

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY BUILDINGS, WICKLOW ON MONDAY 5<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2018, COMMENCING 2PM**

**PRESENT:**

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

**APOLOGIES:**

CLLRS. S. CULLEN, C. FOX, M. O'CONNOR AND CLLR. J. RUTTLE.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

MR. F. CURRAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
MR. S. QUIRKE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MR. T. MURPHY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MR. D. O'BRIEN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MR. B. GLEESON, HEAD OF FINANCE  
MS. B. KILKENNY, SENIOR ENGINEER  
MS. L. GALLAGHER, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR  
MR. F. KEOGH, SENIOR ENGINEER  
MS. S. BARRETT, ARCHITECT  
MS. C. FLOOD, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
MS. H. DENNEHY, A/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MS. J. CARROLL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
MR. D. MARNANE, A/SENIOR ENGINEER  
MS. D. MCGUIRE, EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
MS. B. HARVEY, EXECUTIVE PLANNER  
MS. L. ROTHWELL, ASSISTANT PLANNER  
MS. L. EARLS, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
MR. D. PORTER, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
MR. D. KEYES, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
MR. C. O'BRIEN, ARCHITECT  
MR. T. HUGHES, IT SUPPORT

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**Votes of Sympathy**

Elected Members passed a vote of sympathy to the families of the late Mrs. Elizabeth Wolohan, Mr. George Cardiff, Mr. Robin Jordan, Ms. Margaret Moore, Mrs. Hayes (Kiltegan), Mrs. Pauline Cleary, Mr. Ronan Murray and Mrs. Mary Healy. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

**Suspension of Standing Orders**

Cllr. J. Behan requested a Suspension of Standing Orders to discuss the situation at Ravenswell and Colaiste Raithin in Bray and the issue of the schools which Cllr. Behan said are almost complete but cannot be accessed. The elected members agreed to hear this matter at 4.30 p.m.

Cllr. B. Thornhill requested that an issue regarding the Chinese New Year be discussed at Item No. 5. Chief Executives Report.

It was proposed by the Cathaoirleach, seconded by Cllr. J. Ryan and agreed to discuss Item 3, as the Chairman and members of the Audit Committee were present in the Chamber.

**ITEM NO. 3****To receive Annual Report 2017 from the Wicklow County Council Audit Committee**

Present: Mr. Tom Gregan, Chairman  
Mr. Noel Geraghty, Vice Chairman  
Ms. Mary Savage, Committee Member

Mr. Tom Gregan, Chairman of the committee presented the Wicklow County Council Audit Committee – Annual Progress Report for the period up to the 31<sup>st</sup> of December, 2017 which was circulated to the elected members as follows:-

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**To the Cathaoirleach & Each Member of Wicklow County Council****RE: WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL AUDIT COMMITTEE – ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE PERIOD UP TO THE 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2017**

Dear Councillor,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Council here today on the work of the Wicklow County Council Audit Committee for the twelve month period up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017.

As you are aware, the scale, complexity and diversity of Local Government business as well as the need for transparency and accountability in local authorities serves to highlight the importance of regularly reviewing the effectiveness of the internal financial and operating controls that are in place.

The Wicklow County Council Audit Committee was initially established in 2007 under the Local Government (Business Improvement Districts) Act 2005 and was re-established after the May 2014 local elections.

The membership of this committee comprises:

- Mr. Tom Gregan, Chairman
- Mr. Noel Geraghty, Vice Chairman
- Ms. Mary Savage
- Cllr. Edward Timmins
- Cllr. Gerry Walsh
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The committee is supported and assisted by Mr. Brian Gleeson, Head of Finance, Mr. D. Keyes and Mr. T. Murphy and meets on a formal basis 5/6 times per year.

In addition to the formal meetings, the Audit Committee members also attend other meetings in relation to their busy programme of work.

The role of the Audit Committee is to advise the Council on financial reporting processes, internal controls, risk management and audit matters.

The functions of the Audit Committee include:

- To foster the development of best practice in the performance by the local authority of its internal audit function
- To review the financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the local authority
- To review any audited financial statement, auditor's report or auditor's special report in relation to the local authority and assess any actions taken within that authority by its Chief Executive in response to such a statement or report and report its findings to the authority
- To review systems that are operated by the Local Authority for the management of risks
- To assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the Local Authority's performance of its functions
- To review the findings and recommendations of the National Oversight & Audit Commission (NOAC) and the response of the Chief Executive to these and to take further actions as appropriate

### **Internal Audit Assignments for 2017**

In early 2016 Capita Business Services Limited were engaged by Wicklow County Council to support the staff of the Internal Audit Unit. This arrangement ceased in the summer of 2017 due to the withdrawal of Capita from the market. The Committee wishes to record its appreciation for the professional expertise brought to the process by Capita and to acknowledge the benefit to the Audit Committee and the Council by their input during their engagements.

