m.

SIGNED Monica Harford DATE 1/12/09
CATHAOIRLEACH

**Minutes of Statutory Meeting of Balbriggan Town Council
held on Tuesday 1st December 2009
in The Council Chamber, Town Hall at 7 p.m.**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Councillors

Brown, Sean
Dunne, Larry
Harford, Monica
Kelleher, Terry

Councillors

Kilmurry, Grainne
Maguire, Grainne
Snowe, Frank

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mr. Peter Caulfield, Town Manager
Mr. Brian Murray, Meetings Administrator
Ms. Kim Coughlan, Clerical Officer
Ms. Rosemary Moonan, Clerical Officer

Apologies for inability to attend were received from Councillor Dermot Murray and Councillor Peadar O'Kelly. .

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Monica Harford presided.

BTC/358/09

VOTE OF SYMPATHY

Councillor Harford proposed a vote of sympathy on the recent death of former Town Councillor Breedge Tuite. A minutes silence was observed. It was **agreed** that the Town Clerk forward a letter of sympathy to the family.

BTC/359/09

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of Balbriggan Town Council statutory meeting held on 3rd November 2009 which were circulated were submitted, approved as a true record and signed.

BTC/360/09

SCHOOL PLACES

Letter dated 11/11/2009 received from the Minister for Education & Science regarding provision of Primary and Post Primary school places in Balbriggan was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/361/09

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMME

Letter dated 28/10/2009 received from Office of the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform regarding setting up of a community service programme in Balbriggan was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/362/09

SCHOOL PLACES

Acknowledgement letter dated 20/11/2009 received from Office of the Taoiseach regarding receipt of documentation was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/363/09

ABOLITION OF FAS

Letter dated 5/11/2009 received from South Tipperary County Council regarding the abolition of Fás in its present format was circulated and **noted**.

BTC364/09

PUBLIC SUPPORT TO TOWN COUNCILS

Letter dated 5/11/2009 received from Mullingar Town Council regarding full public support to all Town Councils and to commence Green Party's Local Government Policy was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/365/09

33X BUS SERVICE

Letter dated 13/11/2009 received from Dublin Bus regarding the replacement bus services 33 X was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/366/09

HSE COMMUNICATIONS RECEIPTED

Acknowledgement letter dated 18/11/2009 received from Health Service Executive regarding communications receipted was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/367/09

101A & 101X SERVICES

Letter dated 19/11/2009 received from Bus Eireann regarding services 101A and 101 X serving Balbriggan was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/368/09

PARISH OFFICE

Letter dated 30/10/2009 received from Parish Office of Balbriggan, Balrothery and Balscadden regarding a recent letter was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/369/09

GARY KELLY CANCER SUPPORT CENTRE

Letter dated 3/11/2009 received from Gary Kelly Cancer Support Centre regarding donation was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/370/09

A.M.A.I. SEMINAR

Letter dated 13/11/2009 received from Tom Ryan AMAI enclosing notice of Spring Seminar 2010 12/13th February 2010 was circulated and **noted**.

BTC/371/09

ALTERED CALENDAR FOR GREEN BINS

Question submitted by Councillor Monica Harford

To ask the Manager when will the altered calendar for the green bin collection be distributed in Balbriggan.

Reply:

Greyhound Recycling notified Fingal County Council that they were going to engage in a route rationalisation in the Fingal area commencing on the 7th September, 2009. The aim of the exercise was to improve the efficiency of the collection routes which were inherited from Oxigen. This involved a change in the collection day of the green bin for a significant number of Fingal households.

As part of its communication programme agreed with Fingal County Council to announce these changes, an explanatory letter – in Irish and English – was dispatched to households along with a new calendar from the 31st August 2009.

If any household has not yet received a new calendar the collection dates/days are available through www.greenbin.ie or by phoning 1890 342 342.

BTC/372/09

ROAD GULLIES

Question submitted by Councillor Monica Harford

To ask the Manager if view of recent torrential rain is there a programme in place to clear streets and road shores.

Reply:

The road gullies are cleaned on a regular basis and are continually monitored to provide additional cleaning at locations where this may be required.

