

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY BUILDINGS, WICKLOW ON MONDAY 13th
June 2016, COMMENCING 11.30 am**

PRESENT:

PRESENT:

COUNCILLOR J. RYAN, CATHAOIRLEACH, COUNCILLORS J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, S. CULLEN, T. CULLEN, P. DORAN, G. DUNNE, P. FITZGERALD, T. FORTUNE, C. FOX, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, N. LAWLESS, S. MATTHEWS, M. MCDONALD, D. MITCHELL, M. MURPHY, D. NOLAN, O. O'BRIEN, M. O'CONNOR, G. O'NEILL, J. RUTTLE, J. SNELL, E. TIMMINS, B. THORNHILL, P. VANCE, G. WALSH J. WHITMORE AND I. WINTERS.

APOLOGIES:

CLLRS. T. ANNESLEY AND G. MCLOUGHLIN

IN ATTENDANCE:

MR. B. DOYLE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

MR. M. BOLAND, EXECUTIVE SCIENTIST, ENVIRONMENT SECTION

MS. S. WALSH, SENIOR PLANNER, PLANNING SECTION

MS. L. GALLAGHER, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

MS. H. DENNEHY, A/SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MS. J. O'DOWD. SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ENVIRONMENT

Votes of Sympathy

The Elected Members passed a vote of sympathy to the families of the late Mrs. Bridie Culkin, Mrs Kathleen Leeson, Mr. Gerry O'Carroll, Mr. Liam Doyle, Mr. David Noble, Mr. Jack Boothman and Mr. John Glynn.

Book of Condolences

Sympathies were also expressed by the Elected Members for the victims of the tragedy which occurred in Orlando on the 12th June. It was agreed to send a letter of sympathy to the US Embassy and also to open a book of condolences at Wicklow County Council offices.

A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

Suspension of Standing Orders

Cllr. M. O'Connor proposed a suspension of standing orders to discuss the homeless situation in Bray. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Nicola Lawless. Following a short discussion on the matter, and on the proposal of Cllr. J. Snell, Chair of the Housing and Corporate Estate SPC, it was agreed by the members not to suspend standing orders as the issue would be discussed at the special SPC meeting scheduled for the following day, 14th June 2016. Cllr. J. Snell extended an invitation to all elected members who wished to attend the meeting advising that the matter of homelessness was listed as a specific item on the agenda for discussion and a representative from the Dublin Simon Community would be in attendance to give a presentation.

ITEM NO. 1

To confirm and sign minutes of Special Meeting of Wicklow county Council held on Monday 14th March 2016

It was proposed by Cllr. N. Lawless, seconded by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of Special Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 14th March 2016.

ITEM NO. 2

To confirm and sign minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 4th April 2016

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. V. Blake and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 4th April 2016.

Update from the sub-committee set up to consider disposal notices etc.

Following a request from the floor, Cllr. J. Whitmore Chair of the sub-committee advised that the sub-committee had met and discussed the information provided with the disposal notice and areas where more information might be of assistance. A list of recommendations has been drawn up and it is hoped to consider same by full Council at the July or September meeting.

ITEM NO. 3

To consider the disposal of 350 square meters or thereabouts of land at Castle Avenue, Wicklow, Co Wicklow by way of transfer order to William and Phyllis Kavanagh, Castle Street, Wicklow, Co Wicklow (previously circulated)

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Dunne, seconded by Cllr. S. Cullen and agreed to dispose of 350 square meters or thereabouts of land at Castle Avenue, Wicklow, Co Wicklow by way of transfer order to William and Phyllis Kavanagh, Castle Street, Wicklow, Co Wicklow

ITEM NO. 4

To consider the disposal of freehold interest of land at 11 Connolly Street, Arklow, Co Wicklow by way of leasehold transfer order to James Greene, 11 Connolly Street, Arklow, Co Wicklow

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. M. McDonald and agreed to dispose of freehold interest of land at 11 Connolly Street, Arklow, Co. Wicklow by way of leasehold transfer order to James Greene, 11 Connolly Street, Arklow, Co Wicklow

ITEM NO. 5

To consider the disposal of freehold interest of land at Ballylusk, Ashford, Co Wicklow by way of leasehold transfer order to James Walker, Ballylusk, Ashford, Co Wicklow

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. D. Nolan and agreed to dispose of freehold interest of land at Ballylusk, Ashford, Co Wicklow by way of leasehold transfer order to James Walker, Ballylusk, Ashford, Co Wicklow.