All audits are assigned an "Assurance Rating" which is an objective assessment of the control environment operating in the area under review. Assurance ratings and their significance are categorised under four headings as follows

**Substantial** – There is a robust system of risk management, control and governance which should ensure that objectives are fully achieved

**Satisfactory** – There is an adequate and effective system of governance, risk management and control. Any residual risk should not significantly impact on the achievement of objectives

**Limited** – There is an inadequate and/or ineffective system of governance, risk management and control in place

**Unacceptable** – The system of governance, risk management and control has failed or there is a real and substantial risk that the system will fail to meet its objectives

The following audits were undertaken during the course of 2017:

#### **1. Review of Community Grants Scheme**

The purpose of the review was to examine record and evaluate the systems of internal control and to make recommendations where this is deemed necessary and appropriate. The review addressed risks related to the completeness, accuracy, recording and regularity of the Council's expenditure under the Scheme.

The overall assurance classification rating of this review was "Limited". Eight recommendations were made in the report all of which were promptly implemented by management

## 2. Information & Communications Technology / Business Continuity

The objective of this audit is to review the following control objectives

- To ensure that roles and responsibilities within the ICT Sections are clearly allocated and appropriately resourced
- To ensure that the technical systems and the physical environment are fit for purpose
- To ensure that IT Security is robust in preventing unauthorised access to systems and data
- To ensure that systems and data are stored effectively and appropriately backed up
- To ensure adequate contingency arrangements for disaster recovery and business continuity

The overall assurance classification rating of this review was “Limited”. Thirteen recommendations were made in the report. Some of the recommendations have been implemented. It is noted that additional staff resources have been assigned to the Department in recent months which will contribute further to achieving the improvements required.

## 3. Motor Tax

The purpose of the review was to examine record and evaluate the systems of internal control established by the Council’s management in the Motor Tax Offices and to make recommendations for improvement where this is deemed necessary or desirable.

The fieldwork visits focussed on assessing the controls in place in respect of security of cash and the stocks of vehicles licence discs, receipts and other official stationary held. The objective of the report was to ensure that the Council has implemented a robust and effective financial control framework in accordance with best practice.

The overall assurance classification rating of this review was “Satisfactory”. The Motor Tax Offices operate within a strong control environment. The Motor Tax System imposes strict protocols on the manner in which stock is issued and dictates the manner in which transactions are carried out. Appropriate daily lodgement procedures and reconciliations are in operation. Professional Cash in Transit services provide secure transfer of lodgement amounts.

The staff of all three offices are aware of the importance of their tasks and are very courteous and experienced in dealing with the members of the public. There is acute awareness around the security of cash and the physical security measures reflect this.

## 4. Risk Management Process

The scope of this report was to review the adequacy of the risk assessment process. To consider the effectiveness and completeness of the operational, managerial and strategic risk analysis process. To assess the embeddedness of enterprise wide risk management and to identify if the responsibilities for risk profiling, risk strategy, risk policy and risk supervision are clearly defined and understood.

The overall assurance classification rating of this review was “Limited”. Four recommendations were made. Management have agreed with the recommendations and timelines for their implementation throughout 2018 have been set out.

## **5. Report to National Oversight & Audit Commission – Public Spending Code Quality Assurance Report**

Internal Audit in collaboration with the Procurement Section completed a Quality Assurance Report as part of Wicklow County Council’s compliance with the Public Spending Code (PSC).

The Public Spending Code requires that a number of projects are selected to be reviewed more intensively. The report submitted included “In-Depth Checks” on the following areas.

### **(a) Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)**

This review determined that the operation of the Rental Accommodation Scheme in Wicklow County Council was being administered efficiently and effectively and in accordance with the tenets of the Public Spending Code. Appropriate procedures governing the scheme are in place covering areas such as applications and assessments. The financial procedures in effect offer substantial assurance that receipts and payments and the recoupment process are being correctly administered. Arrears cases can be difficult to manage and the importance of early intervention cannot be overstated.