BTC/373/09

BIN TAG WAIVERS

Question submitted by Councillor Monica Harford

To ask the Manager when the bin tag waiver ceases will this apply to everybody or will there be circumstances still considered for a waiver.

Reply:

In 2009 over 11,400 households in the Fingal area will have received a waiver of the household waste charges. With effect from the 1st January 2010, the scheme is being revised so as approved waiver applicants will continue to receive a waiver of the €110 annual charge element of the household waste charges but will be responsible for purchasing their own bin tags.

The cost of providing the waiver on the €110 annual charge, exclusive of overheads, to the existing qualified waiver customers will be over €1.25m for which no subvention is received from any source.

Fingal County Council will continue to use the current system of eligibility criteria for assessment of waiver eligibility for household waste charges.

Having regard to the recycling collections, green and brown, now available to all households in the Fingal area, it is estimated that most homes in Fingal are now only putting a black bin out for collection once every 3 to 4 weeks, which works out at an average cost of between €2 to €2.67 per week.

BTC/374/09

DEVELOPMENT LEVY MONIES

Question submitted by Councillor Terry Kelleher

To ask the Manager what are the figures for the amount of development levy monies collected from houses built in balbriggan during each year from 2002 to 2008? What has been the main monies spent from these funds in Balbriggan during the same period?

Reply:

In accordance with Section 48 of the Planning and Development, Act 2000, as amended, the Councils' Development Contribution Scheme is a county wide scheme and all levies are applied, accounted for and spent on a countywide basis, on public infrastructure and facilities benefiting development in the entire county area. All contributions collected are credited to the appropriate departmental accounts in accordance with the proportions provided for in the scheme, for

financing each Departments approved works programme. Consequently, the information requested is not readily available.

However, the contributions electronic system is currently being examined in conjunction with the system providers and it is hoped that progress will be made in identifying information of this nature over the coming months.

BTC/375/09

FACILITES FOR CYCLISTS

Question submitted by Councillor Terry Kelleher

To ask the Manager what is the present policy of Fingal County Council regarding the develop of facilities for cyclists and what plans for the development of pro-cycling initiatives' do the council have for Balbriggan, if any.

Reply:

The Policy of Fingal County Council in relation to cycling is set out in Part VI of the County Development Plan (Policy Objectives TP22 to TP26). The Development Plan also sets out various specific objectives (TO28-TO36) and an indicative County Cycle Network is shown on the Development Plan maps. These objectives are implemented in a number of ways with the focus being on including cycle facilities as part of an integrated transport system for the county which considers the needs of all road users. Facilities for cyclists and other vulnerable road users are considered in all schemes and implementation is achieved on a progressive basis through development control; as part of all significant new road schemes; modification/improvement schemes for existing roads; through Quality Bus Corridors, etc. The Transportation, Road Safety Section undertakes cycle training in schools, training approx. 3000 school children each year. They are also involved in conjunction with An Taisce, Green Schools, the Dublin Transportation Office in providing cycle shelters in schools. They also undertake other school cycling promotion initiatives. Fingal County Council Parks and Transportation Departments in conjunction with Fingal Safe Cycling Action Group (FSCAG) and Skerries Cycling Initiative (SCI), commissioned the Sustrans, "Skerries and Malahide Cycling Study, March 2009" which has led to proposals to permit cyclists to use FCC parks for both leisure and commuting purposes with facilities initially planned for Ardgillan and Malahide Demesne. More recently, an opportunity has arisen arising from the Broadmeadow Viaduct collapse to provide facilities for cyclists and pedestrians across the estuary linking the population centres of Donabate and Malahide and this is actively being pursued by the Council. The Council also works with numerous stakeholders in various different fora where cycling issues are considered and supported. An application has recently been made by Fingal County Council under the Department of Transport Smarter Travel initiative, seeking funding to improve safety and accessibility on the Skerries / Balbriggan Road, particularly for cyclists and pedestrians.

BTC/376/09

NEW ENTRANCE TO TESCO SHOPPING CENTRE

Question submitted by Councillor Frank Snow

To ask the Town Manager to confirm if there are plans for a new entrance to the Tesco Shopping Centre on the Naul Road via a roundabout at the Westbrook Estate .