ITEM NO. 6

To consider the disposal of freehold interest of land at 9 Rockfield Park, Kilmacanogue, Co Wicklow by way of leasehold transfer order to Seamus Brady, 9 Rockfield Park, Kilmacanogue, Co Wicklow.

It was proposed by Cllr. C. Fox, seconded by Cllr. P. Vance and agreed to dispose of freehold interest of land at 9 Rockfield Park, Kilmacanogue, Co Wicklow by way of leasehold transfer order to Seamus Brady, 9 Rockfield Park, Kilmacanogue, Co Wicklow.

ITEM NO. 7

To consider the disposal of 0.13635 hectares (0.33693 acres) or thereabouts to Greystones Harbour Property Designated Activity Company, c/o Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. J. Ryan and agreed to dispose of 0.13635 hectares (0.33693 acres) or thereabouts to Greystones Harbour Property Designated Activity Company, c/o Wicklow County Council, County Buildings Wicklow Town, Co Wicklow

ITEM NO. 8

To consider notices of motions

- 1. Notice of motion in the name of Cllrs. S. Bourke and I. Winters (29.07.2015) (deferred from meeting of the 7th September, 5th October, 2nd November and 7th December 2015)**

"That Wicklow County Council make arrangements to install signage for Barndarrig from the new M11 motorway"

Cllr. Bourke informed the meeting that this matter was resolved and that signs are now in place.

- 2. Notice of motion in the names of the Arklow Municipal District Members: Cllrs. P. Fitzgerald, P. Kennedy, T. Annesley, S. Bourke, M. Murphy and M. McDonald (04.08.2015). (deferred from meeting of the 7th September, 5th October, 2nd November and 7th December 2015)**

"The Members of Arklow Municipal District request the T/Chief Executive Officer to retain the premises currently being used for the Arklow Library on St. Mary's Road in the ownership of Wicklow County Council, and following the opening of the new Library that this building be then used to house a Museum for Arklow town"

Cllr. Fitzgerald advised that he wished to withdraw the notice of motion advising that the Arklow Municipal District Members are happy with matters. This was agreed.

- 3. Notice of motion in the names of the Wicklow Municipal District Members: (29.09.2015) (deferred from meeting of the 5th October, 2nd November and 7th December 2015)**

"That this Council would adopt this resolution in support of Cork City Council in its actions against the proposed merger of Cork City and County Councils, and further supports its challenge to the Local Government Reform programme, which undermines the European principle of subsidiarity". We also direct the meetings administrator to inform the Minister for the Environment and Local Government and the Secretary General of the same Department of the passing of this motion by this Council.

Elected members agreed to support this motion.

- 4. Notice of motion in the names of Cllrs. C. Fox, J. Ruttle and D. Nolan (07.09.2015)(deferred from meeting of the 2nd November and 7th December 2015)**

"That the Housing section furnish the elected members with details and protocol in relation to the control of horses. In particular:

Details of scanning chipped horses

Details of methods used to establish ownership of impounded horses

Details of the breakdown of costings and receipts associated with the impounding of horses process."

L. Gallagher advised that a detailed response to this motion has been circulated to all elected members. Cllr. C. Fox advised that the response received was satisfactory.

5. Notice of motion in the names of Cllrs. C. Fox, J. Ruttle, D. Nolan and M. Murphy (05.10.2015) (deferred from meeting of the 7th December 2015)

"That this Council would engage in communication with the DOEHLG to try and get a reduction on the 20% (€3.23m approx.) equalisation fund of the Local Property Tax that Wicklow County Council pays to other local authorities. Wicklow residents pay their LPT on the basis it is for the provision of local services and as such the removal of 20% from Wicklow County Council has a significant impact on Wicklow's Budget."

It was proposed by Cllr. C. Fox, seconded by Cllr. J. Ruttle and agreed that the Council write to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to meet with a delegation of elected members from Wicklow County Council to discuss the matter in the near future.

6. Notice of motion in the names of Cllrs. D. Nolan and S. Cullen (23.11.2015)

"Proposal to make Glendalough Cemetery wheelchair accessible, with the provision of ramps at the entrance and within the cemetery."