### **(b) River Dargle Flood Defence Scheme**

The River Dargle Flood Defence Scheme is a key infrastructural project for the town of Bray. The scheme is being implemented and governed in accordance with the tenets of the Public Spending Code.

Appropriate appraisal of the scheme was conducted as evidenced by the Environmental Impact Statement. In addition the Cost Benefit Analysis provides an economic assessment of the costs and benefits of the scheme and in so doing highlights the economic justification for the scheme. On-going and contemporaneous monitoring and evaluation of the scheme’s implementation is met through the comprehensive monthly management reports that are prepared.

The appropriate documentation and data is available for any future evaluation of the Scheme.

The future efficacy of the scheme will be determined over time. Appropriate monitoring and empirical methods should be employed to gather and evaluate the data and thus the contribution of the scheme. A post project review should take place in a reasonable timeframe as per the Public Spending Code requirement, to assess whether the scheme objectives have been met.

The processes and procedures employed on the scheme satisfy the requirements set out for the management of public expenditure. Accordingly this review concludes that manner in which the scheme is being implemented provides Substantial Assurance that there is compliance with the Public Spending Code

## **Annual Audit Plan**

The Annual Audit Plan sets out the proposed assignments for the coming year. The plan has been finalised following consultation with the Chief Executive, Directors of Service/Heads of Function and the list of assignments reflects the ongoing objectives of achieving efficiencies in our processes, adding value, assessing compliance and contributing towards the organisations strategic objectives. Progress on these assignments will be reported to the Council in due course. A tender process is under way at time of writing

with a view to engaging a suitable service provider to assist with the delivery of the 2018 internal audit work programme.

### **Meeting with the Local Government Auditor**

We were pleased to welcome Mr. Maurice O'Neill, Local Government Auditor to our December meeting.

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Statutory Audit Report 2016 from the Local Government Auditor in advance of the meeting. The Local Government Auditor outlined the main elements of the Statutory Audit Report 2016 to the committee.

Following a general discussion on the matter, the Audit Committee agreed to give the Statutory Audit Report further consideration at a meeting that took place last month. In this regard, I wish to confirm that the Report's contents, Management's responses and follow up actions will inform the Audit Committee's work programme in the year ahead.

**Procurement:** The Members will be aware that good procurement practices are crucial from a transparency and efficiency perspective. In this regard, the Audit Committee has been a strong advocate for continual improvements to the Council's procurement practices and procedures.

At our December meeting, Ms. Fiona Flynn, Procurement Officer, made a presentation to the Audit Committee on this issue and we note and welcome the significant progress made by the Council in this area. The Audit Committee will of course continue to highlight the importance of good procurement practices

**Training Day:** Regulation 5 of the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014, requires that the training needs of the Audit Committee are reviewed on an annual basis and reported to the local authority. I can advise the members that a training day was arranged in October in collaboration with the Institute of Public Administration. The key themes addressed were

- the responsibilities of Audit Committees,
- developing key relationships,
- audit committee evaluation
- risk management

**Conclusion:** We would also like to thank you, the Members of Wicklow County Council for your ongoing support and assistance. We would like to acknowledge the help and advice that we received from the former Chief Executive, Mr. Bryan Doyle, as well as from the new Chief Executive, Mr. Frank Curran.

We would also like to thank the outgoing A/Head of Finance, Ms. Debbie Cromie for all her advice and assistance during her tenure.

We would like to place on record, our thanks to the Internal Audit Unit for their support and assistance over the last twelve months.

In addition, we would like to thank Mr. Maurice O'Neill, Local Government Auditor, for all his advice and assistance.

We would like to assure the Council that the Audit Committee will continue to focus on important matters such as value for money, promoting good accounting practices and ensuring better and more informed decision making.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Audit Committee to wish the new Chief Executive, Mr. Frank Curran and the new Head of Finance, Mr. Brian Gleeson, every success for the future. We look forward to working with both of you in the years ahead.

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**TOM GREGAN,**  
**CHAIRMAN**  
**Wicklow County Council Audit Committee**  
**5th February 2018**

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At the conclusion of the presentation the Elected Members made the following contributions and expressed their views which were responded to by the Committee and the Executive:

- Mr. B. Gleeson, Head of Finance responded to a query raised in relation to the replacement of Capita Business Services following the expiration of the contract in respect of which a tender has issued seeking a replacement service provider.
- The Cathaoirleach advised that the success of the work of the Audit Committee depended largely on the resources available to it and urged Council Management, going forward, to ensure that there are good support resources in place. He also drew attention to the reference to NOAC within the report and asked Management to examine how County Wicklow is benefitting and identify areas where there can be improvements.
- In response to the two issues raised,(1) Review of the Community Grants Scheme and (2) IT Business continuity, the Chief Executive advised that the Council will be examining post project review and the selection criteria in relation to the community grants scheme and that resources have been put in place in ICT and that all of the items raised in the audit report have been followed through on.
- Mr. B. Gleeson, Head of Finance, responded to queries raised in relation to percentage rate collection and vacancy write offs etc.