Reply:

Permission was granted by An Bord Pleanala on 17/10/08 for the construction of a mixed use regional / district shopping centre development of 23,510 sq. m., 952 no. car parking spaces and ancillary works at Naul Road, Balbriggan.

The approved plans for this proposed development provided for roundabout access arrangement to the Naul Road adjacent to the existing access at Westbrook Housing Estate.

This roundabout has as yet to be constructed and is to be put in place before the shopping centre is opened.

BTC/377/09

INSTALLATION OF UNITS

Question submitted by Councillor Frank Snow

To ask the Town Manager will he consider the installation of toilet water conservation units (sample supplied) in to the various Fingal County Council controlled offices.

Reply:

The units referred to will be examined by the Building Facilities Section and a full report will be provided in due course.

BTC/378/09

JOE WADE DEVELOPMENT

Question submitted by Councillor Grainne Kilmurry

To ask the Manager can he give a report on the planning permission at the Joe Wade developments at Castlelands and the Council's position regarding the undeveloped parts of the lands.

Reply:

Permission was granted on 19/10/05 for a housing development of 442 houses at Castlelands, Balbriggan.

Currently, there are approx. 88 houses constructed on this site in the area adjacent to the school site and further housing development on this site has not taken place over the last 15 months due to various factors including matters related to the depressed housing market.

The developer has been requested by Fingal County Council to undertake certain remedial work relating to footpath construction, public lighting, landscaping and building control matters in the area leading from Castlelands Distributor Road and within area of the site where housing construction has taken place.

In relation to the undeveloped part of these approved housing lands, it is largely a matter for the developer to decide when it is appropriate that housing construction should recommence.

Nevertheless, Fingal County Council will monitor the situation to ensure the services to the constructed houses are not unduly affected and the conditions of the permission are complied with in an efficient and timely manner.

BTC/379/09

VIOLENT ROBBERY AND TERRORISATION

The following motion in the names of Councillor Monica Harford was submitted by Councillor Monica Harford, seconded by Councillor Larry Dunne.

Balbriggan Town Council call on the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform to by whatever means necessary have very severe penalties imposed on those individuals found guilty of violent robbery and terrorisation of our elderly.

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/380/09

WHEELCHAIR USER'S AT PEDESTRIAN EXIT

The following motion in the names of Councillor Peadar O'Kelly was submitted by Councillor Monica Harford, seconded by Councillor Terry Kelleher.

Balbriggan Town Council call on Fingal County Council Transportation Department to inspect the pedestrian exit from Lambeeher Estate to Brick Lane (at the entrance to Supervalu Car Park) and put road markings to ensure that wheelchair users have ample accessibility between the cars when they use this pedestrian exit.

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/381/09

PUBLIC SECTOR TRADE UNIONS

The following motion in the names of Councillor Terry Kelleher was submitted by Councillor Terry Kelleher, seconded by Councillor Frank Snowe.

Balbriggan Town Council supports the one day strike by the public sector Trade Unions in their campaign to protect the jobs, wages and services in the public

sector. We respect the right of public sector workers to stand up to the Government's attempt to scapegoat them for the present economic crisis.

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/382/09

WAIVER OF BIN TAGS

The following motion in the names of Councillor Frank Snowe was submitted by Councillor Frank Snowe, seconded by Councillor Grainne Kilmurry.

Balbriggan Town Council call on Fingal County Council to reinstate the waiver of bin tags fees to residents on Old Age Pension.

Following discussion, the motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/383/09

CHILD BENEFIT FOR FAMILIES

The following motion in the names of Councillor Grainne Kilmurry was submitted by Councillor Grainne Kilmurry, seconded by Councillor Monica Harford.

Balbriggan Town Council call on the Minister for Social and family affairs to review the regulations in respect of non Irish nationals in receipt of child benefit for families residing here and also claiming similar benefit in their native country.

Following a show of hands, An Cathaoirleach declared the following result,

In Favour	6
Against	1

An Cathaoirleach declared the motion **passed**.

