

ORDINARY MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

HELD AT WICKLOW COUNTY BUILDINGS, WICKLOW TOWN

ON MONDAY, 2ND JULY 2018 AT 2PM

Gwen Malone Stenography
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notes in the above-named
action.

GWEN MALONE STENOGRAPHY

1 THE HEARING COMMENCED ON MONDAY,
2 2ND DAY OF JULY, 2018 AS FOLLOWS:

3
4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Members, could I have your attention
5 please? Before we start the meeting I would like to 13:59
6 congratulate, we have four new cathaoirligh in the
7 district municipalities --

8 CLLR. LAWLESS: Sorry, Cathaoirleach? we can't hear
9 you, Cathaoirleach. Sorry.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: We have four new cathaoirligh in the 13:59
11 municipal authorities. I would like to congratulate
12 Miriam Murphy I congratulated her last month,
13 Nicola Lawless in Greystones, Tommy Cullen in the west,
14 and in Wicklow Town Daire Nolan. I would also on our
15 behalf, I am sure you would all agree with me, that we 13:59
16 send a letter of congratulations to the new
17 Commissioner of the Garda to wish him well in the
18 future. Now we have one vote of sympathy. Go ahead.

19 MS. GALLAGHER: Yes, Cathaoirleach, for Patsy O'Toole,
20 our colleague, in the Greystones area. 14:00

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Anyone else any other? Okay.
22 One minute silence. [One minute's silence was
23 observed]. Before we start, Councillor O'Connor has

24 asked to address the meeting. Councillor O'Connor?

25 CLLR. O'CONNOR: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I have been 14:01
26 honoured to have represented the people of Bray, Kilmac
27 and Enniskerry as a Sinn Féin Councillor but
28 unfortunately I have had to inform the party that I am
29 no longer in a position to continue this role so I will

1 be resigning my seat and this will take effect on the
2 15th or 16th August where I will give my two weeks
3 notice.

4
5 The reason for this is that I have a job, a full-time 14:01
6 job, as a solicitor. I have recently set up practice
7 on my own. Previously I had been in a partnership and
8 that had allowed me more leeway for the Council work.
9 I also have some personal and family issues which are
10 eating into my ability to do my Council work. 14:02

11 Something had to give and I decided that my other
12 commitments were not allowing me to represent the
13 people of north Wicklow as well as I should.

14
15 So in close consultation with the local party in Bray 14:02
16 and with Wicklow Sinn Féin, I have taken the decision
17 to withdraw from the Council. We have had a selection
18 convention and Dermot O'Brien will be replacing me at
19 the September meeting. Dermot will be a fantastic
20 champion to deal with Wicklow, and especially with the 14:02
21 young people of Wicklow.

22
23 I would like to thank everyone who works for the
24 Council for their help over my time as a councillor. I
25 would also like to thank most of my fellow councillors 14:02
26 who have all been helpful to me during my time. I am
27 especially grateful to the Sinn Féin Group leader,
28 Nicola Lawless, and to Councillor Mary McDonald. I
29 believe Republicans have much to offer the people of

1 wicklow and hopefully we will continue to grow in their
2 strength. I would also like to express my thanks to
3 John Brady TD and Sinn Féin in Wicklow and Bray for
4 their help and understanding my position.

14:02

5
6 I will remain as active as I can in the party in the
7 future, albeit in a less public way. I am very much
8 committed to a bright future for the county and the
9 county and will continue to do what I can. So thanks
10 for putting up with me over my time as a councillor and 14:03
11 I am sure I will run into some of you again over the
12 years in any future role I play. It has always been a
13 honour, sometimes a pleasure and the odd time a pain,
14 but all in all I have enjoyed my time here and hope
15 that I have improved the situation for some people in 14:03
16 the county. Go raibh maith agat.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Fox?

18 CLLR. FOX: well, Chairman, I am very sorry to hear
19 this news and I just would like to pay a tribute to
20 Councillor O'Connor and wish him the very best. As we 14:03
21 all know that it is very difficult to juggle a
22 full-time job and be a member of the Council here. But
23 certainly I have always had a very good working
24 relationship with Councillor O'Connor and I wish
25 Michael the very best. 14:03

26 CLLR. O'CONNOR: Thanks, Chris.

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Tommy Cullen?

28 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Chairman, I would like also to
29 wish Michael O'Connor all the best in the years ahead

1 in his career. He is a very good councillor and he
2 offered his legal advice freely and was very measured
3 in that advice and he was great assistance to all the
4 colleagues here in the Council and he will be missed.
5 Certainly I have to say from my point of view he was a 14:04
6 very professional, a very honourable councillor,
7 and I wish him all the best and the very best in his
8 retirement from the Council.
9 CLLR. O'CONNOR: Thanks, Tommy.
10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. 14:04
11 Councillor Lawless?
12 CLLR. LAWLESS: Yes, thanks, Cathaoirleach. Yeah, I
13 want to wish Michael well as well in the future. We
14 are going to miss him here sitting beside us. He was a
15 great asset to us here as a councillor and we worked 14:04
16 very well together. Although, as he said, he is not
17 going away, we will still have him by our side but not
18 so publicly here on the Council level. It is a shame,
19 you know that matters in life get in the way. As we
20 all know, being a Councillor is a full-time job and, 14:04
21 you know, sometimes it is a hard to juggle. So I just
22 want to wish Michael all the best in his future but we
23 are also looking forward as well for Dermot O'Brien
24 coming in. I think a lot of you know Dermot O'Brien or
25 "Daisy", he has been in the Chambers a few times as 14:05
26 well with Comhairle na nÓg. So we are looking forward
27 to having him here and seeing what he brings to the
28 table in the future. Thanks.
29 CLLR. O'CONNOR: Thanks, Nicola.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Fortune?
2 CLLR. FORTUNE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Yeah, just on
3 behalf of the Independent Group I would just like to
4 Councillor O'Connor the very best in whatever he does
5 in the future. I can understand what he is saying with 14:05
6 various pressures and how busy a councillor can be. So
7 I just, from our group, I just want to wish Michael the
8 very, very best.
9 CLLR. O'CONNOR: Thanks, Tom.
10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Behan? 14:05
11 CLLR. BEHAN: Yeah, Chairman, just also to wish
12 Michael O'Connor all the best in the future. I
13 certainly was impressed with all of the contributions
14 he made, both in Bray and the District Chambers. For
15 somebody who kind of came on to the Council during the 14:05
16 term of office I think he got to grips with the issues
17 very quickly and he was always very clear and strong in
18 his views and he expressed them very clearly. It is a
19 pity that he can no longer be in the position but it
20 does take courage I think to acknowledge that and to 14:06
21 make a decision such as he has made, and I am sure it
22 was a very difficult one for him. I do sincerely wish
23 him all the best in the future.
24
25 I also want to sincerely welcome the news that Dermot 14:06
26 O'Brien will be joining this body. Because
27 Dermot O'Brien is one person as far as I am concerned
28 who has contributed an enormous amount to the community
29 life of Bray and in County Wicklow laterally when he

1 was working with Comhairle na nÓg. I am certainly
2 looking forward to working with him as a public
3 representative for the duration of this Council and
4 maybe into the future as well. Thank you.

5 CLLR. O'CONNOR: Thanks, Joe.

14:06

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Walsh?

7 CLLR. WALSH: Yeah, Cathaoirleach, like the previous
8 speakers, I just want to wish Councillor O'Connor the
9 very best of luck in the future and I want to
10 acknowledge the way he went about his business in this
11 Chamber, he was always very fair and concise and he
12 presented his case in a fair fashion. So I know that
13 it is a difficult decision to make, it is a big
14 undertaking as a councillor and all the pressures. So,
15 good luck, I wish him all the best and thank you for
16 his contribution over the last three years or so.

14:06

14:07

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Ryan?

18 CLLR. RYAN: Yeah, Cathaoirleach, I would like to
19 concur with the other councillors and wish my best to
20 Councillor O'Connor. Obviously Councillor O'Connor
21 came on to the Council to replace Councillor Brady at
22 the time, John Brady TD, and the one thing I noticed
23 straightaway was that the meetings went an awful lot
24 faster so I would like to thank Michael for that. But,
25 quite honestly, I think his contributions were very
26 good succinct and definitely he was very
27 straightforward in terms of actually dealing with him,
28 as another councillor of another party, I found him to
29 be an absolute pressure.

14:07

14:07

1 Good to hear that Dermot O'Brien is coming on to the
2 Council. I have served on a lot of different
3 committees with Dermot and I know him to be a very
4 passionate guy and given us a lot of insight into the
5 psyche of the young people. We would all like to be 14:08
6 aligned with, but some are better than others, in terms
7 of understanding them and I think that is important for
8 this Council to have that. But good luck, Michael, in
9 the future. Thanks.

10 CLLR. O'CONNOR: Thanks very much. 14:08

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Snell?

12 CLLR. SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Yeah, I'd like to
13 just concur with previous speakers and wish Michael all
14 the best. I have only known Michael since he come on
15 the Council here and I think he shone brightest on the 14:08
16 Housing Strategic Policy Committee. I know he has a
17 young family and I wish him and his family all the
18 best. I know it is very hard to juggle such a job that
19 Michael has, being a solicitor, so I wish him and the
20 his family all the best. 14:08

21 CLLR. O'CONNOR: Thanks very much.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Timmons and then I'm going
23 to the CE.

24 CLLR. TIMMONS: Just briefly, Chairman, I would just
25 like to add my sentiments to what the others have said. 14:09
26 I found Michael a very intelligent business-like, very
27 direct, he contributed a lot to this Council and I am
28 very sorry that he is actually leaving the Council and
29 I wish him all the best.

1 CLLR. O'CONNOR: Thanks very much.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Now the CE.

3 MR. CURRAN: Thanks Cathaoirleach. Just on behalf of
4 myself and the staff, I would like to thank
5 Councillor O'Connor for his contribution. He was 14:09
6 always professional and courteous and pleasure to deal
7 with from our point of view. I wish him all the best.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: From my own point of view,
9 Councillor O'Connor, I am sorry to see you going. I
10 think you did make a very valuable contribution and 14:09
11 certainly reasonable contribution as well. So it is
12 always a sad time when people for various reasons have
13 to go and because it is very time consuming, this
14 particular job that we have, and it is understandable
15 that people need to move on with their priorities and 14:09
16 in this case that I can understand well that your
17 priorities and that. So I want to wish you well and
18 wish your family well.

19 CLLR. O'CONNOR: Thanks, Pat.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks for your contribution in Wicklow 14:10
21 and Bray during that particular time. Okay. Now we
22 are moving on to the first item on the agenda.

23 CLLR. O'NEILL: Just through the Chair on a point of
24 order, do you know what I mean, we have all been graced
25 with these books -- 14:10

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor, it is not the point of
27 order, I am moving on. I am moving on. We have an
28 item on the agenda --

29 CLLR. O'NEILL: Can I not --

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Listen, I am handling the agenda now,
2 right. I am not allowing anyone bring up anything now
3 other than I am going into the agenda --
4 CLLR. O'NEILL: (Inaudible) magazine.
5 CATHAOIRLEACH: I am sorry, I am going into the agenda. 14:10
6 CLLR. BEHAN: Chairman, I have a proposal for
7 suspension --
8 CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going into that now, right. Okay.
9 Right, Councillor.
10 CLLR. BEHAN: Thanks, Chairman. 14:10
11 CLLR. RYAN: It's a great picture, it's a fabulous
12 picture.
13 CLLR. BEHAN: Chairman, I want to propose the
14 suspension of the standing orders to discussed the
15 revaluation of commercial rates which is happening in 14:11
16 the county at the moment. We did get previous notice
17 about this but in fact it is starting now to hit home
18 to commercial rate payers in the county, and in
19 particular in Bray, what are going to be the
20 implications of this revaluation. Councillors may or 14:11
21 may not be aware but certain businesses have been
22 selected and I want some information from the top table
23 when we do discuss this as to how the selection was
24 done. But certainly in the case of two businesses that
25 I am aware of they are extremely concerned about what 14:11
26 they are hearing back from the valuation office. In
27 one case a proposed one hundred per cent increase in
28 the ratable valuation of their property, and this is in
29 the middle of Bray, a town which has certainly

1 struggled for the last 20 years. So I think it
2 warrants a bit of a discussion, Cathaoirleach, I won't
3 go on any longer about it now, but I do want us to
4 discuss it later, Cathaoirleach. Thank you.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Is there a seconder? 14:12

6 CLLR. BLAKE: I second that, Chairman.

7 MS. GALLAGHER: Seconded by Councillor Blake.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Just in regard to suspension of
9 standing orders it is my intention to bring it before
10 the Protocol Committee today in regard, I am disturbed 14:12
11 at the amount of suspension of standing orders that are
12 coming before the Council here. Technically speaking,
13 they always need to be something that warrant emergency
14 situation that needed to be discussed in an urgent type
15 of business. I want to bring it before the Protocol 14:12
16 and get some direction in regard to what is acceptable
17 and what is not in regard to suspension of standing
18 orders. Because I have a fear that in the final year
19 of the Council that we will be overtaken with
20 suspension of standing orders where the normal business 14:12
21 of the Council hasn't been transacted here, and also
22 the Notice of Motion that are there before the Council
23 as well that they are taking precedence over items like
24 that as well.

25 14:13
26 But just in this case if there is agreement on
27 Councillor Behan's suspension of standing order I will
28 take that but I just want to make Councillors aware
29 that I will be looking for some sort of policy

1 direction from the Protocol that will come before the
2 meeting in September in regard to how suspension of
3 standing orders will be handled in the future, okay.
4 Is there agreement on Councillor Behan's proposal?
5 COUNCILLORS: Yes. 14:13
6 CATHAIRLEACH: All right.
7 CLLR. BEHAN: Chairman, sorry, I just want to say one
8 thing about this. We are entitled to propose
9 suspensions under standing orders, okay. So you, as
10 Cathairleach, can't interfere with that. 14:13
11 CATHAIRLEACH: No, listen --
12 CLLR. BEHAN: We have the right to do it, no matter
13 what you think about it in election year or not in
14 election year.
15 CATHAIRLEACH: Councillor, if you are listening to me, 14:13
16 as Cathairleach, I am entitled to bring this before --
17 CLLR. BEHAN: You can bring it, yeah, that's right.
18 CATHAIRLEACH: Yes, right.
19 CLLR. BEHAN: But we are entitled to --
20 CATHAIRLEACH: Are you challenging my right to bring 14:13
21 it --
22 CLLR. BEHAN: No, are you challenging my right to
23 propose a suspension.
24 CATHAIRLEACH: No.
25 CLLR. BEHAN: Thank you. 14:14
26 CATHAIRLEACH: No, sure I have already said it.
27 CLLR. BEHAN: That's fine and they won't be stopping.
28 CATHAIRLEACH: And I said in regard to this one and I
29 expect that I will bring in September a proposal --

1 CLLR. BEHAN: To stop us?

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: A proposal before the members --

3 CLLR. BEHAN: Chairman, I am surprised at you, I mean
4 you are a commercial operator in Bray yourself, you
5 have to be aware of how urgent this matter is -- 14:14

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Listen, listen, I am not arguing over
7 --

8 CLLR. BEHAN: And you're giving a sermon then about
9 this isn't urgent, it is urgent.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: You are getting the suspension -- you 14:14
11 are getting the suspension of standing orders so you
12 needn't make a case for it now. I am just saying the
13 overall policy on it I think there is general agreement
14 that we need to look at this with the majority Members
15 of the Council and that is what is going to happen. 14:14
16 And if you decide or other members, the majority of
17 members decide, in another case that we will go on the
18 way we are going, that's fine, I will accept the
19 democratic view of the Members of the Council, right.
20 There is another suspension of standing orders, 14:14
21 Councillor Thornhill, sorry, go ahead.

22 CLLR. THORNHILL: Yeah, Cathaoirleach, go raibh maith
23 agat. Cathaoirleach, as a retired member of the
24 Garda Síochána I feel that this item is very important
25 and that is the reason why I am calling for a 14:15
26 suspension of standing orders in relation to the
27 appointment of the new commissioner to the Garda
28 Síochána, Mr. Drew Harris. The reason why I am
29 bringing this up is because I think it is a defining

1 moment in Irish history for Irish North/South, you
2 know, after the Good Friday Agreement 20 years ago this
3 is something which should really help, you know,
4 keeping North and South and I think it is something
5 that we should discuss because I mean things have 14:15
6 happened in the past above in the North and I am sure
7 that this new commissioner, Drew Harris, could help
8 with legacy issues in relation to matters that have
9 happened in the past. One thing I would just mention
10 as well in relation to Drew Harris, he has had some 14:15
11 misfortune as well, and I know his father --
12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, Councillor, would you read out
13 what your proposal is?
14 CLLR. THORNHILL: Yeah, okay. Cathaoirleach, yes,
15 thanks very much. Go raibh maith agat. Well my 14:16
16 proposal is simply -- there's no negativity in it -- it
17 is simply we note the appointment of Mr. Drew Harris as
18 the new Commissioner of An Garda Síochána and we wish
19 him well in his new position. In the interest of the
20 State and its citizens that this Council would request 14:16
21 that Mr. Harris would place at the State's disposal all
22 relevant information that he may have to resolve the
23 outstanding investigative issues to the Dublin/Monaghan
24 bombing, 1974, and the Miami Show Band Massacre, 1975.
25 I think that this man now is in a great position to 14:16
26 help both communities and to move things on and, you
27 know, like it is something that we should be thinking
28 about for the future. I mean there's an awful lot of
29 things above in the North, and I was recently talking

1 to someone that is very close to these talks, he didn't
2 want his name mentioned, and he said --
3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, all I want to do is deal with
4 what your proposal is.
5 CLLR. THORNHILL: Yes, well that -- yes. 14:17
6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Is that finished now?
7 CLLR. THORNHILL: Yes.
8 CATHAOIRLEACH: That's finished, right, okay.
9 CLLR. THORNHILL: Yes, but I would like --
10 CATHAOIRLEACH: I will move to the floor in regard to 14:17
11 this. First of all, I am going to let in Lorraine on
12 this particular one.
13 MS. GALLAGHER: Cathaoirleach, can I just say it is a
14 matter for the elected members --
15 CLLR. WINTERS: We can't hear you. 14:17
16 MS. GALLAGHER: -- in relation to the suspension of
17 standing orders. That's covered in --
18 CLLR. McLOUGHLIN: Lorraine, we can't hear you.
19 MS. GALLAGHER: That's covered in paragraph 41 of
20 standing orders which basically says: 14:17
21
22 "For the Elected Members to consider suspension of
23 standing orders if there is not full agreement at least
24 two-thirds of the Members present vote in favour".
25 14:17
26 But just in relation to Councillor Thornhill's motion,
27 and that's covered by paragraph 14 which says that:
28
29 "No Notice of Motion should be set down on the agenda

1 for any meeting unless such Notice of Motion shall be
2 delivered to the meetings administrator at least one
3 calendar month before the date of such meeting".
4

5 So like other elected members comply with this 14:18
6 paragraph and submit their Notice of Motion in advance
7 and it is listed on the agenda as an item, and I did
8 mention that to Councillor Thornhill this morning, that
9 what he is proposing really falls under the Notice of
10 Motion, that he should comply with that. 14:18

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: In regard to -- Councillor Winters?