#### **ITEM NO 1**

**To consider report in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2006 (as amended) in respect of the proposed development of 47 housing units at Delany Park, Meadowvale, Arklow, Co Wicklow.**

Elected Members were circulated with report of Mr. Joe Lane, Director of Services, Housing and Corporate Estate, regarding the proposed development of 47 housing units at Delany Park, Arklow, Meadowvale, Arklow, Co. Wicklow on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 : Planning and Development Regulations 2001 – 2006, as amended.

Mr. Joe Lane, DOS, advised that having regard to the number of observations received Mr. Ciaran O'Brien, Architect would make a presentation in relation to the demand patterns, details of the changes and the rationale behind the changes covering areas such as; unit design, social housing need in Arklow, the design of the scheme, planning stages and communications received.

Following a broad discussion on the matter, it was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. T. Annesley and agreed, by a margin of 25 votes for and 7 not present, to proceed with the development as set out in the report circulated subject to the amendment that there be no through road via Delany Park from the existing Meadowvale Estate, if this is technically feasible as detailed by the Director of Services.

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>FOR (25)</b>        | <b>CLLRS. T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, G. DUNNE, P. DORAN, P. FITZGERALD, T. FORTUNE, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, N. LAWLESS, E. TIMMINS, S. MATTHEWS, M. MCDONALD, G. MCLOUGHLIN, D. MITCHELL, M. MURPHY, D. NOLAN, O. O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, J. SNELL, B. THORNHILL, P. VANCE, G. WALSH, J. WHITMORE AND I. WINTERS (25)</b> |
| <b>NOT PRESENT (7)</b> | <b>CLLRS. S. BOURKE, S. CULLEN, T. CULLEN, C. FOX, M. O'CONNOR, J. RUTTLE AND J. RYAN (7)</b>   |

#### **ITEM NO 2**

**To consider report in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2006 (as amended) in respect of the proposed development of 1 housing unit at 16A Oak Drive, Blessington, Co. Wicklow.**

The Elected Members were circulated with report of Mr. Joe Lane, Director, Housing and Corporate Estate, in respect of the proposed development of 1 housing unit at 16A Oak Drive, Blessington, Co. Wicklow. It was proposed by Cllr. G. O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. V. Blake, and agreed by a margin of 22 votes for, and 10 not present to proceed with the development as set out in the report circulated viz:-

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>FOR (22)</b>         | <b>CLLRS T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, S BOURKE, P. DORAN, G. DUNNE, P. FITZGERALD, T. FORTUNE, M KAVANAGH, N. LAWLESS, S. MATTHEWS, M. MCDONALD, G. MCLOUGHLIN, D MITCHELL, M. MURPHY, D. NOLAN, O O BRIEN, G. O NEILL, J. SNELL, B. THORNHILL, E. TIMMINS. P. VANCE AND I WINTERS (22)</b> |
| <b>NOT PRESENT (10)</b> | <b>CLLRS. S. BOURKE, S. CULLEN, T. CULLEN, T. FORTUNE, P. KENNEDY, M. O CONNOR, J. RUTTLE, J. RYAN, G. WALSH AND J. WHITMORE</b>  |

#### **ITEM NO .4**

**To receive presentation from Mr. Jim Conway and Mr. Malachy Bradley: Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.**

Mr. Jim Conway, Director EMRA and Mr. Malachy Bradley, Senior Planner gave a joint presentation to the Elected Members on the role of the ERMA and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy covering the following areas and which was circulated to the Elected members

#### **Content**

- Our Region
- What we do, Who we are
- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSES), Process and timelines
- Issues Paper, Key Questions

#### **What we do?**

- Manage Regional Operational Programmes
- Strategic planning and sustainable development of the regions
- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies . Statutory observations on local authority development plans and variations
- Irish Regions Office in Brussels



- Committee of Regions Secretariat

**Who are the EMRA?** The **Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly** covers 12 local authority areas and includes the county councils of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, Kildare, Laois, Longford, Louth, Meath, Offaly, South Dublin, Westmeath and Wicklow and the city council of Dublin. It has 38 elected members.

