

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY BUILDINGS, WICKLOW ON MONDAY 2nd DECEMBER, 2019, COMMENCING 2PM

PRESENT:

COUNCILLOR I. WINTERS, CATHAOIRLEACH, COUNCILLORS T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, M. CREAN, A. CRONIN, S. CULLEN, G. DUNNE, P. FITZGERALD, A. FLYNN KENNEDY, T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, P. LEONARD, S. MATTHEWS, G. MCMANUS, D. MITCHELL, J. MULLEN, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, R. O'CONNOR, G. O'NEILL, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, E. TIMMINS, G. WALSH AND J. WHITMORE.

APOLOGIES:

COUNCILLOR ANNE FERRIS

IN ATTENDANCE:

MR. F. CURRAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
 MR. T. MURPHY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
 MR. S. QUIRKE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
 MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
 MR. C. LAVERY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
 MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
 MR. B. GLEESON, HEAD OF FINANCE
 MR. L. FITZPATRICK, HEAD OF IS SUPPORT
 MS. L. GALLAGHER, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR
 MR. D. MARNANE, A/SENIOR ENGINEER
 MR. F. KEOGH, SENIOR ENGINEER
 MR. M. DEVEREUX, SENIOR ENGINEER
 MS. S. WALSH, SENIOR PLANNER
 MS. J. CARROLL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
 MS. K. BOYLE, IS SUPPORT
 MS. R. WOOD, STAFF OFFICER
 MS. G. LANG, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER

VOTES OF SYMPATHY: Elected Members passed a vote of sympathy to the families of Mrs. Marjorie Dentry, Mr. William Dunne and Mr. William Byrne. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

REQUEST FOR SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Whitmore, seconded by Cllr. D. O'Brien and agreed to suspend standing orders to discuss the issue of the proposed closure of St. Joseph's Dementia Care facility at Shankill, also proposed by Cllr. J. Behan and seconded by Cllr. M. Kavanagh. It was agreed to discuss this matter at 4.45 p.m.

TIME EXTENSION: Cllr. J. Behan proposed a time extension until 5.30 p.m. to ensure that the agenda is completed having regard to the fact that it was the last council meeting in 2019. This was agreed.

ITEM NO. 1**To confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 4th November, 2019.**

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Matthews, seconded by Cllr. S. Bourke and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 4th November, 2019 previously circulated.

ITEM NO. 2**To consider the disposal of 0.1592 hectares (0.393 acres) of land situated at Rathdown Lower, Greystones, Co. Wicklow to Marina Village Greystones Owners Management Company.**

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Mitchell, seconded by Cllr. G. Walsh and agreed to dispose of 0.1592 hectares (0.393 acres) of land at Rathdown Lower, Greystones, Co. Wicklow to Marina Village Greystones Owner's Management Company in accordance with statutory notice previously circulated.

ITEM NO. 3**To consider the disposal of c37sqm or thereabouts of land being the Council's interest in 6 Old Connaught View, Bray, Co. Wicklow to Mr. Darren Darker, 6 Old Connaught View, Bray, Co. Wicklow.**

It was proposed by Cllr. D. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. R. O'Connor and agreed to dispose of c37sqm or thereabouts of land being the Council's interest in 6 Old Connaught View, Bray, Co. Wicklow to Mr. Darren Darker, 6 Old Connaught View, Bray, Co. Wicklow in accordance with statutory notice previously circulated.

ITEM NO 4**To consider the disposal of 0.090ha. or thereabouts of land at Knockenrahan Upper, Arklow, Co. Wicklow to Votumann Ltd., 5 Drynam Road, Swords, Co. Dublin.**

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. T. Annesley and agreed to dispose of 0.090ha. or thereabouts of land at Knockenrahan Upper, Arklow, Co. Wicklow to Votumann Ltd., 5 Drynam Road, Swords, Co. Dublin in accordance with statutory notice previous circulated.

ITEM NO. 5**To consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, November 2019.**

The Elected members were circulated with the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, November 2019 on 27th November, 2019. The Chief Executive confirmed that the €300,000 Irish Water rates compensation was received from the Department and that confirmation of grant approvals.