12 CLLR. WINTERS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I don't know if
13 he has got a seconder?

14 CLLR. BEHAN: I'll second it.

15 CLLR. WINTERS: Well I just think that this is Wicklow 14:18
16 County Council, we have a big agenda, we have so many
17 things to -- Garda matters are Garda matters, there is
18 meant to be a separation between the policing force and
19 what happens in the political circles, and I don't
20 think that it is our place to discuss that. 14:18

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Blake?

22 CLLR. BLAKE: I was at the JPC meeting this morning, I
23 did bring up the issue of the appointment of a young
24 Garda Commissioner and wished him well on behalf of the
25 JPC. It is my understanding I think that he asked that 14:19
26 he come to our JPC meeting in the future. So I think
27 we have addressed that at the Council in that regard.
28 You, yourself, at the outset, I mean you did offer your
29 congratulations. So I think we have done whatever we

1 can do in regard to this at the moment and hopefully he
2 will come before our JPC meetings and I wish him well
3 in that regard.

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Cullen, Tommy Cullen?

5 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Yes, Chairman. Well it is a 14:19
6 relevant matter because we are tied into the Policing
7 Committee so I think Councillor Winters is incorrect
8 when she says that it has nothing got to do with
9 Council because we have Policing Committees, JCP
10 Committees, on the Council so it is quite relevant. 14:19
11 The Council are ver deeply involved in policing in this
12 county so the matter of who the police commissioner and
13 Garda Commissioner is, is very relevant.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

15 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Chairman, the other thing I would 14:20
16 say is that I think everybody in this Chamber would be
17 in agreement with the sentiment of what
18 Councillor Thornhill is proposing. It is not alarming,
19 the matter is straightforward, I heard the same
20 arguments on the RTÉ News there on Saturday. 14:20

21
22 The other thing I would say, Chairman, is this; that I
23 would wish him well with the aspiration of it because
24 we would all like to see that cooperation being given.
25 But I am sure Mr. Harris is bound by the Official 14:20
26 Secrets Act of Britain that would preclude him from
27 giving any such information, and I am sure that was
28 discussed --

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Listen, I am not going to discuss it

1 now --

2 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: I am sure that was discussed with
3 their Government before --

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Cullen --

5 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: -- he was taking up the job here. 14:20

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Cullen, I am not discussing
7 it now, we are discussing what --

8 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Well, Chairman, I would ask
9 Councillor Thornhill could we get an agreement on it.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: No asking, Councillor Thornhill has put 14:20
11 that proposal before us and there is other people want
12 to come in on this as well, and I want to move on with
13 Councillor Walsh

14 CLLR. WALSH: Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: And then Councillor Fitzgerald, and if 14:21
16 we decide to go for a vote we are going for a vote on
17 this.

18 CLLR. WALSH: I wish to agree that we should indeed
19 congratulate the Commissioner and wish him well on his
20 appointment. I would concur with Councillor Winters in 14:21
21 that these are not matters to be discussed in this
22 Chamber. They are open-ended investigations into the
23 incidents referred to by Councillor Thornhill still
24 ongoing, even though it is back in the 70s, and the new
25 commissioner wouldn't have been a member of the police 14:21
26 force obviously during that time. But certainly there
27 was a message put through the JPC meeting this morning
28 to congratulate him and he was invited to Chambers to
29 attend the JPC meeting.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Fitzgerald?
2 CLLR. FITZGERALD: Yeah, I don't agree with what
3 Councillor Thornhill. You were at the JPC, you were
4 invited to the JPC but did you turn up this morning?
5 That was the place to raise it this morning at the JPC 14:21
6 meeting, you were appointed to it recently, were you
7 there this morning, did you raise it?
8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor, I am not going to --
9 CLLR. FITZGERALD: But the point is both of them, both
10 of them are still under investigation, one happened in 14:22
11 '74 the other one around the same time in '75, and I am
12 sure that the new commissioner doesn't need a direction
13 or a motion from Wicklow County Council to investigate
14 anything and I think Councillor Cullen is right, as I
15 understand it, he is bound by English regulations, or 14:22
16 whatever you want to call it. So I don't think sending
17 anything up to the Commissioner at this stage is going
18 to bring any results and I am totally against it. I
19 don't think, we are spending so much time here talking
20 about stuff out of our realm, it is ridiculous. We are 14:22
21 talking about national stuff that should have been
22 decided in Dáil Éireann, we are talking about stuff
23 that has nothing to do with the people of this county
24 and I don't agree with that motion or whatever you'd
25 like to call it. 14:22
26 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor O'Neill, and then I am going
27 for a vote on this.
28 CLLR. O'NEILL: Yeah, just briefly there, I mean I
29 agree with Councillor Thornhill. I mean it is a very

1 light endeavour, it is congratulating a man on the job
2 but also to ask him to maybe to look at the mass
3 murders we had in Dublin/Monaghan bombings. That is
4 not a big deal, I can't know how anybody can get really
5 exited about that. 14:23

6 CLLR. THORNHILL: Cathaoirleach?

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Timmons, just briefly now
8 because I am going for a vote on it.

9 CLLR. TIMMONS: You know I will be brief, Chairman.
10 The most important thing on the agenda today is the 14:23
11 Manager's report and Item 7 about delegating stuff to
12 the municipal districts. We probably won't get to
13 discuss them today, we have already spent about ten
14 minutes talking about this item. So, to me, to put
15 this ahead of more important matters in our agenda is a 14:23
16 mistake, we shouldn't be discussing them.

17 CLLR. THORNHILL: Cathaoirleach, I just --

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: No, no, you made your case.

19 CLLR. THORNHILL: Cathaoirleach, no, it has nothing to
20 do with the case -- 14:24

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: You are not coming in again.

22 CLLR. THORNHILL: No, Cathaoirleach, I would just like
23 --

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: It is before the Members --

25 CLLR. THORNHILL: Cathaoirleach, I just want to make 14:24
26 one point?

27 CLLR. MITCHELL: Vote.

28 CLLR. THORNHILL: I just want to make one point.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going to ask the Members to put it

1 to a vote.

2 CLLR. THORNHILL: It is in relation to

3 Councillor Fitzgerald's remarks, I won't be --

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: We are going for a vote.

5 CLLR. THORNHILL: It has nothing to do with this. 14:24

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: We are going for a vote.

7 CLLR. THORNHILL: And show a bit of respect. Thank

8 you. Go raibh maith agat.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: What the vote is for this to be, for

10 the suspension of standing orders or against the 14:24

11 suspension of standing orders.

12 MS. GALLAGHER: Yeah, that is what the vote is whether

13 you want to ask discuss the standing order or not.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Discuss it, for, or against it. Yeah,

15 okay. [Vote taken]. 14:24

16 MS. GALLAGHER: Okay, that's eight for, 19 against, two

17 not present and three abstaining, so motion defeated.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, we will move on please. We are

19 moving on to the agenda. Proposer and seconder for

20 Item 1 on the agenda? Councillor Dunne? 14:26

21 CLLR. DUNNE: Yes, I would like to propose this Item 1.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, could I have a seconder for that?

23 Councillor Shay Cullen. Is that agreed?

24 COUNCI LLORS: Agreed.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Item No. 2, I propose that. Does 14:26

26 somebody wants to second that?

27 CLLR. FOX: I do.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Fox seconds that. Is that

29 agreed?

1 COUNCI LLORS: Agreed.

2 CATHAOI RLEACH: Okay.

3 MS. GALLAGHER: That is the disposal of the freehold
4 interest in the property of 34 Wolfe Tone Square North,
5 Bray, Co. Wicklow to Thomas O'Reilly, personal 14:26
6 representative in the estate of Mrs. Margaret O'Reilly,
7 deceased (as per notice previously circulated).

8 CATHAOI RLEACH: Now Item 3 there is a presentation made
9 by Michael Flynn in regards to the Part 8.

10 MR. FLYNN: Good afternoon. I just want to give a 14:27
11 brief presentation on the proposals for the N11 at
12 Kilmacanogue. First of all, I would like to thank the
13 Members for their engagement and their contribution to
14 the report and to the work that we are doing on the
15 N11. You have been certainly of help bring the N11 14:27
16 forward in plans and we are making good progress on
17 dealing with the issues on the N11.

18

19 Just on a point of information, this project has been
20 managed by the NRDO and been progressed also by Roughan 14:27
21 & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers. I would like to
22 welcome, the Design Team are here with us today,
23 Gillian Connolly and Eimear Keane from the NRDO, and
24 Eileen O'Neill and Hugh O'Sullivan from Roughan &
25 O'Donovan Consulting Engineers. 14:28
26

27 Just if you can see that, just so you are all aware of
28 what we are talking about in this Part 8, we are
29 talking about southbound lane at the Topaz, or the

1 circle K as it is now, garage and dealing with the
2 issues, primarily the safety issues, at that location.

3
4 Just by way of background this project has arisen from
5 the M11/N11 corridor study produced by TII and

14:28

6 published in April 2017. You will have seen over the
7 last two years various submissions on that. Arising
8 from the Meath study, two schemes have emerged. The

9 first one is the overall main scheme which is from the
10 M50 Junction 4 all the way to Junction 14. The one,

14:28

11 the Part 8 that we are dealing with today is a safety
12 scheme, a localised scheme, at Kilmacanogue. But it is

13 part and it will form part of the overall solution on
14 the N11. Just to give you an overview of the corridor,

15 it is a 22km corridor, and there's 3.8kms of that in
16 Dun Laoghaire, the rest is in Wicklow.

14:29

17
18 Just dealing with what we are proposing at
19 Kilmacanogue, it is primarily a safety scheme so as to
20 deal with the safety concerns at Kilmacanogue. We are

14:29

21 providing a protected 50km/h parallel service road.
22 This is funded under the TII Safety Improvement Scheme.

23 We have been allocated for 2018 2.15 million and,

24 subject to your approval today and to everything else

25 going well, we expect to have that project on the

14:29

26 ground this year and works commencing before year end.

27
28 This is just the technical drawings just Junction 7 to
29 Junction 8. That is the overall aerial shot. You will

1 see at the end there the Topaz garage. So the
2 southbound lane on this side here is what we are
3 talking about, dealing with the issues on that. What
4 might be most helpful here, the two photographs, on the
5 top is the existing situation at Kilmacanogue and 14:30
6 underneath we have the service station on the N4 at
7 Lucan. The scheme that is proposed at Kilmacanogue is
8 very similar to what has already been put in place at
9 Lucan. Essentially what we are doing is providing you
10 will see there, there are kerbs and bollards protecting 14:30
11 the service road from the mainline traffic. That has
12 been in place now for a number of years and it is
13 working very, very well.

14
15 So essentially what we have, we have a scheme that we 14:30
16 can progress within the existing road reservation so we
17 don't know need to go for land acquisition and all the
18 other issues and concerns we have to deal with which
19 would, you know, put the project back a couple of years
20 by the time we get through all of those. So we can 14:30
21 deal with it within the existing road reservation and
22 it is to cater for all the accesses from the lavender
23 field right through to Topaz. There is a new
24 merge/diverge. The service road speed limit will be
25 50km/h and the mainline will increase to 100km/h. That 14:31
26 is just another shot of the one at Lucan which is very
27 similar to what we hope will be in place at
28 Kilmacanogue as soon as we get everything through.
29 Just in terms of the submission, we had 14 written

1 submissions and I suppose there were three main themes,
2 recurring themes, arising from those, the first one was
3 questioning the safety, the overall safety, of the
4 scheme, is this the right scheme. Just to assure
5 members, this has been designed in accordance with the 14:31
6 current standards and it has been progressed by Roughan
7 & O'Donovan which are one of the foremost engineering
8 firms. The other thing we do is we come onto a scheme
9 that has worked, it has worked already so we are not
10 trialing something. This is a scheme that has dealt 14:31
11 with a very similar situation and was done very
12 successfully.

13
14 The other two concerns, and I might go back to the
15 aerial shot, were provision for pedestrians and 14:32
16 cyclists. At the moment there is no proper link
17 between Kilmacanogue and Bray for pedestrians or
18 cyclists and we have instances of people walking along
19 the hard shoulder. To address that we have done some
20 preliminary design on a road at the back of this here. 14:32
21 So it is a cycleway and a greenway. You have already
22 in your Bray Municipal Plan provided a corridor which
23 would provide a cycleway/greenway. We have initial
24 discussions with the NTA and we have had a very
25 positive response from them in terms of they will 14:32
26 support us if we can progress that project.

27
28 I suppose the final issue which is raised in a number
29 of submissions was the option, why do we not look at

1 providing a road to the back instead of providing one
2 along the mainline. A number of issues in our view
3 precluded that option. The first was a number of the
4 properties would be landlocked so the road we were
5 providing wouldn't actually have direct access to the 14:33
6 properties. Also, at the Topaz end of the thing, the
7 old existing roadway, or the level differences we don't
8 believe we can achieve a proper link for the garage and
9 we don't believe it would be accepted there anyhow. Quite
10 apart from that, it would delay the project going 14:33
11 through all the archaeological, environmental and all
12 the other issues and land purchase. So in order to get
13 the thing progressed, and progressed speedily, we
14 believe that this is probably the best option.

15
16 Just the motion before you today is to seek the 14:33
17 approval and to progress the project in accordance with
18 the plans that have been put before you. Quite apart
19 from dealing with the safety issue, we have managed to
20 put the N11 with your help and all the lobbying you 14:33
21 have done, we have managed to get the N11 scheme right
22 to the forefront and we would be hoping we would bring,
23 not just this safety scheme but the overall scheme
24 through. But this is just the first step in it. So we
25 are asking for your approval here today. Thank you. 14:33

26 CATHAOLRLEACH: Councillor Fox?

27 CLLR. FOX: Thank you, Chairman. And thanks, Michael.
28 First of all, can I thank the engineers and the
29 officials who are involved in this scheme and the

1 design. This proposal does have some positives. As
2 you know, there has been a lot of concern in
3 Kilmacanogue for many years following the N11 upgrade
4 and I suppose the way that the road was left, it is not
5 a glowing tribute to the previous designers the way
6 that, particularly the garage, exits on to the N11 was
7 left, left in a most unsatisfactory condition. I
8 sincerely hope that this is phase 1 in rectifying some
9 of the issues in Kilmacanogue on the N11 and further
10 south.

14:34

14:35

11
12 On the Part 8 itself I have to say I am extremely
13 disappointed that the inclusion of a service road to
14 the east of the residential properties, as Michael
15 showed there on the Google map, that the residential
16 properties are still going to access the N11 directly.
17 This was an ideal opportunity to close off the direct
18 access on to the N11 for the houses. Now I understand
19 that the commercial properties, the Topaz garage,
20 Oxygen Care, Kelly Recovery, it is not feasible for
21 those properties to exit a road to the rear given the
22 lay of the land and the type of vehicles that would be
23 exiting those properties. I do see the third lane as a
24 preferential option for those HGVs and large vehicles.
25 However the residents, the houses, to the north of
26 those commercial properties who currently have to
27 access directly on to the N11, and accessing on to a
28 road with a high volume of traffic travelling at high
29 speed, are now been asked to access on to a third lane

14:35

14:35

14:36

1 with potentially traffic even closer to their accesses
2 and exits. I cannot for the life of me see how it
3 wasn't part of the solution, how closing these access
4 wasn't part of the solution. Can I ask why the closing
5 off of direct accesses on to the southbound lane on the 14:36
6 N11 is not included? why is it not included?

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: We will get that. Councillor winters?

8 CLLR. WINTERS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. As somebody who
9 uses that road every single day, I am delighted to see
10 the safety measures that are being proposed. The 14:37
11 petrol station actually poses a real hazard every
12 single evening and we have been exceptionally lucky
13 that there hasn't been a more serious incident.

14
15 Taking on board what Councillor Fox is saying, I do 14:37
16 feel sorry for the houses that are northbound of those
17 commercial premises and I do think that maybe we could
18 look at extending the cones further back so that maybe
19 that when they are exiting that there isn't the same
20 speed of traffic. What we are looking at now for those 14:37
21 houses is that they go from 60km/h now to 100km/h and
22 it actually becomes more dangerous. At the moment
23 traffic know approaching that area that they are coming
24 into a slow zone on a 60km, when it goes back to 100 it
25 will be much more difficult for those houses. But 14:38
26 overall I still think we have to do something with that
27 garage and that junction and I am delighted to see
28 measures being taken.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Councillor Mitchell?

1 CLLR. MITCHELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Well I
2 welcome the bringing of this proposal and the funding.
3 There was a proposal many years ago to do something a
4 little bit similar which I think faded when it wasn't
5 part of an overall scheme. And it was felt that if one 14:38
6 put in countermeasures that they would subsequently get
7 ripped up or it might block an overall scheme for
8 improving the M50/N11. So I very much welcome the fact
9 that there has now been a long-term study, it has been
10 completed and it now appears to be actioned both in the 14:39
11 short-term and in the long-term.

12
13 Some years ago I became very concerned about the N11,
14 that the whole of East Wicklow is going to come to a
15 stop, and I'd be very anxious to get something done. 14:39
16 In 2014 I met with Councillor Ryan and Leo Varadkar,
17 then Minister of Transport, and Simon Harris and
18 Andrew Doyle to press the case for a study to be done
19 by the NTA of this as nothing seemed to be happening.
20 But at a subsequent meeting I am delighted to say that 14:39
21 the study was produced about a year ago and this now
22 appears to be actioned and it is absolutely vital for
23 East Wicklow that this is done. This Council also met
24 Shane Ross with the delegation in 2016 also pressing
25 this case. So it is good to see action is taking 14:40
26 place.

27
28 But strictly on this scheme I would have some sympathy
29 for the residents of Kilmacanogue who will be coming

1 out, it will be a 50K lane that they are coming out
2 into, but I would very much like to see that the
3 long-term plan which I think may involve compulsory
4 purchase of land would therefore would take some time,
5 I would be very keen to see that it is done in due
6 course. But that we get on with this and we would
7 start work this year and hopefully have it done by at
8 least this time next year, the safety aspects at
9 Kilmacanogue.