Response circulated:

This matter was previously raised by a number of Wicklow Dail Deputies and reported on in November, 2013. Report from the Wicklow Area Engineer (November, 2013) advised as follows

1. There are two graveyards in question, the old and new cemetery that are located adjacent to each other
2. The area where the two graveyards are located is a listed National Monument under the joint control of the OPW and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.
3. The graveyards are located on the elevated plot of land, which forms the Glendalough Monastic City. The average ground level of the Monastic City is approx 10.00 a.m. above the level of the access roads and footpaths surrounding them; in addition there are numerous stone access steps on all approaches to the graveyards.

Based on the above it is therefore not feasible for the provision of a disabled access to the graveyards from the public road.

At the conclusion of discussion on the matter elected members requested that the matter be referred to the Environment SPC for consideration again, the thinking being that the discussion and report centred around the wording of the motion and that the provision of ramps could be considered at an alternative location rather than at the existing entrance to the cemetery.

7. Notice of motion in the names of the Bray Municipal District members (03.11.2015)

"The members of the Municipal District of Bray have serious concerns regarding the staffing levels in the Bray District. We are calling on the Chief Executive to address this immediately as it is having a negative impact on residents within the District"

L. Gallagher read the response circulated to the elected members on the 18th of May, 2016:-

Response: The following set out the staffing levels for Bray MD as at 31st January, 2016

- 2 Administrative officer
- 1 Senior Staff Officer
- 2 Staff Officers
- 1 Assistant Staff Officer

7 Clerical Officers
1 Senior Executive Engineer
1 Executive Engineer
1 Road Engineer

Currently there is a vacancy for a clerical officer since November, 2015. Bray MD as many other local authorities and public sector bodies, continues to operate with much reduced resources resulting in doing more with less. The staff in Bray MD continue to meet all public demands and provide an ongoing service to its citizens. We are unaware of the negative impact on residents that is referred to by the members of Bray MD.

A discussion ensued wherein elected members from expressed their concern at the lack of staff resources throughout the County. The Chief Executive in response advised that additional staff had been appointed to move the housing construction programme forward funded under the capital programme by the Department, the Council was very much tied into its workforce plan and financial budgets, both for indoor and outdoor staff.

8. Notice of Motion In The Name of former Councillor J. Brady and Cllr. O. O'Brien (22/12/2015)

"That this Council initiates the process of applying for Blue Flag status for Bray Beach."

L. Gallagher read the following response which was circulated to the elected members on the 18th of May, 2016:-

Response: Application for Blue Flag status is made to An Taisce in December of each year. The following criteria must be met in order to qualify for blue flag status:-

- Environmental Education and Information
- Water Quality
- Environmental Management
- Safety and Services

For the years 2012 – 2015 we have had 5 failures in relation to water quality. Blue Flag status requires excellent water quality.

Depending on water quality results during the coming Blue Flag season (2016), it is hoped that we will be in a position to apply for Blue Flag status for Bray Beach for 2017.

It was agreed to defer this item until there was more information available and that it was slightly premature.

9. Notice of motion in the name of Cllr. G. McLoughlin (2.02.2016)

'That Wicklow County Council includes on their website an online application form for planning objections whereby the community could make objections online and pay with their credit or debit card via paypal or some other payment portal.'

The motion was deferred as Cllr. G. McLoughlin was absent from the chamber at the time.

10. Notice of motion in the names of the elected members of Bray MD (22.03.16)

That this Council acts to prevent further flooding of houses on the Upper Dargle Road close to its junction with Fassaroe Estate.

L. Gallagher read the response circulated to the elected members on the 18th of May, 2016.

Response from Bray MD: There is no public storm sewer in the vicinity of this junction. The sewer overflow that occurs here is from the combined sewer from Fassaroe estate. This sewer is in the charge of Irish Water, who have investigated the problem and determined that there is insufficient capacity in the existing sewer network for heavy rainfall events. According to protocol Irish Water does not engage with the Council at Municipal District level. If agreed this Notice of Motion will be referred in the first instance to the next available meeting of Wicklow County Council for consideration. It was agreed to send this notice of motion to Wicklow County Council

Protocol Irish Water: Notice of Motions are formal resolutions from the Full Council and Irish Water has a formal process in place to manage these. Motions that are agreed and passed at the monthly meeting of the Full Council should be sent by the Meetings Administrator/Chief Executives Office, to the Managing Director's office in Irish Water. A formal response will then issue from Irish Water. Irish Water is not in a position to process the additional motions passed by area committees and sub-committees. We would ask that these motions, directly attributable to Irish Water, should be referred in the first instance to the next available meeting of the Full Council for consideration, at which stage they will be processed as above.

