

BLB RADIO



WHY IS BRAY LOCAL BROADCASTING ON THE AIR ?

In 1979 Bray Local Broadcasting went on the air. The aims of the B.L.B. project was to prove that genuine community – controlled local radio could work.

BLB Community Radio

B.L.B.

Community Radio

at the ♥ of Bray

97.8 FM

657 AM

Stereo



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Bray Local Broadcasting Community Radio is concerned that the case for community radio is not being debated either locally or nationally, while powerful vested interests fight to control local radio. The campaign for community-controlled local radio in North Wicklow needs a voice – B.L.B. provides that voice. We are a pilot scheme which continues to prove the worth and viability of community radio.

Any individual in Bray can apply to work with the station, maybe to do a programme or research or even a shift, answering the phone, the amount of time spent and the type of involvement is up to each individual. Under the guidance of the Management Committee, each person finds their own level, and style of involvement, within the radio station, this ensures that our community receives a wide cross section of entertainment, information and education.

B.L.B. Community Radio is a member of the National Association of Community Broadcasting. Should you wish to have more information on community broadcasting, you could write to:

**The Public Relations Officer,
B.L.B. Community Radio,
1 Strand Road,
Bray, Co. Wicklow.**

**Please Support our Call to make Local Radio a
Public Resource.**

Communities can organise and operate their own radio stations, and serve local needs as defined by local people, thereby providing a real channel for community communications.

Then how do we define Community Broadcasting ? Who should own it ? Who should be making programmes ? Where should the profits, if any go ? Who makes the decisions ? The next ten steps are a guide to the structure of locally owned Community Radio :

Community Radio should :

1. Serve recognisably local communities. B.L.B. broadcasts to Bray and the surrounding areas - Newcastle, Roundwood and Shankill.
2. Be a non-profit distributing trust, co-operative or similar registered structure. B.L.B. is not privately owned. B.L.B. has been able to continue and to provide good equipment for your local station because all operating profits are re-invested in community broadcasting. The station also sponsors training and local events, it is completely self-financing.
3. Have its general management and programming policy made by a governing body which is democratically representative of the various interests in the community, including paid and voluntary workers. In the early days, the only way of providing a governing body was to democratically elect individuals to various positions on a Management Committee. Now B.L.B. has taken this a step further and is controlled by a much bigger and better representative committee, made up of individuals, community groups, local business organisations and Church organisations. More people, more progress, better programming.
4. Provide within its structure a service of information education and entertainment, and enable the two-way communication of diverse opinions. Tune your radio to 455 mtrs. 657 khz or 97.8FM and make up your own mind.
5. Be financed from a variety of sources, which would include local loan capital, defined local spot-advertising, and local and central funding. The idea of various means of income is to ensure that no one organisation/individual can control the radio station for their own private gain. It is hoped that B.L.B. will receive a small grant from the European Arts Council, when legalised, therefore complying with the above statement, in full.
6. Recognise the right of paid broadcasting workers to join a union and the need for flexible demarcation of job-roles, and to allow the use of volunteers, where suitable. This speaks for itself.
7. Undertake to provide equal employment opportunities. Everyone has something to contribute to the radio station, and therefore the community. There should be no grounds for discrimination.
8. Be committed to providing local people with access to training, production, and transmitting facilities. Already hundred of groups and individuals have made use of the B.L.B. Community Radio Project. Many have been encouraged to set up programmes of their own. The B.L.B. Community Radio Project also provides training in radio skills, at the local V.E.C. College as well as at our own studio.
9. Transmit programme material that is predominantly locally originated. This is a building process. We believe that we can increase our output in many of these areas, but only with your help.
10. Having a programming policy which encourages the development of a participating democracy and which is opposed to racism, sexism and other discriminatory attitudes. The B.L.B. Radio Project, or any other access radio station is there to provide better communications within the community. Discrimination does not actively encourage community development.