Elected Members made the following contributions which were responded to by the Chief Executive and management team accordingly:-

- €3.5m grant aid for Baltinglass project welcome, staff involved in submitting the application complimented for securing the grant.
- Update sought on coastal works to the Murrough, Wicklow Town.
- Query sought on the status of the Arklow Flood Relief Scheme and the reversal of the bend in the river
- Query as to the agricultural health and welfare budget
- Child homeless figures rising, up to 71 in the October, concern expressed that the numbers are rising and update requested on Sonas Homeless Hub.
- Reference made to recent primetime programme on unauthorised quarries and query to the Chief Executive are there any such quarries operational in County Wicklow.

- Query in relation to the carrying out of septic tank inspections, are there any difficulties experienced in carrying out the inspections
- Assurances sought that the balance of funding for the Blessington Greenway is secure.
- Reference made to the funding required for the Glendalough project which was unsuccessful under RRDF and the council needs to be proactive in making sure this project is kept on the agenda.
- Reference made to the homeless figures within the report and request put forward that these figures be presented with a breakdown of how long the people have been homeless
- Query as to the status of proposed housing scheme at Lott Lane and at Killincarrig and information requested as to the proposed start date of both schemes
- Update requested on retrofitting of social housing
- Reference made to the rent arrears figure apparent jump of €300,000 from November 2018 to November 2019 and what the issues are
- Query as to the status of the provision of signage at the Murrough Wicklow

ITEM NO 6

To consider notice of motions in the names of (1) Councillor Rory O'Connor (received on 11th July, 2019) and Councillor Joe Behan (received on 1st August, 2019).

Ms. L. Gallagher, Senior Executive Officer advised that the Elected Members had been circulated with written reports on the motions and that any elected member who was not satisfied with the response could have the motion included on the agenda again. It has been agreed at the last meeting that the notices of motion in the names of Cllr. R. O Connor and Cllr J. Behan were to be listed following the Chief Executive's report.

Notice of motion number 1 in the name of Councillor Rory O'Connor, which was updated on 11th November, 2019 reads:

"The members of Wicklow County Council hereby resolve to introduce a county wide ban on the sale, distribution and burning of smoky coal in the absence of action from the Government on the matter. The members of Wicklow County Council note the seriously damaging effects on health and the environment from the continued burning of smoky fuels and express disappointment that the announcement in October, 2015 by then Minister, Alan Kelly, of the Government's intention to proceed with a nationwide ban has not yet been implemented. The council further notes the subsequent commitment from the then Minister Denis Naughton to have the ban introduced by 2019. A total of 10,344 people over the age of 18 suffer with asthma within Wicklow.

Calls on the Executive of the Council to:

- *to introduce and enforce a County wide ban on the sale and use of smoky coal;*
- *provide an information campaign to consumers in Wicklow on the dangers of smoky coal;*
- *Publicly notify all retailers and wholesalers about the decision of the county wide ban on the sale and use of smoky fuels;*
- *Update the members of Wicklow County Council monthly on the number of inspections carried out pursuant to the decision;*
- *Formally write to the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment and to An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar informing him of the decision and urging them to introduce the nationwide ban without delay, as committed to by this Government and previous Ministers;*
- *Formally write to each member of the Oireachtas in Wicklow urging them to pursue the matter with the Minister and with the Government and to update the members of the Council on progress in this matter;*

- *Seek a formal meeting with Wicklow TD and Minister for Health Simon Harris to allow members discuss the need for his support for this measure and to ensure that the health implications are understood".*

Response circulated to all elected members on 29th October, 2019:-

With regard to the current position of the proposed nationwide extension of the smoky coal ban, the following is the given to a recent PQ:-