Following a brief discussion on the matter, Cllr. N. Lawless proposed the following which was seconded by Cllr. J. Behan and agreed:-

'That Wicklow County Council call on the Minister of the Environment, Community and Local Government to ask Irish Water that they would deal with motions brought forward on local issues that may arise at local municipal district level and that it is not sent on up to County level before action is taken'.

It was also agreed that the matter be referred to Irish Water.

11. Notice of motion in the names of the elected members of Bray MD (22.03.16)

That the Council deals with the ongoing problem of surface and foul water flooding of the stream at Boghall Road/Wheatfield Estate.

L. Gallagher read response circulated to the elected members on the 18th of May, 2016.

Response Bray MD: Foul water is a matter for Irish Water. Apart from occasional ponding due to blocked road gullies there has been no information provided of on-going surface water flooding that the council can act on. According to protocol Irish Water does not engage with the Council at Municipal District level. If agreed this Notice of Motion will be referred in the first instance to the next available meeting of Wicklow County Council for consideration. It was agreed to send this notice of motion to Wicklow County Council

Protocol Irish Water: Notice of Motions are formal resolutions from the Full Council and Irish Water has a formal process in place to manage these. Motions that are agreed and passed at the monthly meeting of the Full Council should be sent by the Meetings Administrator/Chief Executives Office, to the Managing Director's office in Irish Water. A formal response will then issue from Irish Water. Irish Water is not in a position to process the additional motions passed by area committees and sub-committees. We would ask that these motions, directly attributable to Irish Water, should be

referred in the first instance to the next available meeting of the Full Council for consideration, at which stage they will be processed as above.

It was agreed that the matter be referred to Irish Water

12. Notice of motion in the name of elected member Cllr. J. Behan (01.12.15)

That this Council calls on Wicklow County Council to demand that the Department of Transport, the National Roads Authority, An Garda Síochána, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and Wicklow County Council urgently establish a Task Force to resolve the extreme traffic congestion on the M50 currently being experienced by motorists from County Wicklow.

L. Gallagher read response circulated to the elected members on the 18th of May, 2016:-

TII is currently undertaking a study of the M11/N11 corridor to cover a 22km section from the M50/M11 merge to Coynes Cross north of Ashford. This study will incorporate previous reports and studies carried out by the NRA, Wicklow County Council, Bray Town Council and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

A briefing on progress was provided by TII and their consultants in September 2015 at which the objectives of the study were set out as follows:

Identification of the improvements needed to:

- ❖ the M11/N11 mainline and junctions to bring this section of the corridor up to the appropriate standard (motorway or express road) in design year 2030
- ❖ the regional and local road network to support local access and
- ❖ complement the corridor strategy, including the closure of all direct accesses
- ❖ provide the safe daily operation of the M11/N11 mainline and junctions and in the event of the occurrence of incidents

Identification of a phased implementation of improvements such that

- ❖ operational benefits on the corridor can be realised at an early stage
- ❖ without compromising the long term strategy

Identification of potential / appropriate funding streams, e.g. from:

- ❖ European Union
- ❖ Department of Transport Tourism and Sport
- ❖ Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- ❖ National Transport Authority
- ❖ Dun Laoghaire Rathdown and Wicklow County Councils

TII has advised that to date the needs assessment has identified a variety of schemes, these schemes have been developed and they are now being tested to assess their impact in addressing the needs of the M11 / N11 Corridor. The modelling aspect is likely to be complete and TII expect to be in a position to have a draft report for discussion with the key stakeholders (Wicklow Co Co and DLRCC) towards the end of May.

The Cathaoirleach advised that he understood from Minister Harris that the Minister for Transport, Deputy Shane Ross would meet with a delegation from Wicklow County Council. It was also noted that this matter would arise at item 15 on the agenda.

13. Notice of motion in the name of Cllr. John Snell (14.04.16).

'Wicklow County Council calls on Tesco Ireland to withdraw their threat to unilaterally cut pay and conditions of employment for Tesco workers and urges them to meaningfully engage with the Mandate Trade Union and to utilize the state's industrial machinery, the Labour Court, if necessary and to fully implement its recommendations'

Cllr. J. Ryan advised that the company he worked for did business with Tesco Ireland and for that reasons he requested the leas Cathaoirleach to take over chairing the meeting. However discussion on the matter concluded with the elected members agreeing to support the motion.