BTC/384/09

CHRISTMAS BONUS

The following motion in the names of Councillor Terry Kelleher was submitted by Councillor Terry Kelleher, seconded by Councillor Larry Dunne.

Balbriggan Town Council condemns the government's decision to cancel the Christmas bonus for people on social welfare. This policy is one of many which will make those, who cannot afford it, pay for this economic crisis. We call on the minister of Social & Family affairs to reverse this decision.

Following a show of hands, An Cathaoirleach declared the following result,

In Favour	5
Against	1
Abstain	1

An Cathaoirleach declared the motion **passed**.

BTC/385/09

RENT ALLOWANCE BUDGET

The following motion in the names of Councillor Frank Snowe was submitted by Councillor Frank Snowe, seconded by Councillor Grainne Kilmurry.

Balbriggan Town Council call on the HSE to explain why 40% of it's €20 million rent allowance budget is spent in Balbriggan Town. This would suggest that the HSE are actively encouraging unemployed people to move to Balbriggan and by doing so creating an unemployment black spot.

Following discussion, it was agreed to amend the text of the motion to read as follows :

Balbriggan Town Council call on the HSE to explain why 40% of it's €20 million rent allowance budget allocated for Dublin North East is spent in Balbriggan Town.

Following discussion, the amended motion was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/386/09

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS – LAMA SEMINAR

An Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that she and Councillor Grainne Kilmurry attended the LAMA Winter Seminar in the 6th and 7th November 2009.

She attended a presentation on the Planning Amendment Bill at the Conference and requested the Town Manager the examine the provisions in respect of requests for estates to be taken in charge of housing estates.

BTC/387/09

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS – FAILTE BALBRIGGAN

An Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that she attended the official launch of Failte Balbriggan on the 18th November 2009 in the old St. George's school.

BTC/388/09

**CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS –
FR. TAAFFE**

An Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that she attended the installation of the new Parish Priest, Fr. Eugene Taaffe in the Town Hall recently. An Cathaoirleach made a presentation to Bishop O'Mahony to mark the occasion on behalf of the Town Council and the people of Balbriggan.

BTC/389/09

**CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS –
BALBRIGGAN JOINT COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM**

An Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that she attended the official launch of the Balbriggan Joint Community Policing Forum on the 26th November in the Town Hall. There was a very good attendance at the launch and it was very successful.

BTC/390/09

**CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS –
HAMLET LANE**

An Cathaoirleach requested the Town Manager to arrange for the repair of a serious hole in the road surface at Hamlet Lane. The Town Manager informed the meeting that he would get it examined immediately and have it repaired as a matter of urgency.

BTC/391/09

**CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS –
NEW SIGNAGE**

The Town Manager informed the meeting that it is proposed to erect new signage in the town to complement the Paving works which are nearing completion. The new signage would contain place names alongside the Town Crest. Balbriggan, the new signage would finish off the Town. An Cathaoirleach stated it was nice to see the Town Crest on the signage and it will also enhance the Town.

BTC/392/09

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The following report was circulated and noted.

BALBRIGGAN TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
30th November 2009

EXPENDITURE		
Programme Item	Budget 2009	Expenditure 2009 to date
CORPORATE PROPERTY		
Insurance	9,000.00	8,591.84
Rates & Water Charges	10,200.00	10,045.00
Light & Heat	1,700.00	0.00
Service Charges / Maintenance	7,500.00	858.06
Hall Staffing	5,600.00	0.00
Sub-total	34,000.00	19,494.90
GENERAL		
General Expenses	21,900.00	23,031.28
Members Allowance	20,000.00	14,008.44
Information Technology	0.00	7,091.69
Conference Expenses	8,000.00	2,807.69
Cathaoirleach's Allowance	1,700.00	850.00
Leas Cathaoirleach's Allowance	300.00	150.00
Town Clerk Allowance	7,200.00	0.00
AMAI Subscription	3,900.00	3,950.00
Town Improvement/Decoration	9,000.00	30,077.12
Community Awards	5,000.00	4,026.51
Local Elections	2,000.00	12,546.75
Audit Fees	2,750.00	2,760.00
Legal Fees	5,000.00	0.00
Bank Charges	250.00	50.00
Other Expenses	0.00	1,000.00
Capital Account	0.00	2,682.00
Sub-total	87,000.00	105,031.48
TOTALS:	121,000.00	124,526.38
		124,526.38
RECEIPTS		
Programme Item	Budget 2009	Receipts 2009 to date
CORPORATE PROPERTY		
Retail Unit Rental Income	14,000.00	11,666.66
Office Unit Rental Income	6,000.00	5,000.00
Rental Income - Fingal Co. Co.	6,800.00	6,813.00
Hall Hire Charges	10,200.00	12,030.00
Sub-total	37,000.00	35,509.66
GENERAL		
Demand - Fingal Co. Co.	84,000.00	84,000.00
Other Receipts	0.00	3,707.94
Sub-total	84,000.00	87,707.94
TOTAL	121,000.00	123,217.60

