

Dear Councillor,

Last October, as you may remember, a local community group called SWAP made a presentation to the Bray Municipal councillors on behalf of the residents of the lowlands of Little Bray. They presented research from the OPW and other international experts, as well as evidence from real life flooding events, demonstrating that flood defences make flooding less frequent, less deep, and less extensive - but they don't provide total protection. Flood defences, say the OPW, simply mean that this area is an acknowledged flood risk, and that due to rapid climate change and over-building, Little Bray can still be flooded, despite the defences for which, make no mistake, our community is extremely grateful.

Because of this, we believe that it is vital that the floodplain on the old Bray Golf links should be returned to its original safe Open Space zoning so that, in the event of flooding, the waters will at least be able to leave our homes and go downriver onto those lowlands as they did in the great floods of 1905, 1931, 1965, and 1986. We need you to finally make safe again our extremely vulnerable neighbourhood, with its high percentage of elderly and disabled residents, many of them living in one-storey homes or apartments.

SWAP has since made a submission to the Local Area Development Plan on our behalf, suggesting that any development on the old Bray Golf Club lands should be stepped back, creating a linear park and playing fields alongside the river. This would have the dual benefit of creating more recreational space, as well as keeping the floodplain free. As you know, developers are no longer allowed in law to claim compensation against rezoning when it is done in order to protect against flooding: flood protection benefits all of us.

It is madness to build on a floodplain, knowing what we now know about flooding all over Ireland and all over the world. We would ask you to show your solidarity with our community, and your understanding of the huge human and economic cost of flooding by voting to rezone this floodplain as Open Space in the upcoming Local Area Development Plan. You have it in your power to do so, as our elected representatives.

Yours sincerely,

[INSERT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS HERE]