14:40

10
11 So I would be very keen for this to go ahead but I
12 would like to a commitment from the engineers and from
13 NTA that they would go ahead with this other road of
14 those houses in terms of the -- I don't think we are
15 debating the overall scheme yet --

14:40

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: No.

17 CLLR. MITCHELL: -- but certainly in terms of this I am
18 very much in favour of it.

14:41

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Matthews, and then
20 Councillor Behan.

14:41

21 CLLR. MATTHEWS: Cathaoirleach, thank you, and I want
22 to thank our Roads Department and our consultants and
23 the CTII investment for starting at last on the N11
24 because we have been promised it for quite a while and
25 we know what the issues are. This is obviously the
26 first small step but it's an important step. At the
27 very outset its aim was to improve safety and it does
28 achieve that to a certain extent.

14:41

1 Councillor Fox, I share a lot of concerns that he has
2 and I include them in my submission and they have been
3 adequately answered so I won't go through them again
4 here today. I would have thought the rear access would
5 have been the better option and I suppose the safety 14:41
6 management principles would be to eliminate the hazards
7 in its entirety but this is a Part 8 so we are limited
8 to accepting or reject or modifying it slightly, not to
9 do a complete redesign.

10
11 I do take some comfort in the response to my submission 14:42
12 though that Wicklow County Council commits to a full
13 design and planning and land acquisition in order to
14 put that service road into the rear. And obviously one
15 of the other bonuses that we are looking at here is 14:42
16 that that service road could also then form a
17 connection for a greenway for a cycleway, a pedestrian
18 route, from Kilmac to Bray and it is a very important
19 piece of infrastructure, both for Kilmac and for Bray,
20 that at the moment there is no way to get from Kilmac 14:42
21 to Bray except by bus or by car. So pedestrians and
22 cyclists completely need it there.

23
24 So with that in mind, and it is a safety issue, it is
25 going to address the safety concern there. Wicklow are 14:42
26 committed to looking at that service road to the rear
27 to improve things further in the future.

28 Cathaoirleach, I would have to propose this Part 8.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Behan?

1 CLLR. BEHAN: Yeah, Cathaoirleach. First of all, just
2 to deal with that issue that Councillor Fox raised and
3 Councillor Matthews as well. I mean you would have to
4 agree with what they say that a safer access for
5 particularly the residents, if you like, would be a
6 rear access. 14:43

7
8 Just, you know, before I say the rest of what I want to
9 say I just want to query what the engineer there said
10 with regard to we might be able to look for funding for 14:43
11 a greenway and a cycleway but I didn't hear him saying
12 we are going to look for funding for the access road at
13 the back. So I am wondering is there kind of a
14 distinction in the minds of the officials here that
15 although we put it in a Development Plan you, as the 14:43
16 Executive, are not really interested in progressing
17 that particular aspect, because it was something that
18 councillors felt would be very important and there is
19 no doubt it would add to safety. So I specifically
20 would like to hear the answer on that one. 14:43

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

22 CLLR. BEHAN: Could I pay compliment to all of the
23 team, the roads people and their advisors, the
24 consultants, I think the public consultation process
25 was carried out extremely well, I thought it was 14:44
26 exemplary. There were initial meetings where we were
27 able to attend and ask questions, and so on. I also
28 welcome the fact that the individual submissions were
29 given to us so that we could read them. So many times

1 when public consultations go on in this Council we
2 don't get to see them unless we travel down here and we
3 are handed a box to read through them ourselves. It
4 was great to actually see them scanned in and available
5 to read with the e-mail that came forward with the
6 proposal, and I want to welcome that.

14:44

7
8 Obviously I welcome the fact that there are
9 €2.5 millions now going to be allocated to fix the very
10 first part of what is going to be a very major
11 reconstruction job on the N11/M50. You know, this is
12 the first sign of relief for the tens of thousands of
13 people who are travelling on that route from 4 o'clock
14 to 8 o'clock particularly everyday that finally they
15 won't have this slow down that they have got at
16 Kilmacanogue which causes the tailbacks back to
17 Fassaroe effectively. And I think many, many motorists
18 from County Wicklow, all parts of County Wicklow, use
19 the N11 will welcome it and I certainly welcome it.

14:44

14:45

20
21 There is one aspect though that I raised at the public
22 consultation and I just want to raise it again and hear
23 the engineer's reply on it. The construction of this
24 section of road is going to be very, very disruptive
25 because effectively, as I understand it, the median is
26 going to have to be built on first and there will be
27 traffic reductions and there is certainly going to be a
28 slow down in traffic. I can visualise chaos on that
29 section of road for the duration of construction. I

14:45

14:45

1 want to make a plea that the work should be done in the
2 evening and at night and weekends. Weekends are
3 probably busy anyway but certainly not in the hours
4 from 3:00 to 7:00 because that is the crucial time for
5 traffic going home. If the construction could be 14:46
6 organised in such a way at that particular time that
7 there is more free movement, I think that would greatly
8 help the whole situation but there is no doubt it is a
9 welcome development. But I would see it as phase 1A
10 and phase 1B for me would be the access road that 14:46
11 Councillor Fox is talking about, and I think it is
12 essential that we tie the two things together in the
13 vote that we take here today, Cathaoirleach. Thank
14 you.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Shay Cullen? 14:46

16 CLLR. SHAY CULLEN: Yes, Chairman. First of all, I
17 will certainly welcome what is before us today. I
18 suppose, as somebody that uses this junction on a daily
19 basis, it has taken a long time to get to this point
20 but I certainly welcome it. 14:46

21
22 I suppose a couple of questions for Michael in that on
23 the north side of the garage, of the Topaz garage,
24 where do the bollards and kerbs start, is that above
25 Hofeld or where exactly are we talking there? 14:47
26 Secondly, obviously when you exit the garage you go up
27 the slip road, I just want confirmation that it's up
28 the slip road and down the other side, I take it that's
29 the way it works when you exit the garage. Because, as

1 I say, it is just the pure speed on that road it is
2 incredible to see on a daily basis as a lot of
3 accidents and near accidents that are there everyday.
4 It is certainly something that I think is important
5 that we are getting to the point of trying to resolve 14:47
6 this issue. And, as previous speakers have said, it
7 has taken a long time but from a safety point of view
8 it is badly needed.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Councillor Ryan?

10 CLLR. RYAN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Again thanks to 14:47
11 everybody involved in bringing this proposal to us. It
12 is good to have it. I mean when you look back at the
13 original works that were done in this area, the people
14 who were involved in it made an absolute dog's dinner
15 of it and we have got probably the dodgiest bridge in 14:47
16 Ireland over that road. Kilmacanogue is a village
17 completely divided, actually divided, and I think they
18 must be the most patient people in Ireland, the people
19 of Kilmacanogue, to have accepted what was done to
20 their village. 14:48

21
22 Obviously we have been talking about this at the Local
23 Area Committee for the last ten years and we have been
24 very well aligned on what is required here. We did put
25 forward this proposal and we were told it couldn't be 14:48
26 done. So it is fantastic to see that things have been
27 done and it actually now can be done. So I think it is
28 the first step, as everybody else has said, and it is
29 safety at its core because that intersection is an

1 absolute accident waiting to happen. I don't know how
2 there hasn't been deaths there to be quite honest
3 because it has been so bad. But I completely concur
4 with the other members who want to have that service
5 road to have those residences exiting at the back. And 14:48
6 also I think we are also one hundred per cent aligned
7 in regard to there needs to be that greenway for
8 pedestrians and for cyclists to get from Bray Southern
9 Cross through to Kilmacanogue.

10
11 The works obviously, as we have been discussing and
12 obviously we have been working as hard as we can to try
13 and bring political pressure to this, and Leo Varadkar
14 at the time we met him was Minister for Transport and
15 now obviously is Taoiseach, that is how long it has 14:49
16 taken to put pressure on this.

17
18 But I really do believe that it is essential that we
19 get that N11/M50 merge right because it could be a
20 disaster. We are going to get one shot at this and we 14:49
21 really need to make sure that it is right for the
22 misery that people are going through every single day.
23 We are taking times, hours, days, weeks, years, of
24 their lives away by them sitting in traffic and that is
25 just a misery to, not only the people sitting in the 14:50
26 traffic, but to the families that they are staying away
27 from.

28
29 It also effects the productivity and the economy of

1 wicklow because companies just won't want to come
2 onsite here if they see that there's this misery for
3 people trying to get to them they will go onsite
4 somewhere else. So this is absolutely critical to our
5 economic and social development as a county, so a big 14:50
6 push on that, but I would be happy to support this
7 Part 8. Thank you.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Fortune, you are the last
9 speaker now.

10 CLLR. FORTUNE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Yeah, I very 14:50
11 much welcome this proposal, I think it is an essential
12 piece of infrastructure. I would be on the same page
13 as Councillor Fox on this. You did a survey there, as
14 many have been done, everybody that uses the filling
15 station would say, why can't we go over the slip road. 14:50
16 I mean it is a no-brainer. I was involved in -- well
17 this is many years ago -- and it was a key discussion
18 then of why it wasn't done.

19
20 I do think though that the point that Councillor Fox 14:50
21 was making about the residents and the houses, I mean
22 that is nearly as every bit as essential. So I think,
23 as Councillor Behan said, if that can be prioritised
24 instead of some other stages it should be looked at
25 because it is essential. But I think the proposal to 14:51
26 do what is being proposed I think is very welcome, it
27 is long overdue.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, I am going to finish up with
29 Michael then to answer a few questions and then I am

1 going for a vote.

2 MR. FLYNN: Yeah, just in relation to the service
3 road --

4 CLLR. BEHAN: Microphone, Chairman.

5 MR. FLYNN: Yeah that's better. What was presented 14:51
6 today in the project that is being progressed by TII
7 which is essential on the mainline. So the road to the
8 rear is a project for Wicklow County Council to
9 progress themselves and we are committed to doing that.

10 14:51

11 Just the first question was why weren't the accesses
12 closed off and until we have a road through there, or
13 some form of access, we have got to maintain the access
14 out in front. As I mentioned in the presentation some
15 roads are landlocked to any road we might put at the 14:52
16 back. So for the time being we have got to maintain
17 access onto the N11.

18
19 But this access will now be in a protected lane, a lane
20 with a physical protection, as opposed to coming out 14:52
21 into the traffic and reemerging at the moment. It is
22 also going to be coming into traffic at a lower speed
23 limit and it is a much narrower carriageway with it as
24 well. So the expectation and the experience, as in
25 Lucan, that that will become a safer situation for 14:52
26 direct access.

27
28 But perhaps I didn't cover perhaps properly in the
29 presentation. When I said we will put in a greenway

1 from Kilmacanogue to Bray, the first section of that is
2 the old Kilfenora Lane and it is our intention and our
3 commitment that we will look for 600/700 metres of that
4 which will serve all those properties to the rear and
5 we will bring that up to a reasonable standard road so 14:53
6 we can road access as well as a greenway. But that is
7 also into a separate Part 8 and when we have our plans
8 advanced we will come back to you on that and present
9 that to you. That will then provide the access road
10 that you have requested and we will also start off the 14:53
11 greenway and pedestrian access.

12
13 In terms of Council meetings concerned with
14 construction, we have discussed that at length with our
15 consultants. The expectation at the moment is that we 14:53
16 won't need to close the lane which, you know, people
17 would have thought perhaps that would be necessary but
18 at the moment the plan would be that we won't close the
19 lane. That some of the more disruptive works may be
20 undertaken at night but the concern is because it is so 14:53
21 close to the residential properties we don't want to
22 disturb people so that they can't get a night's sleep.
23 So I mean we will be working to minimise disruption to
24 the road because there's enough disruption in the place
25 without adding to it. But I mean, you know, everything 14:53
26 will be done to try and get two lanes of traffic
27 flowing there at all times and try and minimise
28 disruption, maybe some speed restrictions, but we would
29 hope beyond that that would be the limited disruption

1 to it.

2

3 In relation to the extent of Councillor Cullen's, in
4 relation to where it starts and finishes, the slip road
5 at the exit, yes, that is the intention, traffic going 14:54
6 back out onto the protected lane will go up over and
7 exit from the slipway in a proper fashion.

8

9 The start of the cones will be back past the lavender
10 field. I will show you exactly where it is. So I 14:54
11 think that deals with the questions, Chair.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Councillor Fox, and then I am
13 going for a vote on this.

14 CLLR. FOX: well, first of all, I wasn't talking about
15 closing the access before we had the road going in the 14:54
16 back, okay. well certainly I would welcome the fact
17 that Wicklow County Council is committing to a road to
18 the rear. I feel TII are abdicating in their
19 responsibilities to a certain degree given the benefit
20 of this is to close access on to a national primary 14:55
21 route which is TII's brief, okay. But certainly where
22 TII have failed Wicklow County Council seem to be
23 stepping up to the mark in fairness. So, look, if
24 there is a solid commitment there from Wicklow County
25 Council I am happy to support the Part 8, okay. So I 14:55
26 will formally second Councillor Matthews.

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yeah. Just from my point of view as
28 well that I wouldn't have voted for this unless there
29 was commitment from Wicklow County Council in regard to

1 the rear of that particular road because I think it is
2 absolutely essential from a safety point of view to
3 protect those people on it. I can't, like yourself,
4 understand why TII wouldn't have seen this as part of a
5 safety programme on the N11 as well. But there is a 14:55
6 commitment from Wicklow County Council in regard to
7 progressing this as quickly as we possibly can and it
8 is contained with this proposal as well, okay. So we
9 will go for a vote on this I think.

10 MS. GALLAGHER: Okay, Elected Members, proposed by 14:56
11 Councillor Matthews and seconded by Councillor Fox to
12 proceed with development as circulated and presented.
13 [Vote taken]. That's 27 for and five not present.

14 CATHAORLEACH: Thank you very much. Thank you,
15 Councillors. We are moving on to 4. First of all, can 14:57
16 I now on behalf thank our staff in regard to
17 progressing this to this type of level and hope that it
18 is speedily done as well. Michael Flynn has done a
19 tremendous amount of work with regard to this, under
20 Michael Heaney as well. So our staff I think has to be 14:57
21 congratulated, and like what Councillor Behan said,
22 hopefully that this is first phase of a major
23 development and major improvement on the N11 in the
24 coming years. Now we move on to 4. 4?

25 CLLR. RYAN: Propose. 14:57

26 MR. FLYNN: Yes, Chairman, this is a report on a
27 proposed Section 85 agreement on the M11/N11, Junction
28 4 M50 to 14, Coynes Cross, project. Basically as our
29 client for the previous Part 8 the N11/M11 project

1 needs to proceed. Now the total project is 22kms in
2 length of which 18.2kms is in County Wicklow and the
3 rest of it is under the administrative area of
4 Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council. Now we have the
5 Section 85 is also on the agenda for, this big table 14:58
6 today, at the Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council
7 meeting.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Does it mean that we are the lead
9 agency; isn't that correct?

10 MR. FLYNN: That's correct. So the Transportation, 14:58
11 Water and Emergency Services Department of Wicklow
12 County Council is of the opinion that it would be more
13 efficient and effective if Wicklow County Council
14 delivered the project and powers, functions and duties
15 of Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council in respect of 14:59
16 the options, selection and preliminary design statutory
17 orders and the construction of this particular scheme
18 within the administrative area of
19 Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council to be performed
20 by Wicklow County Council. 14:59

21 CLLR. RYAN: I propose that.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Behan goes first, sorry.

23 CLLR. BEHAN: Chairman, could I just say that this is
24 one of the most welcome proposals I have seen at this
25 Chamber for a long time and I am certainly happy to 14:59
26 propose it or second it, I don't mind who proposes or
27 seconds it, but it should be passed.

28 The reason I welcome it is for too long we have been
29 hiving off responsibilities to other local authorities,

1 waste management going to one particular local
2 authority, other road sections going to Kildare County
3 Council. Now at least we are getting control of the
4 most important piece of road infrastructure that
5 effects the vast majority, the most number of people in 15:00
6 this county, and that is N11/M11, M50. So I will
7 certainly welcome it, Cathaoirleach.

8
9 Can I just get an assurance that there is no
10 involvement by Kildare County Council on this? This is 15:00
11 going to be our project, we will be managing it from
12 beginning to end, Cathaoirleach. On that basis I
13 propose it. Thank you.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Fox?

15 CLLR. FOX: Yeah, I too would welcome this. Just there 15:00
16 was one point I needed clarification on, and I know the
17 vote is on a Section 85 agreement, but within it, it
18 says that:

19
20 "There is no immediate needs for additional junction 15:00
21 capacity improvements on the N11 between Junction 8
22 Kilmac and Junction 14 Coyne's Cross based on the
23 current operation".

24
25 But it says: 15:00

26
27 "However, to bring this section of the corridor up to
28 the required standard, existing direct accesses left on
29 and left off junction should be closed or

1 reconfigured".

2
3 Now I know we had a proposal a few years ago which we
4 discussed in Bray Town Hall where they were restricting
5 movements onto the N11 at certain junctions and it was 15:01
6 a sort of a single exit onto the N11. What does that
7 statement mean exactly? Just I would just like to get
8 clarification on it?

9 CATHAIRLEACH: Just one second, Michael.
10 Councillor Mitchell? 15:01

11 CLLR. MITCHELL: Thank you, Cathairleach. Yeah, just
12 I say I am delighted that we have this. This really is
13 the first step towards the formal design process of the
14 road and I think it is very important that we move
15 forward with this. There is an awful lot of work to be 15:01
16 done to get this road done, as I understand it, with
17 the best will in the world we probably won't start
18 digging until 2022, there are so many procedures,
19 designs, purchases, et cetera, to be done. The overall
20 project cost is probably in the region of 100 million 15:02
21 so it is a massive investment to County Wicklow that
22 this is starting off.