#### **NPF - Ireland 2040**

- Business as Usual – ESRI Model Divergence of population and economic growth ¼ Dublin generated
- NPF National Growth Targets
  - 1 million people
  - 25% aged over 65
  - 660,000 more jobs
  - Minimum 500,000 more homes
- Regional Parity scenario
- 50% in 5 cities / 66% with large towns
- 15% in rural areas outside of urban influence

#### **Context - What is an RSES?**

- Strategic policy document to set out a vision for the development of the region over the next 12 -20 years to 2030
- Support the implementation of the NPF and 10 year National Investment Plan
- Sets the framework for local planning and economic development
- RSES will consider; Employment, Housing, Retail, Transport, Infrastructure, Environment and Heritage, landscape, Sustainable development and climate change etc.
- It will include.....

**Spatial strategy** - Support the NPF in determining the optimum spatial distribution across;

- Cities,
- Towns,
- Rural communities for the future location of population growth, housing and employment along with supporting infrastructure and services.

#### **Economic strategy**

- Stronger role in economic development - combining spatial strategy with economic strategy
- Boost competitiveness and drive regional development and employment opportunities
- Aligned with the LECs and Regional Action Plan for Jobs
- Build on regional strengths to facilitate effective regional development
- Place making to create places that are attractive to live, work, study, visit and invest in.

#### **Metropolitan Area Plan**

- 12 year strategic planning and investment framework :
- Development patterns and strategic growth locations
- Strategic infrastructure – transport and water
- Location of housing, employment and regeneration areas
- Regional amenities incl. parks, walking and cycling networks

#### **Transport Strategy**

- Integrated spatial strategy for roads, public transport and green modes of travel
- Working with NTA to define commuter patterns, mode shares and trip profiles for settlements across the region
- Statutory requirements for RSES to be consistent with transport strategy throughout process

### Issues Paper

- Initial consultation period between 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 and 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018
- High level document to inform submissions and frame debate [www.emra.ie/rses](http://www.emra.ie/rses)
- Regional profile and evidence baseline informed the identification of strategic issues and key questions [www.emra.ie/maps](http://www.emra.ie/maps)
- First step in an year long process that will involve extensive stakeholder engagement.

### What kind of region do we want to see in 2030?

- **What kind of society do we want?** (multi cultural, inclusive, engaged)
- **Where will we live?** (choice of affordable, quality housing)
- **What are successful places?** (clean, safe urban spaces and thriving rural communities)
- **What services and amenities will we need?** (access to shops, healthcare, social supports, education, community and leisure facilities, broadband)
- **How do we ensure a healthy environment?** (clean air and water, access to nature, human health and wellbeing)
- **What kind of jobs do we want?** (high quality, well paid, secure)
- **How will we travel?** (car, public transport, walking and cycling)
- **How do we live more sustainably?** (energy, heating, transport, food)

### Public Consultation

Wednesday 20th November 2017 and 5pm on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2018.

At the conclusion of the presentation the Cathaoirleach advised to two main concerns he had in relation to the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES), one being the exclusion of social need contained within the Wicklow County Development Plan and which he considered to be very important, particularly for people who needed to live beside elderly parents. The other related to population targets and the restriction of populations for rural towns and larger towns by 15%. He gave the example that Dunlavin could only increase by 60 people between 2016 and 2028.

Elected Members made the following contributions/expressed the following concerns:-

- Where does access and disability feature in the strategy?
- Transport links viewed as an important aspect of the strategy for County Wicklow
- Strategy appears to focus on urban areas and appears to have no regard for the rural communities
- When is it proposed to have the Draft Plan issued and will it be a statutory document when produced?
- How is it proposed to develop a transport strategy if it is not known whether transport infrastructure projects such as the Luas to Bray or a DART underground are to get the go ahead?
- Reference to climate change in the issues papers viewed as disappointing and view expressed that everything within Plan needs to be proofed against climate change.