BTC/393/09

**JANUARY STATUTORY MEETING DATE AND
BUDGET 2010 MEETING DATE**

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that it will be necessary to hold an adjourned Budget Meeting on Tuesday 5th January 2010 and suggested that the January Statutory Meeting be held following the adjourned budget meeting on the same night. This was **agreed** by the members.

BTC/394/09

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES

The Town Manager informed the members that the Fingal County Council Strategic Policy Committee Scheme provided for the appointment of a representative of the Town Council to:

- Community and General S.P.C. (one member)
- Planning and Development S.P.C. (one member)

An Cathaoirleach called for nominations for a representative for the Community and General S.P.C.:

Councillor G. Maguire was proposed by Councillor Harford, seconded by Councillor Snowe.

Councillor G. Kilmurry was proposed by Councillor Dunne, seconded by Councillor Brown.

Following a roll call vote, An Cathaoirleach declared the following result :

Councillor Maguire (4) Councillor Kilmurry (3)

An Cathaoirleach declared Councillor Maguire elected to the Community and General S.P.C.

An Cathaoirleach then called for nominations for a representative for the Planning and Development S.P.C.:

Councillor T.Kelleher was proposed by Councillor Dunne, seconded by Councillor Snowe.

As there were no other nominations, An Cathaoirleach declared Councillor Kelleher elected member to Planning and Development S.P.C.

It was **agreed** that the Councillors elected would serve a two year term and submit an annual report on their respective S.P.C.

Meeting concluded at 8.20 p.m.

SIGNED Monica Harford DATE 5/1/2010.
CATHAOIRLEACH

**MINUTES OF BUDGET MEETING
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2010
HELD ON 15TH DECEMBER 2009 AT 7.00 P.M.
IN THE TOWN HALL, GEORGES SQUARE, BALBRIGGAN**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Brown, Sean
Harford, Monica
Kelleher, Terry
Kilmurry, Grainne

Maguire, Grainne
Murray, Dermot
Snowe, Frank

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mr. Peter Caulfield, Town Manager
Mr. Brian Murray, Meetings Administrator

Apologies for inability to attend were received from Councillor Larry Dunne and Councillor Peadar O'Kelly.

An Cathaoirleach, Monica Harford presided.

REVISED BUDGET 2009

The Town Clerk presented the following Financial Statement for 2009 to the members showing revised Expenditure of €144,460 and revised Receipts of €144,460.