23
24 I just have two points about it, apart from welcoming
25 it, that is this is I accept the short way into 15:02
26 Dun Laoghaire. Will it still be a two-lane M50 that
27 meets the beginning of this at the north end? This
28 will become a third lane road, I think that is the
29 plan. Secondly, the preliminary information for the

1 what we just passed in relation to Newtown has said
2 some things about a third lane on the road and has
3 about three major objectives but it doesn't have
4 anything to do with improving the access for express
5 buses. I think it is absolutely vital because 15:02
6 Irish Rail does not plan to improve, in fact it plans
7 to disimprove the railway south of Bray, it is
8 important that we have priority for express buses on
9 whatever road is designed and that they are adequately
10 treated. We have important services in Greystones, 15:03
11 Newcastle, the 84X, and we also have other buses, such
12 as the 133, and Wicklow and Wexford buses, and they
13 need priority to get through and onto these junctions
14 and through this and this isn't listed as part of the
15 objectives of the scheme. Thank you. 15:03
16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Tommy Cullen?
17 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Yes, Chairman, I am here today
18 and, sorry --
19 CATHAOIRLEACH: It is gone.
20 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Sorry, okay. 15:03
21 CATHAOIRLEACH: It is on.
22 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Right, Chairman, thank you. I am
23 just here today and I'm a bit bemused by what I am
24 hearing. I fully support but the last two items on the
25 agenda is spending hundreds of millions of euros for 15:03
26 N11 and I am representing an area where the N81, we
27 have just been told there's not a penny.
28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor, I know --
29 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: No, no, hold on now.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Listen, we are talking on this
2 particular thing, you can bring up your area --
3 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: No, no, Chairman, I will make it,
4 it is a fair point.
5 CATHAOIRLEACH: With due respect, with due respect, we 15:04
6 are talking about an agreement between Dun Laoghaire
7 and Wicklow County Council on the N11. We are not
8 talking about the N81.
9 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Chairman, Chairman, you may not
10 like what I am saying -- 15:04
11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor, refer to the N11 please.
12 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: But please afford me the
13 opportunity to say it. You may not like what I am
14 saying, Chairman, but please afford me the opportunity
15 to say it. 15:04
16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Listen, it is nothing about me liking
17 it or not. I am asking you --
18 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: I am entitled to say it.
19 CATHAOIRLEACH: I am affording you the opportunity --
20 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: If you want a row, we'll have a 15:04
21 row.
22 CATHAOIRLEACH: I am affording you the opportunity to
23 talk about the N11.
24 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: If you want a row, we'll have a
25 row. I am entitled, I am entitled Chairman -- 15:04
26 CATHAOIRLEACH: You can talk about the N11.
27 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Chairman, you are not going to --
28 Chairman, I raised it, I have raised a legitimate
29 point.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Talk about the N11.

2 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: We have just been told here that
3 there is 100 --

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Listen, listen --

5 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Chair, there is 100 million. 15:04

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Listen, you'll find another forum to
7 talk about the N81.

8 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: There is another 100 million just
9 been allocated for this --

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: But we are moving on. 15:04

11 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: There was another 100 million
12 allocated for the last item, that's 200 million, and we
13 haven't got a penny for the N81.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Could I have a proposer and seconder?

15 CLLR. RYAN: Guys, I second it. 15:05

16 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Now that is a fair point for me to
17 raise, Chairman, and it appears to me that the priority
18 of this Council is for the N11 where all the senior
19 officials live --

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Is this agreed? Members, is this 15:05
21 agreed?

22 COUNCILLORS: Agreed.

23 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: -- at the expense of the people of
24 West Wicklow and South Wicklow who have the N81, and
25 that is a fair point for me. Now, Chairman, if you are 15:05
26 going to continue this here, we will continue into a
27 lot of other places.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: We are moving on. Okay, we are under
29 number 5. Number 5.

1 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: We will continue into a lot of
2 other places and you are not going to shout me down.
3 So if you start it off this way, you are dealing with
4 the wrong man, just get that into your head.
5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor, you deal with what is on 15:05
6 the agenda and you will get a fair hearing.
7 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: I will deal with -- you are
8 dealing -- we are talking about roads funds and that is
9 what we are dealing with.
10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Your bullying won't get on with me now. 15:05
11 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: No, you are trying to cut across
12 me having my say and representing the people I
13 represent. We have just been cut 200 million for the
14 N81 and we have just been told here today that was
15 another 200 million for the N11. That is a fair point 15:05
16 to me to make and I will not be afraid to speak up for
17 the people I represent here.
18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor O'Neill?
19 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Councillor O'Neill's rattling, he
20 is like a big spoiled baby, a big rattler. 15:06
21 CLLR. O'NEILL: Did you attend the proposal meeting?
22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor O'Neill, please we are
23 moving on. Lorraine?
24 MS. GALLAGHER: Yes, Cathaoirleach. Members have been
25 circulated with a letter from David Cromie, financial 15:06
26 management accountant, there before the meeting. I
27 e-mailed the Elected Members on Friday just to advise
28 them while this matter wasn't listed on the agenda in
29 accordance with paragraph 16 of the standing orders:

1 "A motion for the purpose of dealing with urgent
2 business, notwithstanding any other provisions of these
3 standing orders, a motion may be proposed without
4 notice for the purpose of dealing with urgent business
5 related to a function of the local authority subject to 15:06
6 the requirement that not less than majority of members
7 vote in favour".

8
9 So to consider this matter, and the matter is the
10 borrowing of money for Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan. I 15:06
11 am going to have to take a vote to consider it. So if
12 the Members will bear with me, if you are agreeable to
13 consider it, say "for".

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, all right. [Vote taken].

15 MS. GALLAGHER: That's 24 for and six not present. So 15:08
16 now we can deal with the matter that's in front of us
17 which is, as circulated to you this afternoon, Wicklow
18 County Council subject to the approval of the
19 Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local
20 Government sanction the borrowing of the sum of 15:08
21 10 million in respect of Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan.
22 Is there a proposer and a seconder?

23 CLLR. BLAKE: Sorry, Chairman, can I ask a question in
24 regards to this?

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes, of course you can. 15:08

26 CLLR. BLAKE: The problem with the whole thing is that
27 for the price of housing in Wicklow we are experiencing
28 a situation where the loans that are available to
29 people are not sufficient. Can I ask here what

1 actually is the position of people getting that
2 particular loan and being sufficient to be able to
3 purchase a house, particularly in the North Wicklow
4 area, but even in South Wicklow we are finding a
5 situation where they are a lot cheaper than they are in 15:09
6 Bray or Greystones, but the money available to them is
7 not sufficient to purchase a house.

8 MR. CURRAN: Yeah, Cathaoirleach, the value of the
9 loan, the maximum is up to 320,000 but a lot of the
10 problems are around affordability and people having 15:09
11 commitments. We have 91 applications to date, 37 of
12 those were declined. It goes to our Credit Committee

13 here and it goes to the Housing Agency at national
14 level to do the full checks and come back with a
15 recommendation. 23 were approached which is what we 15:09
16 need to get the approval for here to drawdown the loan

17 in relation to that. But if people get the maximum
18 loan they come within they can't afford a house but the
19 unfortunate thing is that they have to have, you know,
20 no more than 35 per cent of their income has to be 15:10
21 spent servicing the loan, sometimes a standard prudent

22 way of approving loans, and they have to have the
23 deposit as well. We are doing everything we can to
24 provide as much information as we can, we listen to
25 them, but sometimes if people don't have the payment 15:10
26 there is nothing we can do about it. We have 23

27 approved already and we will be working with.

28 CLLR. BLAKE: Sorry, Pat, just I certainly support the
29 23 approvals anyway, I am surprised that there is so

1 many people who have had their deposits -- I just
2 wonder are they primarily in the less expensive areas,
3 those 23?

4 MR. CURRAN: No, no, they are right around the county.
5 320,000 will buy you a house in the upper east part of 15:10
6 the county as well, there is a good distribution.

7 CLLR. BLAKE: Thank you very much.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Cullen on this?

9 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Yes, Chairman. The problem, as I
10 see it, is the inordinate delay in getting sanctioned 15:10

11 because when I came on the Council first the loan
12 application took approximately three weeks for it to be
13 applied for and sanctioned. In three weeks the person
14 knew whether or not they were going to qualify for
15 their loan. This now has to go before a Credit 15:11

16 Committee in this Council which may meet once every six
17 or seven weeks and then they have to make a
18 recommendation, then it goes up to Dublin, up to the
19 department in Dublin for their approval, that takes
20 another long time. And the problem is that in the 15:11

21 meantime the houses could be sold by somebody who has
22 got from a private lending institution a house that
23 they were looking for. So I think that there should be
24 a target of no longer, no more, than four weeks from
25 the date of applying for a loan application to the date 15:11
26 of a decision whether or not to grant it to give a
27 letter of approval because it is simply not fair on the
28 Applicants that to go through all the paperwork then
29 just having the auctioneer then sells the house to

1 somebody else because somebody else simply got their
2 money before them. And I would ask to see what is the
3 time limits on getting these loans approved because
4 certainly from what I am experiencing that there does
5 seem to be an inordinate time delay in getting loans
6 approved. I think the whole system is very cumbersome
7 and I think there should be one evaluation committee
8 for the matter, for the application, and it should be
9 most likely here. Thank you, Chairman.

15:12

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Timmons?

15:12

11 CLLR. TIMMONS: Just briefly clarification on this: Is
12 this the cheap loan that was announced by the
13 Government in January where you can get fixed loans for
14 25 years at two-and-a-half per cent -- or 25 years at
15 two-and-a-half per cent and 30 years at two per cent,
16 is that the rates around that, that is what we are
17 referring to here, is it?

15:12

18 MR. CURRAN: Yes, yes.

19 CLLR. TIMMONS: well I certainly think it is a really
20 welcome initiative and there are a lot of people will
21 qualify based on the income rates that are in place.
22 Thank you.

15:13

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, I am letting Joe in now.

24 MR. LANE: Okay. We recently had a Housing Agency down
25 just to check our practises, particularly about the
26 Committees and the way we were doing things. Our time
27 periods would be roughly within practises, and four
28 weeks isn't possible at the moment. Many times, and
29 the Housing Agency is quite clear on this, many

15:13

1 applicants aren't coming in complete and it takes
2 sometime to engage with them, just to make sure for
3 information. The Housing Agency then provides a
4 service checks all that and makes sure we stay within
5 guidelines. So we do endeavour to get things done as 15:13
6 quickly as possible but it does take a while to get
7 through these. We are also in a situation where we are
8 trying to get people through and you can see by the
9 numbers. But at the same time we are trying to be fair
10 to the whole process in ensuring that there is 15:13
11 affordability regarding the loans going forward. So
12 again we do our best in the timeframe for four weeks,
13 bearing in mind how complicated the whole process is,
14 and the involvement (inaudible) Housing Agency just
15 wouldn't be possible because we couldn't commit to that 15:14
16 amount.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. I am moving on.

18 MS. GALLAGHER: No, that's it.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: That's it, okay. Proposed and
20 seconded, okay. We are moving on. Okay, 5, the 15:14
21 Kildare and Wicklow ETB.

22 MR. CURRAN: Yeah, Cathaoirleach, I have distributed
23 the legal advice which we got from our own law agent
24 and he is advising that there is a Garda investigation
25 ongoing here, that we need to proceed with caution. : 15:15
26

27 "It is important to realise that the primacy in our
28 system of law is given to the criminal process. The
29 reason is because of the importance of a fair trial,

1 needless to say, and the risk of the criminal process
2 that can occur if there is unrestrained public
3 controversy and debate about an issue in advance of a
4 criminal trial".

5
6 He also mentioned about the most important feature of a
7 criminal trial is the swearing in of an impartial jury:

8
9 "And any adverse pre-trial publicity can result in a
10 trial being delayed for a significant period of time
11 until publicity has died down, and in extreme cases can
12 result in a trial never occurring. It is very
13 important that a jury can be sworn in".

14
15 what he is saying there is that we don't want a
16 controversial debate about this and publicity that
17 might affect people becoming members of a jury. He is
18 also saying that it is possible there are a number of
19 persons connected with the Council may be involved in
20 these proceedings:

21
22 "In those circumstances circumspection and prudence are
23 required when it comes to anything that could interfere
24 with the integrity of the criminal process and
25 obstructing an ongoing investigation.

26
27 Any official who is a member who has any involvement
28 with the KWETB may well feel constrained at a Council
29 meeting if they remain silent and they are in somewhat

1 an invidious position at such a meeting as they will
2 not be in a position to debate the matter or defend
3 their position at this time".

4
5 He is saying:

15:16

6
7 "It is a legitimate of course for the Council to ask
8 the KWETB for updates".

9
10 That's his point there really that, look, it is an
11 ongoing Garda investigation, we shouldn't really
12 comment. We got correspondence also from KWETB's
13 solicitor who is saying:

15:16

14
15 "I confirm I am acting on behalf of KWETB in relation
16 to an ongoing Garda investigation and various matters
17 relating to procurement of financial issues. KWETB is
18 fully cooperating with same. As it is a live
19 investigation it is not appropriate to comment further
20 on it.

15:16

21
22 I can confirm" --

23
24 He is saying --

25
26 "that if members of Wicklow County Council have
27 information that might assist the investigation they
28 should contact Detective Superintendent Gerry Walsh at
29 01-6663700".

1 I will distribute that. But that is it, Cathaoirleach,
2 it is just an ongoing Garda investigation and we have
3 to be extremely careful in relation to any comments.
4 CATHAOIRLEACH: From my point of view I am in the
5 Councillor's hands in regard to this. I have an 15:17
6 opinion on it but I mean if Councillors wish, if the
7 majority of Councillors wish to go ahead and discuss
8 this, I will certainly go ahead with a discussion on
9 it. But we have the legal advice there on both counts
10 and it is up to the Members to decide what we do today. 15:17
11 Councillor O'Neill?
12 CLLR. O'NEILL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Again going by
13 our own law agent he has advised in his reply:
14
15 "In that regard the Council Members are perfectly 15:17
16 entitled to seek an update".
17
18 So that's really what I am going on. What is the
19 update? This is going on, and on, and on, and the
20 world knows that there are several Wicklow County 15:18
21 Councillors involved in the committee of the KWETB and
22 they have voted to remain silent over the last 12
23 months. I raised the issue here on the procurement IN
24 Dunlavin School 12 months ago and both myself and
25 Councillor Behan, Joe Behan, were concerned about how 15:18
26 the school will run and we got no answers from anyone,
27 including the KWETB Board. So it is really on the
28 grounds that there are a lot of people, a lot of
29 people, asking me and asking the public representatives

1 what's the story with the KWETB. It is public money
2 and the sooner the better we can answer it or we can
3 give them a satisfactory answer. But I think for
4 members of the KWETB, especially the Members of this
5 Chamber here that remain silent, this is going on 12 15:19
6 months, I don't think that is good enough. There has
7 to be some questions that we can ask, and I think the
8 sooner the better, because the longer it is left that
9 people are not answering, are not coming with any sort
10 of answers the more the public will be concerned. So I 15:19
11 would fully support these people here in pointing out
12 that the Members of the Council are perfectly entitled
13 to seek an update, and that's what I'm asking for.
14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Councillor Fox?
15 CLLR. DUNNE: Chairman, I would like to be excused from 15:19
16 the meeting please?
17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.
18 CLLR. FOX: Chairman, a couple of points: I think
19 given that it has progressed onto a Garda
20 investigation, the last thing we want to do is 15:20
21 compromise an investigation. I think it is very
22 dangerous territory to start talking when there is a
23 live investigation. Because if there is a financial
24 impropriety the last thing anybody in this Chamber
25 wants to do is compromise that investigation that those 15:20
26 persons would escape justice, or escape prosecution I
27 should say.
28
29 But there is a couple of points, if there is a debate,

1 and I feel we hadn't shouldn't necessarily have it at
2 this particular point, but if there is the board
3 members of the KWETB who probably know more facts than
4 anybody else in the Chamber can't participate in the
5 debate. You know, because it is clearly says in the 15:20
6 legal advice that they shouldn't participate in it. So
7 certainly I would, like I said at the last meeting,
8 would urge the Minister to produce the report. The
9 report is a draft, it is currently a draft report, I
10 think submissions were -- I could be wrong in this -- 15:21
11 but I think the board members could make submissions.
12 So the draft should be published, it should be done, an
13 actual report, and then at that stage if the
14 investigation is concluded we can have a debate on it,
15 a discussion on it. But I think it is very dangerous 15:21
16 territory to discuss it today when there is a live
17 investigation with An Garda Síochána.
18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Cullen?
19 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Yes, Chairman. Well, first and
20 foremost, the manager said if there is a trial, a 15:21
21 criminal trial. I am not aware, perhaps Mr. Curran has
22 information that I don't have, I am not aware that
23 anyone has been charged and maybe Mr. Curran will
24 clarify that, obviously he must have some information
25 that he is referring to, a criminal trial. I am not 15:22
26 aware of any criminal trial. If there was a criminal
27 trial obviously he would have a point but Mr. Curran
28 obviously has information that we don't have.
29 CATHAOIRLEACH: I think he said "criminal

1 investigation".

2 MR. CURRAN: I think what it says there is quite clear,
3 it is an investigation which may ultimately lead to.

4 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: which "may".

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: "May".

15:22

6 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: May then is may or may not. So
7 there is no trial so, we can discuss it.

8

9 The other thing is, Chairman, let's be clear, members
10 of the board of the KW have gone on national
11 television, on Prime Time Investigates, and openly gave
12 interviews discussing these matters. Members of this
13 Council have gone before the PAC Committee in the Dáil
14 and taken questions and answered questions about this
15 matter so there is no prohibiting factor there. So if
16 it can be discussed on international television and the
17 PAC Committee there is no restrictions on the board
18 members, who are our delegates, from giving us a report
19 here today and I would ask them to do that. There is
20 absolutely no restriction why they cannot.

15:22

15:23

15:23

21 Chairman, I can speak I suppose, I raised this matter
22 over the last week and looked to have this on the
23 agenda today, and I did so because I was, I think it
24 was the 27th September last, I actually attended that
25 infamous or famous KW board meeting when they decided
26 to go into secret meetings and subsequently held secret
27 meetings for the next almost six months discussing this
28 matter, banning the press and removing the press and
29 the public from the public galleries. This was a

15:23

1 public body discussing public education meeting in
2 secret. What shocked me at the time one that one of
3 the strongest advocates for going into secret meetings
4 was Councillor Jennifer Whitmore. I know she is not
5 here to defend herself here today.

15:24

6 CATHAoir LEACH: Councillor, I would prefer if you
7 didn't use any councillor's name when they are not here
8 to be fair to her, you know.

9 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Well, Chairman, let's be clear
10 here about this, Chairman, the first meeting in July
11 every councillor knows there is a County Council
12 meeting and they would have known that for over 12
13 months. There was two weeks notice given back in June
14 this was on the agenda today. We have all had to come
15 back from holidays and all to attend meetings here,
16 special meetings, I have had to do it and I am sure
17 other councillors have had to do it, so that's quite
18 normal, and particularly when it is relating to an
19 issue where Ms. Whitmore was a director of the board
20 and was one of the strongest advocates to go into
21 secret meetings and I think she should be here to
22 explain that here today.

15:24

15:24

15:24

23 CATHAoir LEACH: Councillor, that's your opinion.

24 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: It is my opinion and I have said
25 that, Chairman.