- *Transitioning away from fossil fuels and to more renewable, sustainable energy sources is at the heart of the Climate Action Plan.*
- *Currently 40% of homes use coal and peat to heat their homes (many in combination with other fossil fuel heating systems). By 2030, we will upgrade a third of all homes to at least a B2 energy standard, installing approximately 400,000 heat pumps. Currently over 99% of our vehicle fleet is fuelled by fossil fuels. By 2030, nearly a million fully electric or hybrid vehicles (35%-40%) will be on our roads. These measures will significantly improve air quality by reducing emissions of harmful pollutants.*
- *Extending the ban on the use of smoky coal would have a positive impact on air quality, particularly in built up areas.*
- *The ban on the marketing, sale and distribution of bituminous coal, or ‘the smoky coal ban’ as it is commonly known, was first introduced in Dublin in 1990, and subsequently extended to our major cities.*
- *Following a public consultation process, it was further extended in 2012, and now applies in 26 urban areas nationwide. The ban has proven very effective in reducing particulate matter and sulphur dioxide levels and has had the effect of significantly improving public health. Research indicates, for example, that the ban has resulted in over 350 fewer annual deaths in Dublin alone.*
- *Regarding the proposed national extension of the smoky coal ban, a number of coal firms have indicated that they would challenge the proposal of two former Ministers to expand the smoky coal ban.*
- *This is particularly disappointing, given the impact poor air quality can have on human health and the environment and the emphasis the government is putting on transitioning to a low carbon society.*
- *The basis of their challenge is that a nationwide smoky coal ban cannot be introduced without a nationwide ban on the burning of peat, turf and wet wood because these products produce similar levels of pollution. The legal threat is not only to take down any new nationwide ban, but to remove the existing ban which is in currently in place in cities and many towns around the country.*
- *The Attorney General has provided legal advice on this matter. I am working with the Attorney General to finalise a legally robust plan, which will improve air quality by reducing air pollution, without jeopardizing the existing ban.*
- *I also intend to publish a Clean Air Strategy, which will set out a number of policies to improve air quality nationwide in the coming months.*
- *My Department is also funding the Environmental Protection Agency’s roll-out of the Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme (AAMP), which will greatly improve the data available on air pollution in Ireland, facilitating the design and targeting of appropriate policy measures to tackle it.*

Wicklow County Council Response: While section 39 of the Air Pollution Act may provide an opportunity for a Local Authority to introduce a special control area order to effect a similar ban to a Smoky Coal ban, the practicalities of the provision are such that the LA would have to have a significant amount of research carried out and detailed legal advice to underpin such an order. This provision relates to particular pollutants, which may not be restricted to burning of smoky coal. This research would be quite onerous and may not lead to the desired outcome. Thus it is our recommendation that we await the Department’s current progress in expanding the Smoky Coal Regulations.”

- **provide an information campaign to consumers in Wicklow on the dangers of smoky coal;** **Response: This can be referred to the Climate and Biodiversity Action SPC**
- **Publicly notify all retailers and wholesalers about the decision of the county wide ban on the sale and use of smoky fuels;** **Response: The Council can use their social media presence and other networks such as the PPN to publicize the current smoky coal regulations**

- **Update the members of Wicklow County Council monthly on the number of inspections carried out pursuant to the decision; Response: This can be referred to the Climate and Biodiversity Action SPC**
- **Formally write to the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment and to An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar informing him of the decision and urging them to introduce the nationwide ban without delay, as committed to by this Government and previous Ministers; Response: Notwithstanding the lack of jurisdiction to amend regulations, the Council could write to the Minister and Taoiseach urging them to introduce the nationwide ban.**
- **Formally write to each member of the Oireachtas in Wicklow urging them to pursue the matter with the Minister and with the Government and to update the members of the Council on progress in this matter; Response: Notwithstanding the lack of jurisdiction to amend regulations,, the Council could write to the Oireachtas members and An Taoiseach urging them to pursue the matter.**
- **Seek a formal meeting with Wicklow TDs and Minister for Health Simon Harris to allow members discuss the need for his support for this measure and to ensure that the health implications are understood.” Response: Notwithstanding the lack of jurisdiction to amend regulations, the Council could seek a meeting with the Minister for Health to press the matter.**

Wicklow County Council Environment Team have carried out a number of inspections in the past number of years to enforce these regulations

End

Following further discussion, Cllr. R. O’Connor agreed to amend the motion which was circulated to the elected members, and submit later in the meeting to be discussed. It was agreed to refer the matters listed to the Planning and Environment SPC, proposed by Cllr. R. O Connor (1 – 7) seconded by Cllr. S Matthews and agreed amended by Cllr. J. Behan, seconded by Cllr. P. Leonard and agreed (number 8)

Wicklow County Council agrees to:

1. Provide an information campaign to consumers in Wicklow on the health dangers of smoky coal/fuel
2. Publicly notify all retailers, wholesalers and residents of the limits of sale and use of smoky coal/fuel
3. Update members of Wicklow County Council on the number of inspections carried out in relation to sale or use of smoky coal in the locations where it is prohibited
4. Formally write to the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment and An Taoiseach urging them to introduce a nationwide ban without delay
5. Formally write to each member of Oireachtas in Wicklow urging them to pursue the matter with the Minister and with the Government and to update the members of the Council on progress in this matter
6. Seek a meeting with Wicklow TD and Minister for Health Simon Harris to allow the members discuss the need for his support for this measure and to ensure that the health implications are understood
7. Refer this item to the Planning and Environment SPC to include the issue of Smokey Coal/fuels in an overall Air Quality Management Plan.
8. That this Council acknowledges the impact a ban such as this could have on people who suffer fuel poverty and that the SPC consider this issue and any allowance that may need to be made with regard to people suffering from fuel poverty.

Notice of Motion number 2 in the name of Councillor Joe Behan submitted 1st August, 2019:
“That in the context of the current housing emergency, this council eases the restriction on one off housing in rural areas with immediate effect”

The following response was circulated to the elected members on the 29th of October, 2019.

RESPONSE: In assessing a planning application a Planning Authority is restricted under S34 of the Planning & Development Act to considering the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, with regard being had to various matters, e.g. the provisions of any Development Plan, Ministerial Guidelines, National Policy, as set out in the National Planning Framework & Regional Spatial Economic Strategy, etc. In this regard, it is noted that the County Development Plan sets out the rural housing policy of the Council in Objective HD 23. This policy was in line with the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines (2005) and the Regional Best Practice Guidelines 2009 issued by the Minister. As required under S28 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, the County Development Plan contains in Appendix 12 a statement outlining compliance with Ministerial Guidelines, which confirms how the Council has complied with the Ministerial Guidelines on rural housing.

Similarly, the National Planning Framework (NPF) & Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy set out the National Policy in relation to rural housing. The NPF Policy Objective in this regard is: “In rural areas under urban influence, facilitate the provision of single housing in the countryside based on the core consideration of demonstrable economic or social need to live in a rural area and siting and design criteria for rural housing in statutory guidelines and plans, having regard to the viability of smaller towns and rural settlements”.

The review of the current County Development Plan will commence in the coming months. The Planning Authority is required as part of the review of the CDP to carry out an assessment of compliance with national and regional policies. This statutory process will involve a review of the Council’s rural housing policies. The elected members, the public and prescribed bodies, etc will partake in this process.

On the basis of the above, it is not possible for the Planning Authority to relax its rural housing policy without being in conflict with S34 of the Planning & Development Act, the County Development Plan, National Policy and Ministerial Guidelines. The Planning Authority should await its review of its rural housing policy as part of the CDP review and if required amend its policy thereafter.

Cllr. J. Behan accepted the response as given adding that the point he wanted to make in putting forward the motion, in advance of discussion on the new County Development Plan, was that there are many people across the County whose parents own land or they themselves own land, and because of restrictions on planning from central government are being directed to housing in urban areas. He advised that the motion was a matter of principle and asked that anything that could be done to relax the rules in this area should be done. He also added that he wished to highlight, particularly for new elected members the time it takes for a notice of motion to be dealt with and asked for the protocol committee to look at the matter.

ITEM NO 7

To receive a presentation from Ms. Deborah Meghan and Mr. Ray Jordan, Coillte Avondale Forest Park Project.

Mr. Ray Jordan and Ms. Deborah Meghan gave a joint presentation to the elected members on the Coillte Avondale Forest Park Project and responded to the issues raised by them under the following headings. Ms. Meghan advised that the project is being carried out in collaboration with Failte Ireland and the opportunity to present to the elected members was welcome.

Avondale Forest Park, the home of visionary and inspirational people who have sown the seeds of Ireland future.

- Down the centuries and generations, the core theme repeated again and again, has been how the custodians of Avondale have sown the seeds of Irelands future... from Samuel Hayes' pioneering tree-planting from across the world.... through the Parnell era and their vision for a new Ireland....to the formation of State Forestry in 1904 and continued today by Coillte's constant innovation in world-class, sustainable forestry.

Everyone who plants a tree has a vision for future generations

The aim at Avondale is to allow visitors to explore Nature in new, engaging and captivating ways.