- Wicklow has expanded rapidly as a result of the population targets and a large number of housing units have been built in Greystones, Netownmountkennedy and Kilcoole which result in a much large commuter demand. Reference made to the rail line which is expensive to run, hardly used and has the worst service into Dublin of any rail line in the Greater Dublin Region.
- Reference also made to the massive congestion on the N11, concern expressed that the National Plan will redirect growth to Cork and other places away from the Greater Dublin area which will attract investment into those areas and the expansion currently underway in County Wicklow will be ignored and the funds directed towards other regions.
- Concern expressed in relation to limiting people living in rural areas
- Reference made to schools in rural areas struggling to hold onto teachers and to stay open and the proposal of restricting growth by 15% will make things extremely difficult
- View expressed that it is good to see that population growth is being examined and if it is proposed to increase the population in North Wicklow for example then support infrastructure and industry needs to be planned.
- View expressed that it is important to get the balance right between the numbers to be included in cities and towns and then the rural areas to allow the rural areas to thrive. View expressed that the City of Dublin should have grown up, instead of out and that consequently Meath, Kildare and Wicklow have been taking the brunt of houses over the last 25 or 30 years with no other economic benefits
- Reference made to West Wicklow and that there is no mention of it and an explanation to the decision on suspending indefinitely the works to the N81 requested.
- View expressed that cities such as Limerick and Cork should be supported to develop and grow and challenge Dublin for investment
- Query as to the status of Municipal District Plans and the County Development Plans when the Plan is drawn up and the guidelines agreed.
- View expressed that National Government should be looking at developing a new seat of government more accessible to the country and Athlone suggested as a place this could happen.
- View expressed that the National Planning Framework will kill off rural Ireland

Mr. Jim Conway, Director ERMA, responded to the queries raised. In doing so he explained that the National Planning Framework is the higher order document and stands alone. The next tier in the process is the RESS. He advised that he considered the bottom-up approach important, working with the people and representing local views. He said that the work of EMRA is to ensure that there are no gaps in the Issues Paper and to come forward with the Strategy in draft form to Assembly members which then will be presented for a broader level of engagement.

Mr. Malachy Bradley, EMRA, also responding to issues raised advised that EMRA would welcome submissions from Wicklow County Council, that they are open for consultation and are happy to engage outside of the consultation process which finishes on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February, 2018.

The Chief Executive advised that the Council will be making a submission both as the Executive and on behalf of the Councillors in relation to the issue of the population increases. He advised that it is a real issue and is very significant in terms of the Wicklow County Development Plan in terms of planning for schools etc.

The discussion then concluded.

**Time Extension:** A time extension was agreed to 5.30pm. Also on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach it was agreed to consider items 6 and 9 as they both related to Planning.

### **ITEM NO 6**

**To consider the proposed material alterations of the draft Arklow and Environs Local Area Plan 2018-2024 and the Chief Executive's report on submissions made to the proposed material alterations to the draft plan (previously circulated): To make the Arklow and Environs Local Area Plan 2018 to 2024.**

Elected Members were circulated with the Chief Executive's report on submission made to the proposed material alterations to the draft plan and document dated the 5<sup>th</sup> of February, 2018 Arklow and Environs Local Area Plan, 2018.

| PMA No. | Description                    | CE Recommendation | Comment  | Proposer          | Seconded            | Decision          |
|---------|--------------------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1       | Population/housing figures     | Proceed           |  | Cllr. M. McDonald | Cllr. P. Fitzgerald | Agreed            |
| 2       | Coolboy Residential downzoning | Proceed           |  | Cllr. T. Annesley | Cllr. P. Fitzgerald | Agreed            |
| 3       | Moneylittle R20 to T           | Not Proceed       |  | Cllr. T. Annesley | Cllr. M. McDonald   | Agreed to proceed |
| 4       | Yellow Lane LSS & E1 to R28    | Proceed           |  | Cllr. T. Annesley | Cllr. P. Kennedy    | Agreed            |
| 5       | Seabank Res & E1               | Not Proceed       | It was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. S. Bourke and agreed by a margin of 19 votes for, 1 against, 11 not present and 1 abstaining to proceed with the material alteration viz:- |                   |                     |                   |

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>FOR (19)</b>        | <b>CLLRS. T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, P. DORAN, P. FITZGERALD, D. NOLAN, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, N. LAWLESS, M. MCDONALD, G. MCLOUGHLIN, M. MURPHY, O. O'BRIEN, B. THORNHILL, E. TIMMINS, P. VANCE, G. WALSH AND I. WINTERS.</b> |
| <b>NOT PRESENT(11)</b> | <b>CLLRS. S. CULLEN, T. CULLEN, G. DUNNE, T. FORTUNE, C. FOX, D. MITCHELL, M. O'CONNOR, G. O'NEILL, J. RUTTLE, J. RYAN AND J. SNELL.</b>  |
| <b>AGAINST (1)</b>     | <b>CLLR. S. MATTHEWS.</b>   |
| <b>ABSTAINING (1)</b>  | <b>CLLR. J. WHITMORE</b>  |