15:24

26 CATHAoir LEACH: That is not fair.

27 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: And I think because ultimately
28 this is about transparency and accountability. This is
29 involving the education of over 14,000 children,

1 secondary children in the school, and thousands of
2 primary children who are waiting to go into school.
3 Now we are in a situation where there has been almost
4 six months of secret meetings of a public body. That
5 is not acceptable in any democracy. I don't believe 15:25
6 that KW board should behave like that. There should be
7 nothing hidden about a public board, it should meet in
8 public and carry out its duties and functions in
9 public. I am just finishing, Chair.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes, please do. 15:25

11 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: We have discussed here loads of
12 times issues that are under investigation but there is
13 no one charged that I am aware of at the moment but
14 this has fundamental impacts on children's education
15 about proper procurement and procedures. We have all 15:25
16 seen the Prime Time Investigates programme, we have
17 seen the various serious matters raised in that
18 programme, and as I have been told there is a lot more
19 still to come.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: We don't know that either. 15:26

21 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Well, Chairman, I believe, I would
22 ask that, and I would agree with Councillor Fox that
23 the Minister would immediately publish the full Thorn
24 report. We asked for the chief executive of the KW to
25 come here to give a presentation, she has obviously 15:26
26 declined to do so. That is disappointing. We have
27 asked for the Thorn report here today, we haven't got
28 that. So here we are here today, we are the body
29 representing the children education in this county.

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As far as I can see, this experiment of the joint education between wicklow and kildare has failed and it is not working and the whole process has now fell into disrepute. I think we should be looking for now is to return to a wicklow VEC where wicklow is independently accountable for its own secondary education, which we had been for the previous 60 or 70 years and we never had these types of issues being raised. Because clearly, Chairman --

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can you finish now?

CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: -- this thing has collapsed in on itself, everybody is running for cover, nobody wants to be accountable, and at the end of day parents are at home, they don't know what is happening with their schools, we have heard all the things as I said, and I recall, Chairman, that we would return to the system of old VEC where wicklow now would have its own VEC back. But I think the members of that KW board should be here today and should give us answers, and in particular Councillor whitmore should be here today to answer why she was supporting these secret meetings. Thank you, Chairman.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor walsh?

CLLR. WALSH: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I would be inclined to agree with Councillor Fox's comments in that looking at the legal points I think we need to take cognisance of the legal advice where it states:

1 "I am aware that there is a substantial criminal
2 investigation on the part underway".

3
4 There may not have been anybody charged at this point
5 but in time but it is a possibility that somebody may 15:28
6 be charged in the future. So if we do go ahead to
7 discuss the issue then we will very much so restricted
8 from what we can and can't say. So I would be inclined
9 to maybe go for the update on the current position.

10 CATHAIRLEACH: Councillor McLoughlin? 15:28

11 CLLR. McLOUGHLIN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I would
12 agree, I don't think they should be discussed today. I
13 do however think it is not correct to mention any one
14 councillor, I think that is appalling, particularly
15 when there are others who are not here either but who 15:28
16 were in chair and whatever and had different roles to
17 play. So to single out one individual I think is
18 pretty appalling.

19 But what I do think we can do while this investigation
20 is taking place, I would like to see a root and branch 15:28
21 audit of all matters of governance in the KWETB and I
22 Wicklow County Council should write to the new CEO and
23 ask her to start that forthwith.

24
25 I have to say I do agree with Councillor Cullen with 15:29
26 regards to Wicklow going back to the VEC structure. As
27 a member of the board at that time and also as a member
28 of the audit committee which my colleague was the
29 chairman, we didn't have these issues. We most

1 certainly had very, very detailed reports every two
2 months when we met and we knew exactly what was going
3 on with Wicklow where it was governed in an effective
4 and appropriate manner.

5
6 But one of the things that did come about in the audit
7 committee of the KWETB was that when they were looking
8 for reports they were told there wasn't enough money in
9 the system to actually pay for it. So I think we
10 should be very strong in our letter to Deirdre Keyes
11 and I think we should be saying that sufficient
12 resources are allocated and a root and branch
13 throughout the whole of the KWETB is looked into and
14 any discrepancies should be fixed forthwith. Thank
15 you.

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Councillor Fortune?

17 CLLR. FORTUNE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I take the CE's
18 point about the cognisance of the advice we got from
19 the law officer and that's what I intend to do, the
20 contribution I make, I will read the paragraph where it
21 says:

22
23 "Having said all of the above, it is perfectly
24 legitimate that the Elected Member should be concerned
25 with the public monies and expenses in an appropriate
26 fashion in accordance with the relevant rules and
27 protocols applicable in the particular
28 circumstances". . .

1 And therefore we are entitled to ask questions and
2 that's what I want to do and I am sure some of the
3 existing members of the board would probably want to
4 say something as well. So my questions are based
5 around the role of the board in relation to how the 15:30
6 board is selected, the corporate governance matters,
7 the relationship in regards to how they interact with
8 the audit committee, the tender opening panels, who
9 selects them, who sits on them? And also, which is in
10 the public domain and as discussed in many forums, the 15:31
11 legal advice that the chairman got from Philip Lee
12 solicitors and was he advised to give that to all board
13 members and did he do it? Can the members confirm
14 this, why was it not circulated and why didn't chair
15 resign? what schools in wicklow are affected by this? 15:31
16 I have heard one or two schools mentioned. Also the
17 matter for the board of the appointment of SNA, what is
18 the situation around all that? In regards to
19 tenders --
20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, just to briefly, just for a 15:31
21 second, Councillor Fortune. We are discussing whether
22 we should discuss this or not, right.
23 CLLR. FORTUNE: I am asking questions.
24 CATHAOIRLEACH: So I mean if we decide to discuss it, I
25 will let you in then. 15:31
26 CLLR. FORTUNE: No, no, I just want to finish, I won't
27 be long.
28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.
29 CLLR. FORTUNE: Tenders who selects the --

1 CLLR. WINTERS: Chair, can we use the microphones
2 please?
3 MS. GALLAGHER: We are using them.
4 CLLR. FORTUNE: Yes, so am I. I am actually sitting
5 into it. 15:32
6 CATHAOI RLEACH: He is, yeah.
7 CLLR. FORTUNE: who selects the opening panels and how
8 are they selected, who has the signing authority
9 approval regarding agreements and leases in the KWETB?
10 And how is our law officer aware of the legal advice 15:32
11 when the board was not and the meetings in camera, I
12 would be seriously concerned about.
13
14 To finish, Chair, and I will wrap up with this, I am
15 calling for an independent investigation of the process 15:32
16 of member selection in 2014 from this authority to that
17 particular board. You will be well aware from both our
18 presence in this Chamber that I have continually asked
19 that question since 2014. If I was being ultra cynical
20 I would say that, my God, why was that meeting 15:32
21 conducted the way it was, why was I cut off --
22 CATHAOI RLEACH: We are on to something else.
23 CLLR. FORTUNE: I am asking that question, so I am
24 asking, Chair --
25 CATHAOI RLEACH: KWETB. 15:33
26 CLLR. FORTUNE: Please let me finish and then I will be
27 finished.
28 CATHAOI RLEACH: Stick to that please.
29 CLLR. FORTUNE: Yeah, I will. I am calling for an

1 independent investigation of the process of member
2 selection from this authority to the KWETB in 2014.
3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.
4 CLLR. FORTUNE: Because I feel I was mistreated.
5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Councillor Lawless, and then we 15:33
6 are going to make a decision on it.
7 CLLR. LAWLESS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. As a member
8 of the board of KWETB I think it is only right that I
9 do kind of answer as such some of the questions that
10 the Council have put forward and have some input. This 15:33
11 has been a very difficult time for the board in KWETB
12 and we have continually been asking questions, looking
13 for investigations, and I have know some councillors
14 say we have remained silent on it. In somewhat we have
15 remained silent here in these Chambers but there has 15:34
16 been public meetings where we have not remained silent
17 and our meetings have taken up the majority of the time
18 on this particular subject and we have grilled and
19 requested and looked for answers upon answers upon
20 answers about this investigation. We have asked for 15:34
21 the Minister to publish that report as soon as
22 possible. We want that report. We want to get this
23 sorted as soon as we possibly can.
24
25 I do think it is right, as a board member, that we 15:34
26 should bring back some information but we do have to be
27 careful if there is an ongoing investigation that we
28 don't prejudice it if somebody is being investigated.
29 But I think the stuff we have seen in the public, you

1 know, there is no issues about talking about that, yes,
2 there was a Prime Time programme. As a board member, I
3 wasn't aware that there was going to be a Prime Time
4 programme. I did find out afterwards that the three
5 ladies in question were very restricted in what they
6 could actually speak on as well because of legal
7 issues.

15:35

8
9 I certainly did not advocate for any meetings in secret
10 when this was going on. I would have been one of the
11 ones in the forefront that wanted this publicly out in
12 the arena because it is public money. There is issues
13 around the legal bill which Councillor Tom Fortune has
14 brought up, and I grilled the CE last week on numerous
15 questions of this. We also set up a subcommittee of
16 the board as well to go through the legal documents
17 ourselves and to ask questions why certain things
18 haven't been done.

15:35

15:35

19
20 Now the KWETB executive have also started their
21 procedures as well by looking at their governance,
22 their policies, their procurement policies and
23 everything is being reviewed and going forward they are
24 hoping that this situation wouldn't happen again.

15:35

25
26 There is questions, Councillor Fortune, you have asked
27 and I probably cannot answer them today but I am sure
28 of them are fairly straightforward of who opens the
29 tender openings and, you know, stuff like that. That

15:35

1 is straightforward information and I don't see why we
2 couldn't give the policy and procedures around how that
3 is actually done. That is not going to infringe on any
4 investigation, it is just a policy matter.

15:36

5
6 But, yes, we have sat here I suppose in the Chambers
7 quietly listening to what has been going on but it has
8 been an extremely, extremely big investigation and it
9 has made a massive impact as well. But I want to
10 assure the Members here that we are as a board trying
11 our utmost to rectify what has happened but we are also
12 trying to make sure that we get the answers that we
13 want to make sure that a situation like this does not
14 happen again. As I say, our concern is for the
15 education and welfare of our students with all our
16 colleges and schools that we have, and also the staff
17 and teaching staff as well within the KWETB because it
18 has affected them as well. So, look, you know, if the
19 questions maybe want to be written down because I
20 couldn't take note of them all and maybe we could
21 request that the KWETB send some kind of report back in
22 for the September meeting.

15:36

15:36

15:37

23 CATHAOI RLEACH: Okay, grand. Councillor Behan?

24 CLLR. FORTUNE: Chair, sorry, can I get a clarification
25 point just very quickly? very quickly.

15:37

26 CATHAOI RLEACH: Just on that, yeah.

27 CLLR. FORTUNE: Yeah, just clarification. Can I just
28 clarify with Councillor Lawless did the members get a
29 copy of Philip Lee's advice?

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Philip Lee's advice. Listen, I don't
2 want --

3 CLLR. FORTUNE: No, no, I am not getting into it, I am
4 not getting into it.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: I think it is unfair -- 15:37

6 CLLR. FORTUNE: No, I am not getting into the advice, I
7 just want to know did they get a copy of it.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: I want to let Councillor Behan in.

9 CLLR. LAWLESS: well --

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, sorry -- 15:37

11 CLLR. LAWLESS: Oh, sorry, he was just directing a
12 question to me, Cathaoirleach, sorry.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: You are not being interrogated as far
14 as I'm concerned.

15 CLLR. LAWLESS: I know that. 15:37

16 CLLR. BEHAN: If Councillor Lawless wants to answer it,
17 that's fine by me. Do you want to answer it?

18 CLLR. LAWLESS: No, you go ahead there.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: No, no, no, listen, Councillor Behan,
20 go ahead. 15:37

21 CLLR. BEHAN: It just if she wants to take it up there,
22 that's all.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: I don't want dialogue going between two
24 councillors across the table.

25 CLLR. LAWLESS: No, no, I want proper procedures, 15:38
26 Cathaoirleach.

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Behan, please go ahead.

28 CLLR. BEHAN: I am trying to.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Behan, go ahead.

1 CLLR. BEHAN: Right, Cathaoirleach, the last statement
2 that Councillor Lawless made I think is the most
3 worrying thing of all, which is that so much time of
4 the KWETB board has been spent discussing this issue
5 instead of what they should be discussing, which is the 15:38
6 educational welfare of the students under their
7 management throughout the County of Wicklow and
8 obviously the County of Kildare.

9
10 The second fact that we must all remember is that the 15:38
11 Minister for Education sought a report on certain
12 matters, again we don't know specifically what they
13 are, but on receipt of that report he immediately sent
14 it to the Gardaí. That's a fact.

15 15:38
16 The third fact we have from our law agent is that there
17 is a substantial criminal investigation underway which
18 means that this is an extremely serious matter that a
19 number of public representatives of Wicklow County
20 Council have been given responsibility to oversee. The 15:39
21 law agent I think has been very clear in saying that
22 we, as the other Members of the Council, are entitled
23 to ask questions about the expenditure of public money
24 because that's what the public education system or
25 educational training boards is there for, it is a 15:39
26 democratic body. The people who are elected as
27 councillors have a remit to ensure that public money is
28 spent properly. So therefore it is quite legitimate,
29 as the law agent has said, for us to discuss this

1 matter and to seek information.

2
3 I would agree with Councillor Lawless when she says
4 that the questions -- I am sure they have been noted,
5 they will be noted by the stenographer, I am sure it 15:39
6 has been noted by Ms. Gallagher and Gillian as well --
7 those questions should be submitted, not to the CEO,
8 but to the chair of the KWETB, the current chair, for
9 discussion at their next meeting and answers should be
10 supplied by the KWETB board. Not a new CEO that has 15:40
11 just come in in the last month, the board members
12 should be answering the questions that have been put
13 and they have been listed there quite clearly by
14 previous speakers. I am not going it to go into them
15 again. 15:40

16
17 But I would agree with, finally, two other things that
18 have been proposed here, and if they need to be
19 seconded I am certainly happy to second them. One is
20 that the Minister for Education be asked immediately to 15:40
21 publish the Thorn report so that we can all see what is
22 in this report, that led to a substantial criminal
23 investigation. The people of this county and the
24 people of County Kildare, as well as the people of
25 Ireland, the taxpayers of Ireland, are entitled to know 15:40
26 what is in that report. That is point number one.
27 Point number two, I want to second Councillor Fortune's
28 proposal that the procedures that were used in the
29 selection of members from this body to be on the KWETB

1 in 2014, that they be subject to an independent
2 investigation so that we can discover exactly how
3 members were selected at this body and what was the
4 legitimate validity of the choices that were made at
5 that particular time. I think he has proposed that 15:41
6 that be investigated and I am certainly seconding that,
7 Cathaoirleach. Thank you.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Right, there is nobody else coming in?
9 CLLR. THORNHILL: Cathaoirleach?

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, go ahead. 15:41

11 CLLR. THORNHILL: Go raibh maith agat.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: You only indicated now, you hadn't
13 indicated before that. Go ahead.

14 CLLR. THORNHILL: Cathaoirleach, go raibh maith agat.
15 Cathaoirleach, I would just like to say just briefly 15:41
16 that I would concur with a lot of the points that are
17 being made here but I would just like to make a point,
18 I recently attended a KWETB meeting here in Wicklow and
19 I observed what was going on at the meeting. To be
20 quite honest, I was shocked what was going on because 15:42
21 we were talking earlier on about suspending standing
22 orders and other work not being done. But what I am
23 saying here, what I can see here with this is there is
24 an awful lot of talk about procedure, grievance
25 procedures, and other matters like that. As 15:42
26 Councillor Behan, Councillor Fortune and
27 Councillor Cullen are saying, the education of the
28 youngsters is suffering and this should be the main
29 issue.

1
2 But one other thing that I would just like to say and
3 it came up in the Prime Time programme by one of the
4 members of the KWETB was the disconnect between the
5 CEO, the top board, and the board members, there didn't 15:42
6 seem to be any cohesion. It is something that should
7 be looked at because at the end of the day the
8 education of children in Wicklow and Kildare is at
9 stake and it is being missed completely. We are going
10 round the houses and we should get this thing sorted 15:43
11 out once and for all. Go raibh maith agat,
12 Cathaoirleach.
13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.
14 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Chairman, just one brief question.
15 Would Councillor Lawless please answer the question, 15:43
16 did you receive the legal advice from Philip Lee, yes
17 or no?
18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor, you know quite well, I am
19 moving on.
20 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Yes or no? 15:43
21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Lawless, please I don't want
22 banter between two counsel, I don't want you to answer
23 that.
24 CLLR. LAWLESS: Well I think, Cathaoirleach, it is a
25 reasonable question, he is asking -- 15:43
26 CATHAOIRLEACH: Listen, you go through the Chair here,
27 the fact of the matter is if you want to answer it,
28 answer it briefly. If not, I mean I am not having
29 dialogue between councillors and investigation of

1 councillors in regard to questions. That's not going
2 to happen in here.

3 CLLR. LAWLESS: Legal advice was given to the three
4 chairs in July but we were not told about the legal
5 advice until September. So, no, we didn't get to see 15:44
6 it and we are still under investigation about the legal
7 advice. Councillor Thornhill was at that meeting, he
8 seen the questions. So it is a report that was read
9 into the public records, so you can look at that
10 report, and it goes through the statements of the legal 15:44
11 advice and how it was given out. So that is in the
12 public minutes of the KWETB meeting and he can
13 certainly ask about that. That's all I can add, that
14 is the straight answer.

15 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Chairman, just briefly -- 15:44
16 CATHAOIRLEACH: No, you are not, we are moving on.

17 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Chairman, that's a shocking
18 revelation that the legal advice was withheld from the
19 board members. Chairman, just for record, I attended
20 and Councillor Lawless voted against -- 15:44
21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Ms. Gallagher is in now.

22 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Councillor Lawless voted against
23 holing the meetings in secret.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Right, okay.

25 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: I have to give her her credit for 15:44
26 that.

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: Just for your information.

28 MS. GALLAGHER: Elected Members, just there is a
29 proposal to write to the Minister and ask the Minister

1 for Education & Skills to publish the report. Just to
2 recap, that we did write on behalf of the Elected
3 Members to the Minister for Education in December 2017
4 and then as recently as the 19th June last. So we did
5 receive a letter, which was circulated, from the
6 Department of Education at the time, and that was in
7 February, and it said:

15:45

8
9 "As you are aware, Mr. Richard Thorn was appointed by
10 the Minister for Education & Skills under Section 40 of
11 the ETB Act, 2013, to carry out an investigation into
12 the performance of the KWETB board, its functions, and
13 particularly in relation to the public procurement
14 impropriety matters. As a process of the investigation
15 and reporting is still underway it would be
16 inappropriate for the Minister to comment further at
17 this juncture".