ITEM NO. 9

To receive a presentation on the 2nd Chief Executive's Report on the County Development Plan 2016-2022

Des O'Brien, Director of Services advised that the presentation today was in relation to the process of the Wicklow County Development Plan, 2016 – 2022. He advised that the members had been circulated with the Chief Executive's Report on Public Consultation on the Draft Plan, and that the document consisted of some 1,800 submissions comprising 53 pages. He advised that there were some 88 amendments proposed by the Chief Executive as a result of the submissions, 75% of which were slight wording improvements, clarifications or technical changes and that he considered that it may be within the capacity of the elected members to deal with plan in one extended meeting. He advised that the members had 12 weeks to consider the Chief Executive's report which would bring the date up to the 15th of August and as the Council doesn't meet in August he suggested that the process commence at Council meeting of the 4th of July and if another meeting is required this can be arranged.

He advised that Municipal District briefings were ongoing and that the planning team are available if any elected members wishes to avail of one to one briefings. He updated the members on the process of the amendments.

The DOS advised that the Planning and Economic Development SPC had discussed the process at their meeting that morning and the proposal is for elected members who wished to make amendments to submit same to the planning department on the Wednesday preceding the relevant Council meeting. This will allow time for the amendment to be printed and maps attached if necessary. Textual changes can be made in red to make it easier for elected members to follow. He advised that amendments from the floor on the day of the meeting can get confusing and the planning team are available to the elected members to assist with the wording of the amendments.

To give an idea of the timeframe involved he advised that if the members consider the amendments at the meeting of the 4th of July, the amendments will be put on display within a period of three weeks for a period of four weeks which will bring the process up to the 22nd of August, following which the chief executives report has to be prepared within a period of four weeks which will bring the process up to the 19th of September. This would mean that the report could be finalised at the first meeting in October or November and at that stage the plan would be in place.

Cllr. V. Blake, chair of the Planning and Economic Development SPC thanked the elected members for the engagement in the process and the staff of the planning department for their advice, assistance and support. He advised that there had been substantial engagement and consultation between the staff and the general public.

Cllr. T. Fortune advised that the view was that the process could be slowed down a bit to allow people more time and proposed that the July meeting should be moved back to the back end of July or the first meeting in September. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. J. Behan.

Councillor P. Vance proposed that the Council proceed with the process at meeting of the 4th of July, 2016, and see what transpires at that meeting, advising that there are a number of meetings to take place at municipal district level which should be completed by then and a lot of the issues will have been addressed. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. C. Fox.

Following a discussion on the matter the proposal put forward by Cllr. T. Fortune and seconded by Councillor J. Behan that the first meeting to consider the amendments take place on the 5th of September, 2016 was put to a vote and following a roll call was defeated by a margin of 5 for, 18 against and 9 not present viz:

FOR: CLLRS J. BEHAN, T. CULLEN, T. FORTUNE, B. THORNHILL AND J. WHITMORE (5)

AGAINST: CLLRS. V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, S. CULLEN, G. DUNNE, P. FITZGERALD, C. FOX, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, N. LAWLESS, S. MATTHEWS, M. MCDONALD, M. MURPHY, D. NOLAN, M. O CONNOR, J. RUTTLE, J. RYAN, P. VANCE AND G. WALSH (18)

NOT PRESENT: CLLRS. T. ANNESLEY, P. DORAN, M. MCDONALD, D. MITCHELL, O O BRIEN, G. O NEILL, J. SNELL, E. TIMMINS AND I. WINTERS (9)

The proposal put forward by Cllr. P. Vance and seconded by Cllr. C. Fox to commence consideration of the Chief Executive report on submissions take place at Council meeting to be held on Monday the 4th of July, 2016 and if necessary at a meeting subsequent, was then put to a vote and passed by a margin of 18 votes for, 5 against and 9 not present viz:

FOR: CLLRS. V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, S. CULLEN, G. DUNNE, P. FITZGERALD, C. FOX, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, N. LAWLESS, S. MATTHEWS, M. MCDONALD, M. MURPHY, D. NOLAN, M. O CONNOR, J. RUTTLE, J. RYAN, P. VANCE AND G. WALSH (18)

AGAINST: CLLRS J. BEHAN, T. CULLEN, T. FORTUNE, B. THORNHILL AND J. WHITMORE (5)

NOT PRESENT: CLLRS. T. ANNESLEY, P. DORAN, M. MCDONALD, D. MITCHELL, O O BRIEN, G. O NEILL, J. SNELL, E. TIMMINS AND I. WINTERS (9)

Cllr. T. Cullen proposed that the meeting of the 4th of July, 2016 commence at 10.00 a.m. and finish no later than 6.p.m., The proposal was seconded by Cllr. J. Behan and agreed.