| PMA No. | Description           | CE Recommendation | Comment   | Proposer            | Seconded        | Decision          |
|---------|-----------------------|-------------------|---|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 6       | Killinskyduff RE & E1 | Not Proceed       |   | Cllr. P. Fitzgerald | Cllr. M. Murphy | Agreed to proceed |
| 7       | Shelton E1            | Not Proceed       | It was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. P. Kennedy and agreed by a margin of 18 votes for, 1 against, 11 not present and 2 abstaining to proceed with the material alteration viz:- |                     |                 |                   |

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>FOR (18)</b>         | <b>CLLRS. T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, P. DORAN, P. FITZGERALD, D. NOLAN, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, N. LAWLESS, M. MCDONALD, G. MCLOUGHLIN, M. MURPHY, O. O'BRIEN, E. TIMMINS, P. VANCE, G. WALSH AND I. WINTERS.</b> |
| <b>NOT PRESENT (11)</b> | <b>CLLRS. S. CULLEN, T. CULLEN, G. DUNNE, T. FORTUNE, C. FOX, D. MITCHELL, M. O'CONNOR, G. O'NEILL, J. RUTTLE, J. RYAN AND J. SNELL.</b>  |
| <b>AGAINST (1)</b>      | <b>CLLR. S. MATTHEWS.</b>   |
| <b>ABSTAINING (2)</b>   | <b>CLLRS. B. THORNHILL AND J. WHITMORE</b>  |

| PMA No. | Description  | CE Recommendation          | Comment | Proposer          | Seconded            | Decision                                     |
|---------|--|----------------------------|---------|-------------------|---------------------|--|
| 8       | (a), (b), (c) and (d) roads objectives                               | Proceed                    |         | Cllr. M. Murphy   | Cllr. T. Annesley   | Agreed                                       |
| 9       | (a), (b) & (c) roads objectives, map & Port access road at Roadstone | Proceed                    |         | Cllr. M. Murphy   | Cllr. M. McDonald   | Agreed                                       |
| 10      | Arklow marsh enhance objective                                       | Proceed                    |         | Cllr. M. Murphy   | Cllr. M. McDonald   | Agreed                                       |
| 11      | AAP zoned MU   | Not Proceed                |         | Cllr. S. Bourke   | Cllr. P. Fitzgerald | Agreed to proceed                            |
| 12      | Extractive Ind description   | Proceed                    |         | Cllr. M. McDonald | Cllr. P. Fitzgerald | Agreed                                       |
| 13      | Phasing & implementation schedule                                    | Further modify and proceed |         | Cllr. S. Bourke   | Cllr. P. Fitzgerald | Agreed as further modified by CE and proceed |
| 14      | Kilbride AAP alterations   | Proceed                    |         | Cllr. S. Bourke   | Cllr. M. McDonald   | Agreed                                       |
| 15      | OS2 to RE Beech Rd   | Proceed                    |         | Cllr. M. McDonald | Cllr. P. Fitzgerald | Agreed                                       |
| 16      | Tourism at Ballynattin   | Not Proceed                |         | Cllr. S. Bourke   | Cllr. M. McDonald   | Agreed to proceed                            |

It was proposed by Cllr. T. Annesley, seconded by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald and agreed by a margin of 18 votes for, 13 not present and 1 abstaining that the Chief Executive's report, as per the alterations agreed and the alterations agreed to be further modified by the members and any changes consequent, be adopted and to ADOPT the Arklow and Environs Local Area Plan 2018-2024.

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>FOR (18)</b>         | <b>CLLRS. T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, P. DORAN, G. DUNNE, P. FITZGERALD, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, N. LAWLESS, M. MCDONALD, M. MURPHY, D. NOLAN, O. O'BRIEN, B. THORNHILL, E. TIMMINS, P. VANCE, G. WALSH AND I WINTERS.</b> |
| <b>NOT PRESENT (13)</b> | <b>CLLRS S. CULLEN, T. CULLEN, T. FORTUNE, C. FOX, S. MATTHEWS, G. MCLOUGHLIN, D. MITCHELL, M. O'CONNOR, G. O'NEILL, J. RUTTLE, J. RYAN, J. SNELL AND J. WHITMORE.</b>   |
| <b>ABSTAINING (1)</b>   | <b>CLLR. S. BOURKE</b>   |

### **ITEM NO 9**

**To consider the taking in charge of the following estates:**

- 1. Brook Meadow, Avoca**
- 2. Saunders Lane, Rathnew**
- 3. Hillview, Stratford**

Report dated the 29<sup>th</sup> of January, 2018 of Ms. Damhnait McGuire and Mr. John Daly, Planning Department was circulated to the elected members. It was proposed by Cllr. S. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. P. Kennedy and agreed to take in charge the estates as listed and set out in the report.