15:45

15:45

18
19 We wrote to them again on the 19th June:

20
21 "The Elected Members wish to discuss the matter at the
22 next council meeting" --

15:45

23
24 which is today --

25
26 "and passed a resolution that the Department for
27 Education & Skills publish the final draft of the
28 report of Mr. Richard Thorn, that same be provided to
29 Wicklow County Council immediately with any legal

15:45

1 advice the KWETB have received".

2

3 So there isn't a response to that. I can certainly

4 write again if you so wish?

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Is it agreed we write again? 15:46

6 COUNCILLORS: Yes.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: We write again, okay.

8 MS. GALLAGHER: Just in relation to that, we wrote to

9 the CE, Dr. Deirdre Keyes of Kildare and Wicklow

10 Education Training Board on the 21st June, advised her 15:46

11 that the matter would be discussed again at the Wicklow

12 County Council scheduled for Monday, the 2nd July and

13 that the Elected Members requested that the Council

14 write to you inviting you to attend this meeting, again

15 outlining the background. There is a letter from the 15:46

16 KWETB on behalf of the chief executive dated the

17 20th June just advising that the CE is currently on

18 leave and she asked to convey her apologies as she is

19 unable to attend at the meeting. Just to update the

20 Members in respect of that correspondence. 15:46

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Anything else?

22 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Chairman?

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: wait there now.

24 MS. GALLAGHER: There is also a proposal by

25 Councillor Fortune seconded by Councillor Behan that 15:47

26 Council initiate an investigation into the processes of

27 the selection of the representatives to the KWETB back

28 in 2014. Is that agreed?

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: This is nothing got to do with what we

1 are talking about here today in regard to the KWETB.
2 If Councillor Fortune wants to put that down on the
3 agenda, I will take that on the agenda at September's
4 meeting.

5 CLLR. FORTUNE: It has everything to do with it, Chair. 15:47
6 Chair, it has everything to do with it.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: It is not appropriate to take it today.

8 CLLR. FORTUNE: It has everything to do with it and you
9 know it.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: In regard to this, this is something 15:47
11 that --

12 CLLR. FORTUNE: It has everything to do with it and you
13 know it.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: That was a democratic decision that was
15 taken by the Members at that time. 15:48

16 CLLR. FORTUNE: It has everything to do with it and you
17 know it.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Is there anything else?

19 CLLR. FORTUNE: It has everything to do with it and you
20 know it and so do other Members in this Chamber. You 15:48
21 know damn well, Chair.

22 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Sorry, Chair, before you move on.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: we have had the discussion, we will
24 move on.

25 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Hold on now, Chair, before you 15:48
26 move on this is a very serious debate. There is 14,000
27 children --

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Listen, listen, we are moving on we
29 have had a debate.

1 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: We have had the statement from
2 Councillor Lawless that critical legal information from
3 Philip Lee was withheld from her and the rest of the
4 board members.
5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Wicklow County Development Plan, we are 15:48
6 onto 6.
7 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Surely that should send shockwaves
8 through this Council that the legal advice paid for by
9 the taxpayer was withheld from the board of the KW. If
10 that does not cry out for independent and proper 15:48
11 investigation.
12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, 6, I am on 6 now..
13 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: And it is a pity here that the
14 people who should be answering these questions have ran
15 out of the Chamber here again today. 15:48
16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry --
17 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: This is the second time.
18 CATHAOIRLEACH: We are on 6 now.
19 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: And I would give credit to
20 Councillor Lawless -- 15:48
21 CATHAOIRLEACH: We are on 6 now.
22 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: -- she was one of the few
23 councillors that stood up in this and voted against the
24 six months of secret meetings of the KW --
25 CATHAOIRLEACH: We are on 6. 15:48
26 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: -- and I give the lady full
27 credit.
28 MR. CURRAN: Just in relation to number 6, the No Fry
29 Zone, we gave the rationale behind the planning

1 decision the last day in relation to how it complied
2 with the Development Plan in terms of the time
3 restrictions and the policies in relation to
4 neighbourhood centres, et cetera, so that was done,
5 that was dealt with, and Sean can go through that again 15:49
6 if we want.

7
8 The question was asked then was in relation to
9 Section 44. Now again we provided a legal opinion in
10 relation to Section 44. That really relates to 15:49
11 applications or permissions that are granted that no
12 longer conform with the development plan. In other
13 words, permission was granted but there was a change in
14 the Development Plan and, therefore, the planning
15 permission can be revisited. Now that doesn't apply in 15:49
16 this case because there hasn't been a change in the
17 Development Plan. That is the advice that is given
18 there by the law agent.

19
20 In relation to the application itself, I understand 15:49
21 there has been one application to An Bord Pleanála for
22 leave to appeal it. We are not sure about the others
23 but we are trying to get that information, where there
24 has been statutory bodies have appealed or there has
25 been other applications for leave to appeal, there has 15:50
26 certainly been one, and that is still open to people to
27 apply to An Bord Pleanála. But that is the situation,
28 Cathaoirleach.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Fortune?

1 CLLR. FORTUNE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Yeah, I read
2 the law officer's letter. It is debatable the content
3 of it because it is kind of maybe this and maybe that.
4 But what is very, very important is that the decision
5 by An Bord Pleanála in regards to Wexford in November 15:50
6 2016, the Bord Pleanála officer said that the rationale
7 for the decision they took was based on the fact that
8 they said that the No Fry Zone area was more
9 appropriate for a post primary school, they were
10 dealing with the primary school. So that's a very 15:51
11 significant rationale in that decision. That logic
12 that was put forward by the ABP confirms that the
13 decision taken by this Council in our Development Plan,
14 which is in our Development Plan should stand and does
15 stand. Okay, as the CE has said there is an appeal 15:51
16 gone in but I don't think it is fair and right to say
17 that the Wexford decision is precedent, it is not.
18 There was a rationale for it.
19
20 That's why, among other things, we said here at the 15:51
21 last meeting when we were discussing it that the
22 residents in the general area just can't understand
23 what the local authority is doing because there does
24 not appear to be a fair rationale to the decision. All
25 this talk about Section 44 and everything else, I mean, 15:51
26 okay, my view is that would need to be gone into in a
27 lot more legal depth than what we have currently been
28 told because it is not clear at all on my reading.
29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Right, Councillor Mitchell?

1 CLLR. MITCHELL: Thank you. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.
2 I just want to say that, as I said before, it is
3 unfortunate this decision was made. The planning staff
4 has explained their rationale behind that but I think
5 it is a pity it wasn't granted permission and then the 15:52
6 owner could have appealed to An Bord Pleanála who could
7 have made the superior decision.

8
9 Now after the decision I wrote to the HSE because this
10 is a health matter and they are statutorily entitled to 15:52
11 object as a prescribed body under the Planning Act in
12 relation to health matters. I wrote to the HSE and
13 asked them to object to this decision to An Bord
14 Pleanála because nobody in Greystones did object to it
15 at the time because they assumed that the No Fry Zone 15:52
16 would be triumphant over any other matters in the
17 Development Plan. I haven't yet got a response from
18 the HSE as to whether they are going to object.

19
20 However, the Bord Pleanála has agreed to accept an 15:53
21 objection from somebody else associated with the
22 campaign I think. So the matter will be teased out
23 before An Bord Pleanála which I think is the right
24 decision, so I am glad that that is happening. I hope
25 that the HSE, this is a health matter, I think the 15:53
26 Loughlinstown Obesity Unit has been very much to the
27 forefront of trying to raise national awareness about
28 the dangers of obesity, and indeed the health plague we
29 are going to get from the diseases associated with it

1 nationally. Also I accept the award from the group,
2 which is very much associated with that Loughlinstown
3 obesity group -- anti-obesity group I should say --
4 from them. So I think I would like to see them
5 objecting as well. Thank you.

15:54

6 CATHAORLEACH: Councillor Behan?

7 CLLR. BEHAN: well, Mr. Chairman, look, the fundamental
8 issue is that we made a policy and the Executive
9 changed it. Now I want to read out the latest addition
10 of the Fine Gael newsletter -- no, I mean the
11 Countywise magazine -- you might be mistaken for
12 thinking it is a Fine Gael newsletter when you look at
13 the front page. But however inside it states the
14 following -- this is coming from this Council -- this
15 is what it says:

15:54

16
17 "Wicklow County Council has been recognised for being
18 the first Council in Ireland to include an objective in
19 its County Development Plan excluding any new fast food
20 takeaway outlets from being built or from operating
21 within 400 metres of schools or play grounds".

15:54

22
23 That came from this body. So somebody wrote it in the
24 newsletter even for the people of Wicklow. And poor
25 Derek Mitchell was sent off to collect an award about
26 it and other people in this organisation, namely the
27 Chief Executive, Director of Planning, Senior Planner,
28 decided to overrule the Executive Planner who was doing
29 her best to abide by the Council policy, and they

15:55

1 decided to overturn it. And at the same time they are
2 putting out this propaganda saying that, look at what
3 we did, we put it in our Development Plan. It's a
4 farce. And how any official of this county can still
5 proceed to defend it is beyond me. We shouldn't have 15:55
6 to be worrying about Bord Pleanála depending on
7 somebody to go and appeal. The Executive should have
8 the decency to admit that they have got it wrong and
9 revoke their planning permission, as the law agent has
10 pointed, if that can be done. It absolutely can be 15:55
11 done because you have completely disobeyed the policy
12 decision of the Elected Members of this Council. So
13 yet again I ask the Chief Executive change the
14 decision, withdraw that planning application, and do
15 the decent thing by the Members of the Council, but 15:56
16 more importantly the people of County Wicklow.
17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Walsh?
18 CLLR. WALSH: Yes, just on the same point as
19 Councillor Mitchell made, it is to be welcomed that An
20 Bord Pleanála have accepted an appeal in this case and 15:56
21 they are the adjudicators at this point, and subject to
22 their deliberations, I think when we come to review our
23 County Development Plan, we need to come back to that
24 subject again and see if we can make it more robust and
25 tie it down. I think we should let An Bord Pleanála be 15:56
26 the adjudicators now and let that take its course and
27 await that outcome.
28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Kavanagh.
29 CLLR. KAVANAGH: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Yeah, I have

1 to say I was absolutely shellshocked when I heard that
2 a decision that we made here in these Chambers was
3 completely turned on its head. We sat here for a long,
4 long time discussing it, an awful lot of people spoke
5 it on the day, if memory serves, spoke about the 15:57
6 advantages of it, developments of it, how we would be a
7 leading light in the obesity challenge, the battle
8 against obesity in this country. We were being lauded
9 for the decision that was made in the papers afterwards
10 and it had headlines, Greystones received an award for 15:57
11 it. Suddenly, all of a sudden, all bets are off, it is
12 not going to happen, it has been overturned. It has
13 made the Council look absolutely ineffective. What did
14 we all sit here for hours for and discuss everything,
15 the ins and out of it, the economics of it and then the 15:57
16 to suddenly have the decision overturned by senior
17 planners? It actually defies belief. So I would
18 certainly like to, along with Councillor Behan, call
19 for the decision to be rescinded that they overthrew
20 our decision and recognise the democracy of these 15:58
21 Chambers.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Matthews?

23 CLLR. MATTHEWS: Chairman, first of all, it is very
24 worrying to hear two Councillors call for us to
25 overrule the planning, Section 44 doesn't apply in that 15:58
26 case. But if we go back to the Development Plan, as
27 far as my memory serves me, the recommendation was not
28 to proceed with RT17, am I correct in saying that, and
29 we overruled the manager's decision on it, as far I can

1 remember now. That highlights the dangers of going
2 against the planners' expertise and the manager's
3 recommendations in a Development Plan. I was one of
4 the ones who voted not to proceed with it because I
5 supported RT17 principle. I think what it was trying 15:58
6 to do in principle was the right thing. However, you
7 have to be conscious when you put in a policy that's
8 been recommended not to proceed because it is difficult
9 to comply with, or difficult to apply to a planning
10 decision, you need the planners in a situation where if 15:59
11 they were to refuse permission based on RT17 the
12 applicant is open to appeal it to the Bord. Or if they
13 uphold it or if they refuse, as they have done in this
14 case, then others can appeal to the Bord. But it is
15 very, very difficult. That is a very, very difficult 15:59
16 policy to apply because it is not as tight as it needs
17 to be. I think Councillor Walsh suggested we should go
18 back to the Development Plan and tighten that up and
19 see if it is possible to do. But it is a very, very
20 difficult one to apply. I know it applies to takeaways 15:59
21 but the principle in it was to try and prevent exposure
22 for school children to foods that are high in fats and
23 sugars, et cetera. But there are so many shops out
24 there that have all those things available to them and
25 it would seem you are penalising one and not the other. 16:00
26 So really I think it highlights the dangers of not
27 taking the planners' advice on the Development Plan and
28 possibly we need to return to that policy and tighten
29 it up if that's the Members' decision.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Councillor Tommy Cullen?
2 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Yes, Chairman, it was a bizarre
3 decision, bizarre is a mild word, for the decision to
4 go ahead with the grant of this planning permission.
5 Because I draw a comparison to refusals from one-off 16:00
6 rural housing. Recently a person, a farmer, who has
7 submitted his baptismal certs, where he went to school,
8 all for over ten years, his father's farm, generations,
9 I think put in about 250 years. In fact my great aunt
10 was his mother's schoolteacher so the connection was 16:01
11 there for many years. The manager said, well, can't
12 overrule the planners. So one person for a one-off
13 rural housing would clearly qualify. The reason he was
14 refused ultimately was he didn't supply a long birth
15 certificate, he supplied a short birth certificate. 16:01
16 When did that ever come into the County Development
17 Plan? So there seems to be one rule for big business,
18 and I am talking about big business, and another then
19 for one-off rural houses and it is something that is
20 going to have to be looked at very, very carefully. 16:01
21 Because if you are going to overrule planners for one
22 issue like this and then say you can't intervene for
23 people who are being refused permission on their own
24 farm, that's given 150 years of dwelling in the area,
25 then that's a problem. That's a problem in the plan, 16:02
26 that's a serious problem in the planning process.
27
28 Now I am surprised at Councillor Matthews he seems to,
29 I don't know, he certainly knows Déirdre de Búrca, I

1 think he doesn't seem to follow Green policy here in
2 this Chamber.

3 CLLR. MATTHEWS: There are many in this Chamber.

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: I don't know if she followed it either.

5 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Not much she did in fairness. But 16:02
6 Councillor Matthews certainly is no Déirdre de Búrca.

7 CLLR. RYAN: It's a compliment.

8 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: There is arguments both sides but
9 the Executive Planner recommended in accordance with
10 the plan to be refused. The Executive overturned our 16:02
11 recommendation and granted it, and at the same time
12 there is no intervention to overrule very unreasonable
13 planner refusals for one-off rural houses. That is
14 inconsistent, it can't be sustained, and it is not
15 sustainable. So I think there has to be a root and 16:03
16 branch review of what is going on in the planning of
17 this county because there is certainly problems
18 everywhere.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: I am letting the manager in now.

20 MR. CURRAN: Okay. Sorry, I don't think the Executive 16:03
21 Planner was recommending refusal but like, as I said
22 the last day, and it was pointed out to the Greystones
23 Members the policy was taken into account in that there
24 was a planning restriction put on the property. Also
25 on the takeaway element, also in relation to the 16:03
26 policies in relation to neighbourhood centres, that was
27 all taken into account, and smarter travel and all the
28 policies in the Development Plan.

29

1 Now something, as Councillor Walsh has said, that can
2 be looked at, it can be looked at as part of the
3 Greystones Local Area Plan in relation to tying that
4 down in neighbourhood centres. So that's something we
5 can look at into the future. As I said earlier, I 16:03
6 don't think section 44 applied. It is a live planning
7 application and it is before An Bord Pleanála now so so
8 we will have to see how that pans out.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. We are moving on. It is a live
10 planning application, the Bord have to decide on it at 16:03
11 this particular stage.

12 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Chairman, in regards to
13 Councillor de Búrca, she may be back.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, we are moving on. Okay, 7.

15 MR. CURRAN: Cathaoirleach, this again came from 16:04
16 Councillor Matthews who was looking at the Part 8s and
17 whether they can be dealt with at the municipal
18 district level and we outlined the last day that we had
19 a look at that as we had a look at everything that is
20 in Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act, 2014, which 16:04
21 sets out functions that can be dealt with by either a
22 Municipal District or County Council.

23

24 Now it is not as straightforward as everything can be
25 dealt with at municipal district. There are some items 16:04
26 that can be done at municipal district and some that
27 need to be done at the main council. There is
28 legislation governing that, the Local Government
29 Performance and Reserved Functions in respect of

1 municipal district and there are two Department
2 circulars that set out when you go to the municipal
3 district and when you go to the main council.
4

5 Now Lorraine has done a lot of work on this and she has 16:04
6 prepared, based on what Members said the last day at
7 the meeting, she prepared a policy document on it, that
8 has gone to the CPG, and the CPG Executive bring it
9 back here. I might ask Lorraine now just to give a
10 short presentation on what we are recommending based on 16:05
11 the legislation and on the Department circulars.

12 CATHAoirLEACH: In regard to that, if we look at the
13 presentation, we have a question and answer session on
14 it. Then, as far as I am concerned, it goes back to
15 the municipal authorities to discuss this again. If 16:05
16 necessary, Lorraine will go to the municipal
17 authorities to answer any particular question on it
18 before any recommendation coming back from the
19 municipal authority, the meeting then here a month
20 later than that, okay. There will be a full discussion 16:05
21 at the municipal authorities after this meeting as well
22 taking back what the recommendations are.

23 MS. GALLAGHER: Okay, thank you, Cathaoirleach. Well
24 Members have been circulated with a draft policy. I am
25 just going to run through the contents of that policy. 16:05
26 So the purpose of that policy. So the purpose of the
27 policy and what it relates to is to a degree a set of
28 circumstances where the reserved functions set out at
29 Part 2 schedule 14A are to be exercised by the

1 municipal districts of Wicklow County Council for the
2 Plenary Council. The policy document relates only to
3 the reserved functions set out in Part 2 of Schedule A
4 and they are listed 1 to 24.

5
6 Now, as we all know from our discussion at the last
7 meeting, the functions set out in Part 2 do not have to
8 formally assigned. However, it is necessary to
9 determine in each case in accordance with the relevant
10 provisions whether a function is to be performed by the MD of or the Plenary Council. Outside of all of this
11 there is also the proviso that the performance of these
12 functions is subject to budgetary provision and
13 procedures which are the subject of other separate
14 legislative regulations and guidance. Also it is just
15 worth remembering that the functions set out of in
16 Part 2 of Schedule A are performed by the MD only in
17 respect of the municipal districts.
18

19
20 So moving on, the reserved functions set out in Part 2
21 are depending on circumstances exercisable by either
22 the Plenary Council or by the MD members in respect of
23 a municipal district. Now the circumstances in which
24 these functions should be performed by the Plenary
25 Council are governed in the Regulations SI 231 of 2014
26 and the two sets of ministerial directions issued as
27 part of Circular LG in October 2014 and in May 2014.
28 So it is important to say that the policy that you have
29 been circulated with has been crafted in accordance

1 with the legislative requirements and guidelines that
2 were circulated.