The Cathaoirleach adjourned the meeting at 1.30 pm. To reconvene at 2.30 p.m.

ITEM NO. 10

To receive a presentation: Introduction of Pay by Weight for Waste Collections

Ms. Joanne O'Dowd, Senior Executive Engineer, Wicklow County Council gave a presentation to the Elected Members on Introduction of Pay by Weight for Waste Collections covering the following areas:-

- The objective
- National policy
- Household waste management
- Charges/bag collections

- 20 key tasks

A briefing note, 'Pay by Weight, National Awareness Campaign' was circulated to the members.

Following the presentation Ms. O Dowd responded to the queries raised by the elected members.

Question submitted by Cllr. S. Bourke:

Q: Could the council make a statement concerning the media reports of the impact the discovery of asbestos in a local quarry at Ballinclare might have on our community as there may be a public health issue to be addressed.

Response:

Mr. Michael Boland, Environmental Scientist, Wicklow County Council, responded to the question with the following information:-

Kilsaran International recently discovered some naturally occurring asbestos within rock that they had broken at the Ballinclare Quarry.

Kilsaran then closed the quarry as a matter of precaution and informed Wicklow County Council, the Health & Safety Authority (HSA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Health Services Executive (HSE). Kilsaran also informed local residents.

Kilsaran has engaged consultants to monitor the environmental status of the quarry area. The initial results of the air sampling indicate that there were no asbestos fibres detected. The air and dust monitoring is ongoing.

In addition, Kilsaran's records indicate that some of this material was delivered to a number of sites in south Dublin and north Wicklow. Each of these sites has been inspected by Kilsaran's consultants and the HSA and air and soil samples collected.

The material in all of these sites has been covered and secured. This material will be removed back to its original source in the quarry by specialist contractors working to methodologies approved by the HSA.

The naturally occurring asbestos rock in the quarry will be covered and managed under the terms of a license to be issued by the EPA.

The response was noted by the elected members.

ITEM NO. 11

To note the Annual Financial Statement 2015

Elected members noted the Annual Financial Statement for 2015 as circulated.

ITEM NO. 12

To note The Draft Annual Report 2015 (copy enclosed)

Elected members noted the draft annual report 2015 as circulated.

ITEM NO. 13

To note monthly management reports of Wicklow County Council, May, 2016

Elected members noted the monthly management reports of Wicklow County Council for May, 2016.

ITEM NO. 14

To receive presentation on The New Children's Hospital on a campus shared with St. James's Hospital

- 1. Connolly for Kids Group**
- 2. The Children's Hospital Group**

At the outset the Cathaoirleach reminded the elected members of the motion which was put before the Council and which prior to considering the elected members had requested more information in relation to the issue. He read out the motion to the members:-

'The Members of Wicklow County Council call on the Minister for Health to reverse the decision to locate the National Children's Hospital at St. James's Hospital and locate the new Children's Hospital for all the children of Ireland at Connolly Hospital Blanchardstown. The Connolly site offers 145 acres vast space for expansion, easier access for the children of Wicklow and extensive parking , the co-location with Connolly Hospital and the new Rotunda Maternity Hospital will result in better clinical outcomes, it will be cheaper and faster to build than on the St James's site'

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Dr. Fin Breathnach and Mr. David Hall to the chamber representing the Connolly for Kids Group and also Ms. Eilish Hardiman, CEO of the Children's Hospital Group (comprising Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin, Temple Street Hospital and the National Children's Hospital at Tallaght) and Mr. Phelim Devine, Design Director/Deputy Project Director, National Paediatric Hospital Development Board representing the Children's Hospital Group.

Dr. Fin Breathnach made a very comprehensive and informative presentation to the elected members highlighting the concerns in relation to the proposed site at St. James. Both Ms. Hardiman and Mr. Devine gave a very comprehensive and informative presentation on the proposed new Children's Hospital at St. James's.