### **Suspension of Standing Orders**

It was agreed to proceed and hear the Suspension of Standing Orders in tandem with notice of motion number 5: *'That this Council fully supports parents, students and staff of Coláiste Raithín to have the new school opened immediately and to call on the Minister for Education to have an interim solution to allow students to access the school immediately'*.

Cllr. J. Behan proposed the suspension of standing orders to 'discuss the situation facing Colaiste Raithn and Ravenswell School in Bray as a result of the collapse of the Clarillion Group in the UK.

Following a discussion on the matter it was proposed by Cllr. J. Behan, seconded by Cllr. N. Lawless and agreed that *'the Council write to the Minister for Education requesting that the Dail passes emergency legislation to allow the Department of Education to take possession of Ravenswell, Colaiste Raithin and all the schools in the Clarillion PPP bundle with immediate effect.'*

### **ITEM NO 5**

**To consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, January 2018.**

#### **Disabled Persons Adaptation Scheme:**

Cllr. P. Fitzgerald read the following piece to the meeting as the request of Cllr. M. Murphy, who had to leave the meeting:-

*'I wish to highlight issues around the disabled persons adaptation scheme for Wicklow County Council tenants. I understand there are up to 100 people alone whose applications are classed as Priority 1 for work to be done, even at that there is no guarantee as to when the work can be assessed and carried out. From what I understand, people whose applications are listed on Priority 2 and Priority 3 are likely never to have their applications considered at all.'*

#### **Chinese New Year**

Cllr. B. Thornhill raised the matter of Chinese New Year and requested financial assistance for the Chinese Residents Association in Bray to assist in putting on a formal event to celebrate Chinese

New Year. The Chief Executive advised that the budget to celebrate this occasion is being directed to an event at Powerscourt House on Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March at which the Chinese Ambassador will be present. He said that the Council will examine the request in terms of the Bray MD fund.

#### **ITEM NO 7**

**Review of local electoral areas: To note letter dated the 17<sup>th</sup> January from the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committees.**

The Elected Members were circulated a letter dated the 17<sup>th</sup> of January, 2018 received from the Local Area Electoral Boundary Committee. Mr. T. Murphy, DOS reported to the elected members in relation to the review being undertaken in that the Minister has established two committees to review local electoral areas and to report to him within 6 months. He provided a background to the terms of reference of committee Number 2 through from articles 1 to 7, which is inviting submissions from local authorities before Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> of February, 2018. He advised that it was open to the elected members to make a submission whether that submission is that the existing five municipal districts structure remains unchanged or otherwise. He advised that the Council could arrange to have a workshop to consider the issue prior to making a submission to the Boundary Committee. Following a discussion on the matter and having regard to the geography of the county, as well as other unique local factors, it was proposed by Cllr. T. Fortune, seconded by Cllr. M. Kavanagh and agreed that Wicklow County Council make a submission to the Boundary Committee advocating that there should be no change to the status of the Local Electoral Areas of County Wicklow and that the existing representation in each LEA remain the same.

#### **ITEM NO 10**

**Update public lighting repairs (deferred from meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2018)**

Report of Mr. Sean Quirke, Director of Services, Roads and Transportation was circulated to the elected members and noted.

#### **ITEM 11**

**Correspondence**

##### Disclosure Declarations

Ms. L. Gallagher, Meetings Administrator advised the Elected Members that the Disclosure Declaration Forms were to be submitted by Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2018 with the Annual Declaration of Income Forms to be returned by Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2018.

##### Irish Water Clinics Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.

Ms. L. Gallagher, Meetings Administration advised that the members that Irish Water clinics had been scheduled for Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

##### Minutes of Protocol Meetings 6 months ending 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2018

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. P. Vance and agreed to confirm Minutes of Protocol meetings as circulated for six months ending 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2018.

Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meetings

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Vance, seconded by Cllr. G. Walsh and agreed to confirm Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meetings for six months ending 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2018 as circulated.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

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**CLLR. EDWARD TIMMINS  
CATHOIRLEACH  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

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