3
4 So what guidance do the circulars provide? The need
5 for consistency with policy, strategy, programmes or
6 plans to the local authority:

7
8 avoidance of unnecessary duplication, requirements on
9 the Elected Council of the local authority to perform a
10 function where it is to be performed in every MD.

11
12 a right of 'call in' by the local authority in
13 circumstances where the performance of certain MD
14 functions could have significant implications for the
15 administrative area of a local authority or other 16:08
16 municipal district;

17
18 and performance of certain delegated functions in
19 particular instances by the Elected Council of the
20 Local Authority; 16:08

21
22 For the resolution of differences and disagreements.
23 Just in relation to delegating functions, they are the
24 functions contained in schedule 3 Part 3 which we are
25 not considering today, it is simply the functions 1 to 16:08
26 24 in Part 2.

27
28 So there are a number of areas to consider drafting the
29 policy, and particularly in relation to the

1 recommendations. So Regulation 5(1), and that is at
2 appendix page 7 of the policy document. In the case of
3 any reserved function specified in paragraph 5, 6 or 7
4 of Schedule 14A and Part 2 of Schedule 14A to the Act
5 of 2001, which in a particular instance is to be
6 exercised and performed in respect of every MD in the
7 administrative area of a local authority, such function
8 shall, in that instance be performed only by the
9 Elected Council of that local authority.

10
11 If you look at Appendix 2 on page 8 of the draft policy
12 document, the functions set out thereunder at reference
13 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 19 and 21 should only be performed by
14 the MD members insofar as they relate to the district
15 and for any doubt the CPG is to be consulted. 16:09

16 Regulation 5(2) talks about functions specified in the
17 schedule (and identified from Part 2 of Schedule 14A),
18 these are set out at Appendix 3, page 9 of the draft
19 policy document and that states that those functions
20 shall be exercised and performed only by the Plenary 16:10
21 Council where the exercise and performance of the
22 function in a particular instance in respect of a
23 municipal district could have implications for the
24 administrative area of the local authority or an MD of
25 the local authority other than the district of which 16:10
26 the function is to be exercised and performed.

27
28 so in relation to resolutions of differences, what
29 happens if there are differences: The draft policy

1 provides for a resolution process having regard to the
2 regulations and these refer to two areas, one of them
3 is in relation to the inconsistency or unnecessary
4 duplication. Regulation 4 sets out a process so where
5 the MD members propose to exercise or perform a
6 reserved function and the CE, the Chief Executive,
7 following consultation with the Cathaoirleach or
8 Leas-Cathaoirleach of the municipal district forms the
9 opinion that the exercise and performance of the
10 function in that instance would give rise to
11 inconsistency or unnecessary duplication, there is to
12 be a resolution process.

16:10

16:11

13
14 Also Regulation 8(1) talks about where the Chief
15 Executive following consultation forms an opinion that
16 accords with the provision of the Act of 2000, the
17 regulations or any guidelines received from the
18 Department that the function should be exercised and
19 performed or should be in that instance be exercised
20 and performed by the Elected Council of the local
21 authority rather than the MD members, then the Chief
22 Executive shall advise the MD members accordingly and
23 the following provisions shall apply.

16:11

16:11

24
25 So the draft policy sets out a resolution process which
26 has had regard to the regulations of 2014 and the
27 following is proposed, the following shall apply: The
28 MD members may, by resolution, decide to refer the
29 matter to the CPG for consideration and the MD shall

16:11

1 not proceed with the exercise and performance of the
2 function unless the CPG indicates that in its view the
3 performance of the function would not involve any
4 inconsistency or unnecessary duplication. Or where
5 Regulation 8(1) applies unless the CPG indicates that
6 in its view the function should, in that instance, be
7 performed by the MD.

16:12

8
9 So in general I just to mention the prohibition and the
10 exercise and performance of reserved functions as set
11 out in Regulation 9(1). The MD shall not perform a
12 reserved function which by virtue of the Act of 2001,
13 the 2014 Regs or any guidelines is a function to be
14 performed by the Elected Council only or should be
15 performed only by the Elected Council in a particular
16 instance. Likewise, the Elected Council shall not
17 perform a reserved function which by virtue of the
18 above should be performed only by the MDs.

16:12

19
20 In relation to the exercise and performance of reserved
21 functions generally the Elected Council and the MD
22 should execute and perform reserved functions in
23 accordance with the Act of 2000 these regulations and
24 any guidelines. Any resolution purporting to be
25 adopted for the purpose of the exercise and performance
26 of the reserved function which is not in compliance
27 with the above shall be deemed to be invalid and have
28 no effect.

16:13

1 So just in relation then to getting down to the
2 nitty-gritty of the proposals for a policy document set
3 out in the draft policy circulated, the proposed policy
4 for the carrying out of reserved functions under Part 2
5 by the MDs:

6
7 Functions shall be performed in a manner that is
8 consistent with the policies, strategies, programmes
9 and plans of Wicklow County Council;

10
11 Any unnecessary duplication in the performance of
12 functions between the MD members for each of the MDs in
13 the Wicklow County Council area between the MD members
14 and Wicklow County Council for that area will be
15 avoided;

16
17 Functions shall be performed subject to relevant
18 budgetary provisions and procedures which are the
19 subject of separate regulation and guidance;

20
21 Functions shall be performed in accordance with the
22 Local Government Act, 2001, the Regulations of 2014 and
23 any and any guidelines which issued from the
24 Department. These are all set out at the appendices.

25
26 So the proposed functions to be considered by the
27 Plenary Council in relation to Part 2 reserved
28 functions:

16:14

1 where in a particular instance a function is to be
2 performed in respect of every municipal district in
3 County Wicklow, that is Compliance Regulation 5(1);
4

5 where the matter that is to be dealt with could have 16:14
6 significant implications for the local authority or the
7 County Council as a whole, even if the function is only
8 being performed in respect of a particular district;
9

10 where the matter could have significant implications 16:15
11 for an MD other than the MD in which the particular
12 function is to be performed in that instance;
13

14 where the matter is of strategic importance to the
15 county as a whole, for example, the provision of 16:15
16 sheltered accommodation or accommodation under the
17 Traveller accommodation programme;
18

19 where the matter being considered and if the decision
20 to be taken would have wider implications for the 16:15
21 county as a whole, for example, where a decision to
22 grant planning permission in respect of a local
23 authority own development was considered to have
24 potentially significant implications beyond the
25 district in which it was proposed; 16:15
26

27 Consideration of development under Section 179 of the
28 Planning and Development Act, 2000, to be considered by
29 the MDs only if the proposal relates to a development

1 within that district. If the development impacts on
2 two or more districts, or if it is deemed to be of
3 county importance, the proposal shall be referred to
4 the Plenary Council for consideration, for example, a
5 major housing development;

6
7 A major housing development in general consisting of 20
8 or more housing units;

9
10 where the nature of the reserved function is such that
11 could not reasonably be performed other than by the
12 Plenary Council;

13
14 And, 9, any function (e.g. certain byelaws) which
15 involve a combination of generic matters should be
16 decided by the Plenary Council to apply uniformity to
17 all districts. Any specific local provisions can be
18 decided by the MD.

19
20 so set out on the slides, and I am not going to go 16:16
21 through them, but if the Members wanted to have a
22 discussion on them, Appendix 1 sets out paragraphs 5,
23 6, 7 of Schedule 14A. Appendix 2 sets out the
24 functions referenced at 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 19 and 21 of
25 Part 2. Then Appendix 3 are the functions that are 16:16
26 contained within the regulations as a schedule and they
27 are contained at Appendix 3. So that concludes the
28 presentation, Cathaoirleach.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Now does everyone understand all that?

1 (Laughs).

2 CLLR. MURPHY: Once you do.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: I am taking questions now here but I
4 really think that it probably should be put in plain
5 English exactly what function we can take over and 16:17
6 rather than various, you know, numbers and appendices,
7 and various things like that. And maybe if there is
8 obviously question and answer here but I think that is
9 something that could be done on the municipal
10 authorities to say exactly what functions we can 16:17
11 actually take over and functions that are for the main
12 Council as well. Because I think the presentation
13 there is in quite particular type stuff, gargle, that
14 is written by a civil servant in legal terms. But
15 Councillor Cullen is first in. Councillor? 16:18

16 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Chairman, first and foremost, may
17 I just say this reflects a great success of the
18 municipal authorities. I think it is a pity they
19 weren't there when you and me were younger men.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: I wouldn't tend to agree with that now. 16:18

21 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Certainly they have transformed
22 local government and they have been a great success and
23 I compliment the staff of the municipal districts for
24 that success. They are working but I think the
25 devolution of powers that we are talking with here are 16:18
26 to be -- but I do think that the issue -- I think would
27 you mind, Chairman, if I asked perhaps,
28 Councillor Timmons, he has an issue that I would share.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: I am sure Councillor Timmons is coming

1 in next, or after Councillor Murphy, and I wouldn't
2 mind, I don't want anyone going over the table.
3 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: well I would let
4 Councillor Timmons maybe --
5 CATHAOIRLEACH: He is well capable of handling that I 16:19
6 am sure anyway.
7 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: well, Chairman, anyway, look it,
8 there is an issue there that I will be supporting. But
9 perhaps if you would let Councillor Timmons.
10 CATHAOIRLEACH: You needn't worry, I am capable of 16:19
11 letting Councillor Timmons in after Councillor Miriam
12 Murphy.
13 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: well, Chairman, I will finish then
14 so. well anyway, Chairman, there are issues about the
15 certain powers which had to be devolved. Now I think 16:19
16 one of those has to be about rural planning, we have to
17 devolve powers for rural planning, because there is no
18 point in saying that our planning are not the same
19 planning concerns as Bray or Greystones or Enniskerry,
20 we have a lot more different needs and I think there 16:19
21 should be a devolution of power. I know
22 Councillor Timmons has done a lot of work on this and
23 perhaps he will be better able to expand on this
24 matter. But I think, Chairman, that is this going back
25 now to the municipal authorities? 16:19
26 CATHAOIRLEACH: It is, yeah. well as far as I am
27 concerned if it is agreeable here it goes back to the
28 municipal authorities for further discussion on it and
29 we need to tease this one out now. Because as far as I

1 am concerned I am very supportive of getting as much
2 functions to the municipal authority. But I was
3 appalled really at some of the major functions that I
4 would have required going into the municipal
5 authorities under the legislation cannot be done. I 16:20
6 think it is fair that members around the Chamber should
7 realise what they are in plain and simple terms. There
8 are certain functions that can be done and there are
9 certain functions under this legislation that cannot be
10 done. So it is not a case of transferring all the 16:20
11 function that we would like to see, municipal authority
12 under this legislation cannot be done. I think that
13 needs to be made very clear in the municipal councils.
14 That is why I have asked Ms. Gallagher here that if she
15 would go to the municipal authorities, if necessary, 16:20
16 and obviously and also meet with the area
17 administrators as well to bring them up to the scratch
18 and what functions can be transferred and what
19 functions can't, so that there is a full discussion at
20 the next meeting of the municipal authorities in regard 16:21
21 to this and recommendations in regard to that what
22 could be done and what functions can be transferred to
23 them. I am very anxious that as many functions as
24 possible can be transferred. But I am also conscious
25 of the fact as well that if you transfer functions and 16:21
26 there are staffing issues as well that they have to be
27 dealt with as well. So we can transfer all the
28 functions we like but unless they are backed up with
29 staff, which are a problem in some municipal areas.

1 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Chair, I will just finish. I want
2 to concur with what you have said there as outlined.
3 But, Chairman, there is issues for instance like water
4 and sewerage and stuff like that and that we really do
5 need local input. But I am going to leave 16:21
6 Councillor Timmons, he has done a lot of work on this,
7 about rural planning and he has some good ideas.
8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Murphy?
9 CLLR. MURPHY: Yeah, thank you.
10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Then Councillor Timmons. 16:22
11 CLLR. MURPHY: Yeah, I think I agree with you. I think
12 the numbers and the powers that we need to sit down in
13 plain English, and especially to the laws here we need
14 to be in English what it is. Also one point I just
15 want to ask in the section where it says about the 16:22
16 sheltered and Traveller accommodation, why is this
17 ability not included in that?
18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, we will get that answer.
19 Councillor Timmons?
20 CLLR. TIMMONS: Yes, I think there is general consensus 16:22
21 in as much as possible that those municipal districts
22 where people know what is going on and where local
23 knowledge is key. Maybe then we can start doing
24 business of county like, for instance, going through
25 the manager's report which I would like to see us 16:22
26 discussing today. But in relation to planning
27 Appendix 3 page 9 sets out what planning activities can
28 go down to the municipal districts that are currently
29 with the Plenary Council. So I would certainly look

1 for those to be moved to the municipal districts. But
2 I mean I read through these documents last night and
3 they probably would be more helpful just to put in
4 summary in and in/out, you know, where the options are,
5 where the options aren't, just a simple foolproof guide 16:23
6 to what we can bring to the municipal districts and
7 invariably inasmuch as possible into the municipal
8 districts.

9
10 The point is also well made about the resources at 16:23
11 municipal district level because we need to have
12 resources at planning activity stage carried out there.
13 We may need more local resources to make all these
14 things happen at local level.

15 16:23
16 In relation to planning, just from reading these
17 documents, there appears to be limits in planning
18 policy, how we can change planning policy at municipal
19 district level. And you can correct me if I am wrong,
20 but from what is set out here I don't think we can make 16:24
21 big changes to local different municipal districts in
22 relation to planning. But no matter where it is made,
23 if it can be made here then it can be made here, but I
24 think it is clear that in this county we need to
25 recognise that there is differences throughout the 16:24
26 county in terms of planning, and I am talking in
27 particular about rural planning and areas that are
28 under urban pressure and areas that are not under such
29 urban pressure. The Regional Planning Guidelines, as

1 you know, which were presented a couple of months ago
2 show areas of southwest wicklow in kind of a grey area
3 map that are not considered under urban pressure. So
4 it doesn't make sense that the same stringent planning
5 guidelines apply to these areas that apply to areas 16:25
6 let's say for example Enniskerry. So I think that we
7 need to look closely at dividing the county in terms of
8 planning rules, whether we divide it in one, two and
9 three regions, I am not quite sure. There is a
10 precedent for this, this is not something that I am 16:25
11 just making it up, in Kildare the planning rules are
12 different in the south and the southwest and parts of
13 the northwest of the county compared to the parts of
14 Kildare closer to Dublin. The planning regulations for
15 rural planning are not as stringent in that part of the 16:25
16 county. So I think this county is crying out for
17 different rules to be applied to the areas that are not
18 under ordinary pressure. Rather than us, as
19 Councillors, going to the begging poll, like I do like
20 I was even doing earlier today, to try and help people 16:25
21 in parts of rural wicklow who are living in what is
22 classified as a large village, like somewhere like
23 Kiltegan, you can't move two miles out the road to be
24 beside your family because there is no sites available
25 in the village. The rules that are very, very strict 16:26
26 for those large villages are applied equally to areas
27 where there is massive urban pressure to rural areas
28 where you almost have depopulation. So I would like to
29 see how we can integrate that into this new process of

1 areas, decisions being made locally. Also, I don't
2 know, correct me if I am wrong, I didn't see where the
3 Part 8s or where the burial graveyard policies, where
4 that could be put to the local areas as well, I didn't
5 come across that. Thank you.

16:26

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: It will be going back to the local
7 municipal authorities anyway. Could I have a proposal
8 for an extra 15 minutes? I want to clear the agenda
9 today because there is a notice of motion on there for
10 a few months and they haven't been -- and there are two
11 presentations there I want to get in today as well that
12 they weren't taken the last time, and we won't be
13 meeting in September.

14 MS. GALLAGHER: It will be 15 minutes.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: 15 minutes and with your cooperation
16 then we can almost clear the agenda and then start off
17 then in September again. All right, okay. Next,
18 Councillor Behan?

19 CLLR. BEHAN: Just three quick things: First of all,
20 can I thank Lorraine for her work and could I ask her
21 circulate the presentation please?

22 MS. GALLAGHER: Yeah, sure.

23 CLLR. BEHAN: So we would all get it. I would suggest
24 that maybe they should be put on the agendas for the
25 September meetings of the municipal district, it gives
26 us time to think about it.

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes, it will be. Yes.

28 CLLR. BEHAN: On a general point I would say that we
29 should have decisions made at local level, as local as

1 we possibly can, and if that requires resources, the
2 resources should follow the powers. So if we give
3 powers back to the municipal districts, the resources
4 have to follow the powers, and I think that is going to
5 be an essential part of the bargain as far as I am 16:27
6 concerned. So I propose that we get the a copy of the
7 presentation and we discuss it in September then.
8 CATHAIRLEACH: Yeah. Councillor Matthews, briefly
9 now, and then I will go into the suspension of standing
10 orders, and then we have the two presentations then. 16:28
11 Councillor Matthews?
12 CLLR. MATTHEWS: Yeah, I am just waiting for the
13 microphone.
14 CATHAIRLEACH: Sorry, sorry, it is my fault.
15 CLLR. MATTHEWS: Okay, thanks Cathairleach. Thanks 16:28
16 for keeping those on the agenda and thanks, Lorraine,
17 fro compiling that into that format. Just in relation
18 to the resolution of disputes, the SI has that, that is
19 to be process for that?
20 MS. GALLAGHER: Yes. 16:28
21 CLLR. MATTHEWS: Our policy suggested that we bring it
22 to CPG?
23 MS. GALLAGHER: Yes.
24 CLLR. MATTHEWS: The SI doesn't make any suggestion, it
25 just says have the policy to do that, does it? 16:28
26 MS. GALLAGHER: I think it does, the Corporate Policy
27 Group is key.
28 CLLR. MATTHEWS: I won't take up the meeting with that
29 but we can discuss that at the municipal district, and

1 maybe I will talk to you more at the municipal
2 district. Okay, thanks, Cathaoirleach.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: All right, we are moving onto the
4 suspension of standing orders.

5 CLLR. BEHAN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. 16:29

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Behan?

7 CLLR. BEHAN: Yeah, I mean I outlined the concerns that
8 I am getting from people who are being reviewed their
9 valuations at the moment, okay. Now I want to ask a
10 specific question of the officials which is; how are 16:29
11 these people selected for revaluation? It seems that
12 certain people in different sectors have been picked
13 for an examination but not everybody has. But the
14 decisions that are going to be made for everybody will
15 be based on the specific cases. But in one specific 16:29
16 case the RV is being increased by one hundred per cent,
17 which means a massive increase in what they would have
18 to pay in commercial rates, no matter what we decide in
19 terms of rates from year to year.