Following the presentations the Cathaoirleach thanked the representatives from both groups and a broad discussion took place in relation to the matter. At the conclusion of the discussion the motion was put to a vote and following a roll resulted as follows:-

FOR: CLLRS G. DUNNE, M. KAVANAGH, N. LAWLESS, M. MCDONALD, O O BRIEN, M. O CONNOR, J. SNELL, G. WALSH AND J. WHITMORE (9)

AGAINST: CLLRS. J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, P. FITZGERALD, S. MATTHEWS, D. MITCHELL. J. RUTTLE, J. RYAN, P. VANCE AND I. WINTERS (9)

NOT PRESENT; CLLRS T. ANNESLEY, T. CULLEN, P. DORAN, C. FOX, G. MCLOUGHLIN, D. NOLAN AND E. TIMMINS (7)

ABSTAINING: CLLRS. S. BOURKE, S. CULLEN, T. FORTUNE, P. KENNEDY, M. MURPHY, G. O NEILL AND B. THORNHILL (7)

The Cathaoirleach did not exercise his casting vote opting to leave the vote stand.

ITEM NO. 15

To receive a presentation from the National Transport Authority: Mr. Hugh Creegan, Deputy CEO, NTA (Ministers Harris, Doyle and Deputies Donnelly, Casey and Brady have been invited to attend for this item)

The Cathaoirelach welcomed Mr. Hugh Creegan, Deputy CEO of the NTA to present on the item. He also welcomed Deputies Andrew Doyle, J. Brady, S. Donnelly and P. Casey to the meeting.

In presenting to the meeting Mr. Creegan advised that he understood that the two significant concerns for Wicklow County Council are (1) The Luas Link to Fassaroe and (2) the restrictions that the transport strategy may place on employment growth in County Wicklow. He said that he would concentrate his presentation around these two areas rather than going through the entire strategy.

He made the following points:-

- Overview of the existing Luas green line from Bride's Glen to St. Stephen's Green
- The Luas Cross City at the north end of the route due to open later in the year.
- Metro north will not be complete until about 2026 or 2027 and it will be sometime after that the metro south will be complete.
- While the capacity to extend the green line further southwards is not available at present this does not mean that development at Fassaroe cannot proceed.
- Nothing in the transport strategy says that development cannot proceed at Fassaroe.
- In the absence of the capacity to extend the Luas out to Fassaroe, public transport serving that development will have to be bus based.
- In relation to employment, there are no targets or limits stated in the transport strategy in relation to future employment in any of the GDA counties, including Wicklow, there are no employment numbers of any type stated in the transport strategy, there is nothing in the transport strategy therefore that seeks to limit Wicklow from growing its employment levels.
- He explained in relation to the computer simulation model (transport model) used to forecast likely transport patterns in the future. The model is only used for appraisal purposes and doesn't form part of the transport strategy itself and therefore doesn't limit County Wicklow from achieving its employment targets.

Elected members made the following contributions to the discussion:-

- Concern expressed that the plan for the Luas to Fassaroe appears to have disappeared, a key point in building Fassaroe was to use the Luas and help other areas of Wicklow interchange there.
- Wicklow has been very badly served, reference made to the Dublin Transportation Initiative which concentrated on the centre of Dublin instead of the whole area.
- The existing rush hour four carriage diesel train should be increased to 8, however Irish Rail say it cannot be done. The bus services seem little improved.
- The outer orbital route should continue to the coast if County Wicklow is to have a proper system of transport.
- Where does the NTA see their role in relation to the single trackway into Wicklow which is in danger of encroachment by the sea.
- The feeling in County Wicklow is that the NTA appear to be more supportive of DunLaoghaire/Rathdown, Cherrywood and Carrickmines and that there is opposition in relation to Fassaroe, which is a vital cog in the wheel to meet the population growth and employment growth in the north of the County.
- Reference made to the traffic jams, morning and evening on the M11/N11 merge at Bray

Mr. Creegan responded to the issues raised.

At the conclusion of the discussion the Cathaoirleach stated that it was very important that there is dialogue between Wicklow County Council and the NTA and that he hoped that the Minister for Transport Minister Shane Ross will meet with a deputation from Wicklow County Council very shortly.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

**CLLR. JOHN RYAN
CATHAOIRLEACH
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

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