- Expect to find yourself under, in and above the tree canopies in Avondale on a tree-top walkway, including a viewing tower high above the Avonmore river valley.
- Through glades in the forest, natural and creative play areas will encourage both parents and children to get involved in all the things we did as children..! Building dens, hideouts, tree-climbing
- Outside, the forest is wide open for exploration on with new family cycle trails and upgraded walking routes taking in the Railway walk to Rathdrum, the Avonmore river valley walk and Centenary trails.

Our business is sustainability

The new Irish Forestry Pavilion will show how cutting-edge technology is used today in Coillte's forestry business and how new innovations in timber technology will completely change how we design and build our homes and businesses into the future.

Taking a break, the seed café in will have locally sourced, best quality food and refreshments, overlooking a new play space in the walled garden.

Project Update

- Planning Permission was granted in Q1 2019 by Wicklow County Council
- Coillte Project Manager is Ray Jordan
- Rogerson Reddan Associates appointed as Project Management/Quantity Surveying consultant.
- Van Dijk Architects appointed as Design Managers / Design Team
- Topographical, Geotechnical, GPR & Asbestos Surveys presently ongoing.
- Detailed civil engineering design work for infrastructural works underway.
- Architectural design review for Seed Café, walled garden and adjacent areas underway to enhance visitor attraction.
- Procurement process of appointing an operator for the site has commenced.
- Current engagement with specialist elevated walkway (tree top walk) developers.
- The current programme is to initiate enabling / infrastructural works in Q2 next year.
- The park will remain open during the development however, certain areas will be closed off to the public at various stages during the construction.

ITEM NO 8

To receive representatives from: Iarnrod Eireann.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed representatives from Iarnrod Eireann, Ms. Jane Cregan, Events and PR Manager and Mr. John Reville, Passengers Services Manager. Ms. Cregan and Mr. Reville advised that they did not have a formal presentation to make but were happy to respond to queries raised by the elected members.

Elected Members raised the following queries/issues which were responded to by Iarnród Éireann representatives.

- Essential that the principles be established in terms of the train times from Wicklow through to Kilcoole and Bray and that the line be improved for all trains.
- There is a major issue with trains in the south east of the County the population has doubled but the timetables have remained the same. There are only 2 trains leaving Wicklow Town in the morning; 6.30 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. packed to capacity and there does not seem to be any additional planning as to how commuters will be facilitated into Dublin.
- Call for consideration to be given to dart stops south of Greystones, this is a rapidly moving community and it would seem a very minor extension, facilitating the stations and providing much needed transport lanes which would take a considerable amount of traffic off the N11.
- Reference made to the Jacobs, report and the 6 recommendations contained therein and query if these could be costed and are the recommendations being progressed.
- Reference made to the rail infrastructure not keeping up with the housing and planning strategy and query as to how long it takes for a railway carriage to be delivered from date of tender.
- Are there any plans to build a new station or upgrade stations on the Wicklow to Wexford line.
- Can a shelter be provided at Kilcoole Station, also additional carriages and CCTV system as the lack of facilities in the station are preventing its use.
- Is there a facility for transport providers to have a cohesive conversation in relation to the provision of transport.
- Additional carriages are required from Wicklow Town as existing carriages are packed beyond capacity.
- Query, do all of the services providers, the LUAS, Iarnród Éireann, Bus Éireann, etc., convene/meet and come up with a plan for the future, or is it fragmented?

ITEM NO 9

To receive a presentation: Update on County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2017-2022.

This item was deferred to meeting of 13th January, 2019.

ITEM NO 10

To receive a presentation: Comhairle na nÓg – update on projects and youth summit.

Ms. Lynne Gavin and Mr. Tristan McCall gave an update on projects and youth summit to the elected members covering the following areas:

- What is Comhairle na nÓg?
- What have been doing in the last year?
- Youth Summit 2019
- Youth Participation
- Youth Attitudes towards Drugs Survey
- What is it?
- How will we do it?
- Why are we doing it?
- What next for the survey?
- What next for Comhairle?

The elected members applauded and commended the work of the members of Comhairle na nÓg thanked both speakers for their presentation and contribution. The support of the staff in the Community Cultural and Social Development Directorate was highlighted and acknowledged.

Suspension of Standing Orders: Proposed by Cllr. J. Whitmore , seconded by Cllr. D. O'Brien and agreed to suspend standing orders to discuss the issue of the proposed closure of St. Joseph's Dementia Care facility at Shankill, also proposed by Cllr. J. Behan and seconded by Cllr. M. Kavanagh.