EXPENDITURE				
Programme Item	Budget 2009	Expenditure 2009 to date	Revised Budget 2009	Change in Budget
CORPORATE PROPERTY				
Insurance	9,000	8,591.84	8,600 -	400
Rates & Water Charges	10,200	10,045.00	10,100 -	100
Light & Heat	1,700	0.00	1,700	-
Service Charges / Maintenance	7,500	858.06	900 -	6,600
Hall Staffing	5,600	0.00	4,200 -	1,400
Sub-total	34,000	19,494.90	25,500 -	8,500
GENERAL				
Members Allowance	20,000	15,178.44	19,300 -	700
Conference Expenses	8,000	2,807.69	2,850 -	5,150
Cathaoirleach's Allowance	1,700	850.00	1,700	-
Leas Cathaoirleach's Allowance	300	150.00	300	-
Town Clerk Allowance	7,200	0.00	7,200	-
AMAI Subscription	3,900	3,950.00	3,950	50
General Expenses	21,900	22,832.85	23,010	1,110
Town Improvement/Decoration	9,000	26,047.55	26,050	17,050
Community Awards	5,000	4,026.51	4,050 -	950
Information Technology	-	7,091.69	7,100	7,100
Local Elections	2,000	12,546.75	12,550	10,550
Audit Fees	2,750	2,760.00	2,760	10
Legal Fees	5,000	0.00	-	5,000
Bank Charges	250	50.00	230 -	20
Other Expenses	-	1,000.00	1,000	1,000
Capital Account	-	6,910.00	6,910	6,910
Sub-total	87,000	106,201	118,960	31,960
TOTALS:	121,000	125,696	144,460	23,460
RECEIPTS				
Programme Item	Budget 2009	Receipts 2009 to date	Revised Budget 2009	
CORPORATE PROPERTY				
Retail Unit Rental Income	14,000	11,666.66	14,000	-
Office Unit Rental Income	6,000	5,000.00	6,000	-
Rental Income - Fingal Co. Co.	6,800	6,813.00	6,800	-
Hall Hire Charges	10,200	12,827.50	15,000	4,800
Sub-total	37,000	36,307.16	41,800	4,800
GENERAL				
Demand - Fingal County Council	84,000	84,000.00	84,000	-
Other Receipts	-	3,722.94	3,750	3,750
Transfer from Capital Account	-	0.00	14,910	14,910
Sub-total	84,000	87,722.94	102,660	18,660
TOTAL	121,000	124,030.10	144,460	23,460

The Town Clerk gave a detailed explanation of the items in the statement and explained that the Hall Hire Charges Receipts for 2009 were ahead of budget due to the increased use of the community facilities in the Town Hall.

The Town Clerk informed the members that the expenditure on Service Charges/ Maintenance was under budget as the recoupment to Fingal County Council for the Town Council's share of the charges has not been calculated. This will be finalised in 2010 and funded out of capital provision.

The over-expenditure in respect of general expenses during the current year relate to unforeseen matters at the budget preparation stage such as the purchase of a photocopier and "Shop Local" promotion.

The over-expenditure in respect of Town Promotion related to the purchased of new trophies for St. Patrick's Day activities and additional funding towards the Christmas Lights Committee, contribution to Balbriggan Summerfest Committee and the Halloween event.

The over-expenditure in respect of Information Technology during the current year related to the significant re-design of the balbriggan.ie website and the payment of an allowance to the elected members to purchase laptops.

The purchase of Gazebos for the Fish and Farmers Market in June 2009 cost €4,228. It was **agreed** that the sum of €4,228 be transferred from the Capital Account to the Revenue Account to fund the purchase of the gazebos from the provision in respect of community facilities equipment.

The sum of €2,682 was expended on the purchase of a defribillator upon the request of the elected members. It was **agreed** that the sum of €2,682 be transferred from the Capital Account to the Revenue Account to fund the purchase of the defribillator from the provision in respect of community facilities equipment.

The cost of the local elections during the year was €12,546.75 which was higher than anticipated. It was **agreed** that the €8,000 provision in the capital account in respect of local elections be transferred to the Revenue Account.

On the proposal of Councillor Monica Harford, seconded by Grainne Kilmurry, it was **agreed** that the financial statement for 2009 as presented be adopted.

DRAFT BUDGET 2010

The Town Manager informed the meeting that the Annual Rate on Valuation for 2010 cannot be finally determined until the Valuation List (following revaluation of all commercial properties in the Fingal area) is published on the 31st December 2009.

The Town Manager informed the members that the proposed level of Town Charges as a percentage of the Fingal County Council Rates will be reduced to assist local business during the current economic situation. This cannot be finally determined until early January 2010.

Furthermore, it is not possible to adopt the Budget before 31st December 2009 and recommended that the budget meeting be adjourned until 5th January 2010.

It was **agreed** that the budget meeting be adjourned until 5th January 2010.

The meeting concluded at 7.30 p.m.

Monica Harford
CATHAOIRLEACH

5/1/10
DATE