



Bray & District CHAMBER

NEWSLETTER SPRING EDITION



Welcome to our **Spring Newsletter**, keeping you informed of key policy, business issues, member events, news stories as well as upcoming opportunities and dates for your diary. I hope you enjoy reading through our latest update.

Please continue to engage with the chamber team – contact us directly at **+353 1 282 8248** or by email at **info@BrayChamber.ie**



A New Team, A New Beginning

We start off on some great news. Bray Municipal District Council is piloting a new initiative for the town that was first proposed on the Portas Report and has proven successful across the UK and Ireland.

This initiative that will put in place a visionary, strategic and strong operational management team. The 'Town Team' will comprise of individuals with broad sector experience across many disciplines and covers a wide geographic spread and provides an opportunity for different local stakeholders to come together.

The Vision of the Town Team is to improve the prosperity of the Town and enhance the well-being of the community, creating a viable and sustainable Town economy.

Funding will be made available for projects identified by the Town Team and some of the initiatives will include:

- Creating a Business Plan for Bray
- Identifying pilot projects linked to towns performance
- Consumer & business survey's and footfall indicators introduced
- Building Appearance
- Car Parking Incentives
- Vacancy Rates
- Purple Flag Accreditation Renewal
- Assessment of other towns and cites positive experiences

Dates for Your Diary

- **St. Patrick's Festival**
March 16th until 21st
- **Speed Networking Event**
April 11th at 6:45pm in the Bray Golf Club
- **The President's Dinner • BOOK NOW**
May 14th, Glenview Hotel



#ge16

We believe the upcoming **General Election** will be one of the most important elections in generations.

Ireland is now one of the highest performing economies in the OECD out performing other economies in Europe and it is imperative that this stringent financial management while investing in the future is maintained.

We have put together a policy document for business which includes local and national issues and will be distributed to all prospective candidates.

St. Patrick's Festival

St. Patrick's Festival Bray is always an exciting, energetic event that brings the whole town together and this year is no exception. Our voluntary committee is in the final stages of putting together a great festival which will see the return of the **Fun Fair** on Bray Seafront, **Céilí Breakfast**, the **Big Funday Out**, the **Bray Parade** and lots more.

We are expecting in excess of 50,000 people to join us over the 5 days and entertainment from the USA and UK will add something special to the excitement.

Is your business holding a St. Patrick's themed public event and would like your event listed in the brochure, please let us know by emailing **info@braychamber.ie**. Closing date is 23rd February 2016.

If your business or organisation would like to volunteer to work on some of the events, please get in touch.

This year that festival will run from March 16th until March 21st. Event details will be available on **www.bray.ie**.



WEDNESDAY 16TH – TUESDAY 22ND
MARCH 2016



Seafront Works

Works continue along the seafront which will provide an improved road surface, new wider pavements, new street furniture and a segregated cycle track parallel to Strand Road.

There are alterations to the road layout through the works area between Convent Ave Junction and Putland Road Junction.

We understand the inconvenience caused to businesses in the area and we are in constant contact with the council to try and help manage the situation.

In relation to the reduced car parking spaces on Strand Road we have managed to secure the **Bray Institute of Further Education** parking facilities to be opened at weekends. We are currently discussing with the Council about the installation of signage directing visitors to this car park.

Overall completion date is yet to be confirmed but looks like early summer.

Florentine Centre

Another positive news story for Bray town as the proposed **Florentine Centre** takes a major step forward. The centre has moved into the planning application stage of the process. Members of Bray Municipal District have given their support to proceed to this stage. If planning consent is given in the expected time frame the centre will be open in time for the busy Christmas period in 2018.



Wicklow County Council will be engaging with possible investment partners this year and would hope to have an open competition to select a partner towards the end of the year.

The Florentine Centre will have two anchor stores, four retail units, four restaurants, a six screen multiplex cinema and undercroft parking. It will have access from the Main Street, Quinnsborough Road and Florence Road.

The centre will be a big boost for the town and provide hundreds of jobs in the local area at the construction stage and afterwards in the retail sectors.

Up and Coming Festivals in Bray

BRAY COMEDY FESTIVAL

After a very successful mini comedy festival last year, the Bray Comedy Festival will return from Wednesday, 24th to Sunday, 28th February with a whole lot more laughs. The new look festival will feature more acts in the iconic Bray Head Hotel as a venue and will once again bring you the very best in comedy in The Harbour Bar. See www.braycomedyfest.ie for the line up.

GROOVE FESTIVAL – Killruddery House & Gardens

The **Blades** and **Ocean Colour Scene** were announced as the headline acts for **Groove 2016** which takes place on July 2nd and 3rd at Killruddery House, Co. Wicklow. Special Guests for The Blades will be **Aslan**.

BRAY AIR DISPLAY

The annual airshow on Bray seafront has been confirmed to take place on the 23rd & 24th July. More information about the aircraft taking part and event activities on the ground will be available on www.brayairdisplay.com in the coming weeks. The Artisan food and craft markets are scheduled to take place over the same weekend. Local traders can register their interest by emailing event@rawmarketing.ie directly.

...at the heart of it
Bray.ie

River Dargle Flood Protection Scheme Update

This project is one of the key capital investment projects by Wicklow County Council and the Office of Public Works (OPW) with an investment of €40 million and over the next year will see the completion of this vital Flood Defence Scheme.

Planned works for 2016

- Peoples Park to Bray Bridge
- Maltings to La Vallee
- Works to The Slang Area
- Scheme landscaping
- In river works
- Construction of a boardwalk

The scheme is due to be completed in late 2016. It is subject to weather, ground conditions and in accordance with environmental restrictions as those set by the Wildlife Acts.

More information go to www.bray.ie/town-river/



Bray Business Purple Flag Survey

Bray was awarded the prestigious international **Purple Flag** award in 2014 and we have successfully retained the Flag for 2015.

The award is designed to honour excellence in the appeal and management of a town or city centre area between the hours of 5pm and 5am.

Now we would like your views on how your business is performing and how you are helping Bray become more Vibrant and Well Managed as night time destination.

Your responses are vital in helping Bray Town build our Purple Flag full renewal application for 2016.

To access and complete the survey please see www.braychamber.ie or via www.bray.ie

Community Safety Awareness Survey

Tell us how Vibrant and Well-Managed Bray Town is

Bray Chamber of Commerce & District Chamber of Commerce



**Bray & District
CHAMBER**

JOIN THE
**BRAY & DISTRICT CHAMBER
AND GET INVOLVED IN BRAY!**

• MEMBERS NEEDED •

JOIN NOW!

For an Application Form telephone **+353 1 282 8248**

or email info@braychamber.ie

www.braychamber.ie

Thanks for taking the time to read our Newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you all at the St. Patrick's Festival.

Regards,

Mick Glynn



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