Cllr. J. Whitmore referred to the background of the matter which she said elected members were aware of and that there was an expectation that funding issues would be resolved to keep the doors open however information over the weekend was that any future residents would not be enrolled in the facility or be able to attend the facility. Cllr. J. Behan referred to the widespread concern shared by everyone in the County in the matter particularly around the vulnerability of the patients and the stress to family members.

At the conclusion of the discussion it was agreed *'That Wicklow County Council writes to Minister for Health Simon Harris and ask that he ensure that interim funding is provided to St. Josephs Dementia care facility in Shankill to prevent any risk of imminent closure, and to insist that the NTPF come to a realistic level of funding to enable St. Joseph's Centre to continue the excellent care it currently provides.'*

ITEM NO 11

To adopt the draft Wicklow County Council Corporate Plan 2019-2024

Elected members were circulated with the report dated the 27th of November, 2019 along with the 2nd draft of the Wicklow County Council Corporate Plan 2019-2024.

The Chief Executive advised that the Corporate Plan sets out the strategic direction and the high level organisational goals of the Council over the next five year period and that a number of key strategic objectives have been identified focussing on the 4 key areas, which the Council will focus on delivery and which are intrinsically linked to the more detailed supporting strategies and activities in the Council's annual service delivery plan. In response to query the Chief Executive advised on the monitoring and review process. It was proposed by Cllr. S. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. R. O'Connor and agreed to adopt the draft Wicklow County Council Corporate Plan 2019-2024.

ITEM NO. 13

Notice of motions

Notice of motion number 3 in the name of Cllr. Rory O Connor (7th October, 2019): *"That Wicklow County Council writes to the Minister of Education and Skills asking for an appropriate feeder school to be assigned to St. Andrew's considering both the school ethos and the distance for the students to travel"*

The notice of motion was seconded by Cllr. J. Behan advising that parents are concerned about the ethos of the school and that the responsibility lies with the Department of Education to protect the ethos of minority religion schools. Cllr. L. Scott advised that this was a complex issue and proposed that the motion be amended to request that the Minister provide sanction to build a secondary school to accommodate the extra pupils. This was agreed. Motion to be submitted to

the Minister as follows: *That Wicklow County Council writes to the Minister of Education and Skills asking for an appropriate feeder school to be assigned to St. Andrew's considering both the school ethos and the distance for the students to travel and that if St. Andrew's is assigned as a feeder to a secondary school in Greystones, that the Minister concurrently provides sanction to build an extension to the secondary school in question."*

Notice of motion number 4 in the name of Cllr. Rory O Connor: *"The members of Wicklow County Council hereby resolve to introduce a replacement for the current disabled parking spot markings with a few more inclusive signage, which takes in account for invisible disabilities. The following actions will be taken by Wicklow County Council to make Wicklow far more inclusive:*

- *Replace all current disabled parking spots markings with a new inclusive letter "D), which will be the same size as the current signage. This will replace the traditional current markings of an individual in a wheelchair*
- *Write to all Owners of private parking lots, to consider the switch to the more inclusive sign*
- *Write to all Local Authorities within the Republic of Ireland with the details of the this motion*
- *Commence an advertising campaign to inform the public of this change'*

The following response was provided:

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport's (DTTAS) Traffic Signs Manual sets down, in Chapter 7 entitled "Road Markings", the design and dimensions of disabled persons' parking bays. The manual requires that such bays "shall be indicated by the disabled persons' parking bay Symbol, RRM 015, marked in white and located on the outer edge of each bay and may be accompanied by the upright Disabled Persons' Parking Information sign." (see relevant extract from the Traffic Signs Manual attached). Any change to the design and dimensions of disabled persons' parking bays would be a matter for the DTTAS in the first instance.

It was agreed to defer all other notice of motions to meeting of 13th January, 2020

The Cathaoirleach wished the Elected Members, Chief Executive and staff of Wicklow County Council a very happy, peaceful Christmas and New Year.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

**CLLR. IRENE WINTERS
CATHOIRLEACH
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MS. LORRAINE GALLAGHER
SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**

Confirmed at meeting of Wicklow County Council held on 13th January, 2020