20 16:29

21 So I am just flagging it as an issue of concern. These
22 people, all they can do is appeal it to the valuation
23 commissioner. One person I know has done it and has
24 really got very little hearing back from the valuation
25 commissioner. I am wondering are we, as a Council, 16:29
26 able to intervene in this situation, can we do anything
27 to assist the many businesses, especially small
28 businesses, in the county who are going to suffer
29 hugely if this trend continues with all the

1 revaluations throughout the county in 2019.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Brian?

3 MR. GLEESON: Cathaoirleach, I suppose just to
4 differentiate the revaluation 2019 process, I suppose
5 it commenced last October, and at the moment the 16:30
6 revaluation office are analysing data and the proposed
7 valuation certificates wouldn't be issued until the
8 first quarter in 2019. So I just wonder in the
9 specific example you are referring us, we can't get
10 into the details, whether it was just an ordinary 16:30
11 revaluation? Because as far as I am aware they
12 wouldn't actually have given a new revaluation at this
13 stage, it is going to be early next year.

14 CLLR. BEHAN: Right.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Maybe if you give the details to Brian 16:30
16 and he will get it checked out and get back to you,
17 Councillor.

18 CLLR. BEHAN: So nobody should have got a new --

19 MR. GLEESON: Nobody should have got, so I suspect that
20 is kind of just a normal revaluation as to part of the 16:31
21 existing process.

22 CLLR. BEHAN: Chair, how would that have arisen?
23 Somebody would have asked the valuation --

24 MR. GLEESON: Yeah, if there is a change of purpose or
25 an extension on a premises that a revaluation would 16:31
26 have to take place, that's just the normal run of the
27 mill.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor, if you get the specifics
29 and we will get it checked out and get back to you?

1 CLLR. BEHAN: All right.

2 MR. GLEESON: But you are correct just in relation to
3 normal reval 2019 process, the proposed certs will
4 issue in the first quarter next year. There will be a
5 period of 40 days for representations will be heard 16:31
6 from the rate payers. To assist the communication
7 process there will be walk-in clinics arranged in each
8 of the municipal districts and County Buildings, here.
9 And then the final certs won't issue until September
10 2019 and it will then come into effect in January 2020. 16:31

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, we will get that. Any
12 information then if you give it to Brian we will check
13 it out, right. Okay, Members --

14 CLLR. BLAKE: Sorry, Chairman, can I just mention --

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Oh, sorry, sorry, my apologies, I 16:32
16 missed you there, Councillor Blake. Sorry.

17 CLLR. BLAKE: No, just before the Council meeting up
18 here today, while I have sympathy with the staff here
19 in the Council and with people out there who are
20 experiencing difficulty with it and can I thank the 16:32
21 staff here in the Council for their advice, first of
22 all, in regard to it. But my understanding is that
23 people out there are getting quotations from the
24 valuation office, that people who have never been
25 valued in the past have been valued in regards to it, 16:32
26 and how people primarily in the agricultural forestry
27 division who are getting, they are being told that
28 there are going to get these rates.

29

1 Just one quick example is one person who hasn't paid no
2 rates in the past has now been told they have to pay
3 20,000 a year in rates. I know maybe the financial
4 powers of the Council will be delighted with that but
5 such an increase on any individual would probably base 16:33
6 their business on the fact that they haven't been
7 paying rates in the past because of the activity they
8 were involved but have got a quotation of 20,000 and
9 they are in the process of appealing it. So there is
10 some interaction going on there. 16:33

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Maybe we will ask Brian to get that
12 checked out and get back to you on that.
13 Councillor Timmons?

14 CLLR. TIMMONS: Yeah, just briefly, in relation to that
15 could I just ask a question about the collection of 16:33
16 rates. I am concerned that the revenue collection, it
17 is possible that it will pass on to the Revenue
18 Commissioners and ultimately Revenue Sheriff. I hope
19 the Council do the collection and they do, you know,
20 cooperate and make arrangements with the businesses 16:33
21 that are struggling. So could you give any update in
22 relation to revenue collection methods, if there is any
23 possibility of them changing to this I would be
24 concerned.

25 MR. GLEESON: Council, as far as I am aware, it will 16:34
26 still remain with the local authority. In the new
27 proposed rates legislation there was a proposal for
28 local authorities to use powers of the Revenue Sheriffs
29 to help collect unpaid rates, so maybe that is the area

1 you are relating to, but the responsibility for
2 collecting the rates would still remain with the local
3 authority.

4 CLLR. TIMMONS: I would just be concerned about that
5 because if the Revenue Sheriff collects money they put 16:34
6 bills on people, legal bills, they have quite high
7 charges that people are not aware of. You know, I
8 wouldn't like to see us going down that route.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Just we are moving on to 8, the
10 Chief Executive's report, and I want to note that we 16:34
11 can't deal with it today. But I think I suppose like a
12 lot of other councillors, that I have been ignoring
13 this for months when they come on the agenda. It is a
14 very substantial document and, really and truly, there
15 is a huge amount of information in it in regard to the 16:35
16 cooperation of the Council. It is my intention to move
17 this up after the statutory business at the next
18 Council and subsequent Council meetings for the next
19 year.

20 CLLR. WINTERS: Yes. 16:35

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Because this is where the Council
22 operate at this type of level, this is the information
23 we need to get. It is full and it hasn't really
24 been -- we often say we don't get the information,
25 actually the information is in there, and what I would 16:35
26 like Councillors to have a really good look at this and
27 get into this in that because the workings of the
28 Council is contained in the CE's report. I will be
29 moving it up after the statutory business in September

1 so that we do deal with it, it is one of the most
2 important items as far as I am concerned and to be
3 dealt with at the next meeting and not like what has
4 been -- like it is very difficult to get through the
5 meetings because of various things that are cropping up 16:35
6 that are less important than this. This is very
7 important and we are going to bring it up there, okay.

8
9 In regard to now, I want the two presentations we have,
10 the just from Wicklow County Tourism Strategy and then 16:36
11 we have the next one, the Wicklow Sports Partnership as
12 well.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Matthews has issued an
14 urgent question as well so we will have that as well,
15 okay. Okay, Christine Flood? 16:36

16 MS. FLOOD: Thank you very much, Cathaoirleach, again
17 and thank you, Councillors. Can I introduce
18 Pat Ó Súilleabháin. Pat is the Chairman of the County
19 Wicklow Economic Think Thank Tourism Strategic Review
20 Committee. We will get into that, I will do a 16:36
21 presentation first, and then Pat will talk to you about
22 the tourism strategy.

23
24 So the vision developed by the Tourism Strategy Review
25 Group was to make Wicklow the number one choice for 16:37
26 visitors seeking an idyllic escape that harmonises a
27 wide range of outdoor pursuits in County Wicklow's
28 world class natural arena while driving job creation.
29 Our aim is to make Wicklow the go-to place for outdoor

1 activities. As our consultants say, we want to shift
2 from great assets but little impact to great assets and
3 enormous impact.

4
5 This slide briefly outlines the process but suffice to 16:37
6 say under the County Wicklow Economic Think Tank a
7 tourism strategy group was formed, that strategy group
8 devised an initial statement of strategy and set out
9 the vision. Then we engaged a company through a
10 procurement procedure, we engaged Blue Sail, to develop 16:38
11 the tourism strategy and marketing plan for County
12 Wicklow. The Tourism Strategy Group have signed off on
13 the tourism strategy and now is before yourselves, it
14 will also go to Wicklow County Tourism.

15 16:38
16 The Strategy Group came up with the following goals:
17 To establish Wicklow as a year-round destination;
18 To capture more overnight tourism, which is an issue
19 for ourselves;
20 To encourage the provision of accommodation, including 16:38
21 alternative forms of accommodation;
22 And again on accommodation to convert day visitors to
23 staying visitors;
24 To integrate the development of our tourism
25 infrastructure and assets. As the statement initially 16:39
26 pointed out we have fantastic assets, it is just we
27 need to make the most of them; and
28 To take a strategic approach to marketing and promotion
29 and to do this all in a sustainable way.

1 So there are some figures before you. In 2016 Wicklow
2 welcomed 601,000 visitors and they spent 157 million.
3 This is very healthy but we have set ourselves a target
4 for 2023 of welcoming 750,000 visitors with a spend of
5 200 million.

16:39

6
7 Our priority areas, as mentioned earlier,
8 accommodation, developing our towns as key visitors
9 hubs, developing master plan for Glendalough, growing
10 thematic experiences and developing a common narrative.

16:40

11 Accommodation was very much an issue when looking at
12 the tourism strategy. We have around three per cent of
13 Ireland's overnights but the spend is equivalent to
14 just two per cent, and that is attributed largely to
15 the high number of, say, camping and caravanning

16:40

16 overnight visitors. In Wicklow the average spend is
17 €261 per visit and the national average spend is 355,
18 nearly €100 more. So we have a below average number of
19 four-star and five-star accommodation or bed spaces.

20 However, you know, the hotels that we do have are
21 absolutely excellent, and the challenge is to improve
22 the supply, particularly at the higher end of the
23 market which will increase our income. So an action
24 outlined under our plan is to develop hotels prospectus
25 and setting out the marketplace to try and attract
26 hotels to the county, identifying suitable sites and
27 working with Fáilte Ireland to market the county.

16:40

16:41

28
29 Towns' visitor hubs, this very much ties into other

1 work we are doing in relation to the town teams and
2 Fáilte Ireland recognises the importance of what they
3 call "destination towns" and are actually developing
4 guidelines and a toolkit for the development of
5 destination towns using Westport as a model. Visitors 16:41
6 comes to towns for accommodation, food and beverage
7 options, entertainment, facilities that if the weather
8 isn't good, weather dependent facilities, the Wicklow
9 Gaol or a cinema, whatever, retail experiences and
10 transport links. So the action set out under the 16:42
11 strategy would be to work with our town teams to
12 develop the public realm, to develop our festivals and
13 events, and to build a capacity within the towns.

14
15 So Glendalough is another critical area. Glendalough 16:42
16 is the jewel in our crown, it is widely recognised
17 internationally, we estimate that it has in excess of a
18 million visitors annually but it is probably up near
19 the Cliffs of Moher figure which I think is about
20 1.5 million. But the experience at the moment leaves a 16:43
21 lot to be desired in terms of signage and traffic and
22 parking and literally the capacity. People want to go
23 to go to Glendalough, they want to visit the monastic
24 site, they want to enjoy the beautiful scenery. They
25 also want to spend money, they want to buy food and 16:43
26 drink, they want to maybe purchase souvenirs. So we do
27 need to improve the offering and vastly improve the
28 access for visitors and, you know, ultimately we want
29 to, not necessarily increase the number of visitors to

1 Glendalough, but certainly encourage more overnight
2 staying visitors and spending visitors and to use
3 Glendalough as a means of attracting people to come and
4 say in the county and see other tourism offers.

16:44

5
6 So another strategy proposed by our consultants was to
7 grow our thematic experiences, you know, to develop our
8 walks, the Wicklow Way being one of the oldest walking
9 routes in the country and often referred to as
10 Ireland's Camino and to develop new experiences. The
11 various greenways listed there, the coastal route,
12 Greystones to Wicklow, Blessington Greenway, Arklow,
13 Shillelagh, and indeed the Vartry Way which has been
14 established. To continue investment into areas such as
15 Avondale, Powerscourt, all of these have been
16 established with private investment or, well, in the
17 case of Avondale that's State investment, but to
18 support these projects.

16:44

16:45

19
20 Also to make the most of our screen tourism options,
21 screen tourism nationally and internationally is
22 absolutely huge. The amount of people coming into
23 Northern Ireland for the Game of Thrones is colossal
24 and if we were to make the most of that, having a
25 fairly broad, very good screen offering, that's another
26 area for us to work on. So the actions proposed are to
27 establish a working group to work on these concepts,
28 including the screen tourism, Viking tours, greenways
29 and also what Fáilte Ireland referred to as an

16:45

16:45

1 "international gateway garden festival. They are
2 working on this concept and they feel wicklow, with its
3 fantastic garden offering, would an ideal candidate for
4 that project and there would be substantial money
5 invested in that.

16:46

6
7 The strategy also talks about a common narrative. This
8 is so where our service providers, large and small, can
9 use a shared story, all about County Wicklow, from its
10 geology, to its monastic history, to its raiders and
11 rebellions, and all of the fantastic things that have
12 happened in the county over the years. So we are
13 working with wicklow County Tourism, we are developing
14 this narrative, and will be working with wicklow County
15 Tourism to develop a toolkit which will include
16 graphics and videos and logos, and all sorts of
17 information, so that we have a common theme so that we
18 are not, you know -- we are providing quality
19 information so our visitors.

16:46

16:47

20
21 Then marketing; the priority segments identified, these
22 are segments I suppose best described by Fáilte Ireland
23 as culturally curious -- sorry, I have gone too far. I
24 have to go back, sorry about that. Sorry, apologies.
25 But the three segments that Fáilte Ireland tell us we
26 should go to the "culturally curious", these tend to
27 have more disposal income and they are not tied in,
28 they tend to be older couples who take multiple breaks
29 annually. They are not tied into school days and they

16:47

16:48

1 have significant disposable income, and Wicklow's
2 offering suits the culturally curious very well. We
3 will leave it. It is just to -- no, no, it keeps
4 jumping.

5
6 Then the next group are the "great escapers" and these
7 are the people that generally go to Wild Atlantic Way
8 but we are hoping that we can get them to stay in
9 Dublin, then move to Wicklow, rather than heading
10 across immediately to the West of Ireland.

11 Then finally the "connected families". Families are
12 the backbone of our tourism offered and they spend a
13 significant amount of money. There is a constraint in
14 that they are limited to the school holidays but they
15 are certainly a key part of our tourism clientele.

16
17 So come on to channels, again these are recommended in
18 the strategy, we have our website and that tied in with
19 the visitwicklow.ie website and we are further working
20 to integrate those websites. We are working on our
21 digital marketing capabilities, and I have to say
22 Wicklow Tourism are doing a huge amount of work in that
23 area with good results, and providing content and
24 narratives to our marketing partners and to the various
25 tourism providers in the county, and this goes back to
26 the common theme that I mentioned and strengthening the
27 press and the PR of the county. Again Wicklow County
28 Tourism are to be commended, they have engaged a PR
29 person and they have increased the amount of coverage,

1 press coverage, and international media coverage that
2 the county is getting.

3
4 So the next steps for the Tourism Strategy and
5 Marketing Plan being considered by Wicklow County
6 Council and Wicklow County Tourism:

16:50

7
8 We need to form an Implementation Group, and we are
9 hoping that some of the Strategy Group members will
10 remain in place, and we are also looking to recruit new
11 people to the Implementation Group, particularly people
12 with particular areas of interest and expertise.

16:51

13
14 Develop an action plan for the implementation of the
15 strategy, and obviously identify budgets and sources of
16 funding. There are various other Wicklow County
17 Council projects, and I know we are under time
18 pressure.

16:51

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: We don't have time unfortunately.

20 MS. FLOOD: So we won't go into those. So I will just
21 leave you with the list of members of the tourism --
22 oh, I have done it again. But I will hand over now to
23 Pat Ó Súilleabháin.

16:51

24 MR. Ó SÚILLEABHÁIN: Thank you very much for allowing
25 us to present this Tourism Strategy. I think it is
26 probably all very clear to you how important tourism is
27 to the economy, not only the country, but more
28 particularly to this county.

16:51

1 Just maybe by means of introduction, my name is
2 Pat Ó Súilleabháin. I am the operator of the largest
3 indoor visitor attraction in County Wicklow and have
4 been involved in Wicklow tourism and Bray tourism for
5 quite a number of years.

16:52

6
7 So, as I said, tourism, extremely important. I suppose
8 those of you who have known me will have heard this
9 analogy before but I kind of like to refer to it as my
10 cake analogy; we have to finest ingredients, we
11 absolutely have, they are on a par with anything in the
12 country, arguably anything in Europe, but we need a
13 good recipe in order to produce the finest product that
14 people will want to partake in. I think the strategy
15 is that recipe.

16:52

16:52

16
17 I think it is really important, I think it provides us
18 with an opportunity for the whole to be much greater
19 than the sum of the parts because to date a lot of
20 people have put a lot of time and effort and energy
21 into driving tourism forward in this county. But we
22 also have to recognise that we have limited resources
23 and, on that note, can I thank the Members of this
24 Council for having so generously funded County Wicklow
25 Tourism and also supported individual stakeholders in
26 moving tourism forward today. But it will come as no
27 surprise for you to hear me say that the tourism needs
28 greater investment, and I am hoping that you will see
29 that and that you will be able to find ways of funding

16:53

16:53

1 that in whatever way you can.

2
3 So there is widespread support from industry for this
4 strategy and I think if the list had stayed up on the
5 screen you would have seen what a broad representation 16:54
6 from industry worked towards developing this strategy.
7 But, not only that, there are members of Wicklow County
8 Tourism and there are some members around the table
9 here today as well.

10
11 So I hope that we can get your support for this. 16:54
12 Critical to all of this will be the Implementation
13 Group who will not only ensure that the targets are
14 achieved but also ensure that we initiate reviews and
15 updates so that this is not a document that sits on a 16:54
16 shelf collecting dust but actually is a living
17 document. So I just would like to thank you for your
18 attention and to commend this strategy to you.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Thank you, Pat, and thank
20 you, Christine. Now listen we have the Sports 16:54
21 Partnership that are coming on now in a couple of
22 minutes and I would ask, there are a number of members,
23 three members, that want to come on would be as brief
24 as possible so I can get them because they have been
25 waiting for a very long time, two meetings now at this 16:55
26 stage. Councillor Miriam Murphy?

27 CLLR. MURPHY: Yeah, well my note is very short here.
28 First of all, I would like to really welcome the
29 strategy, we have heard about it for quite a while

1 County Wicklow Tourism and the work that has gone into
2 it, I can see why now. We know that there are many
3 areas in that strategy that will improve our towns and
4 villages, and it means also that there is stakeholders
5 there that will have to work together. But whether 16:55
6 they be big or small it will still improve the area
7 where we all like to go visit. And also, we know that
8 Wicklow is worthwhile for its beauty so, you know,
9 let's improve our tourism profile. We also know that
10 Wicklow is very short on hotels and I think that is a 16:55
11 strategy that we need to really improve on. But again
12 just we have the document now so I would like to say
13 put it in action, and let's smile and see Wicklow at
14 its worst.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much, Councillor. 16:56
16 Councillor Walsh.

17 CLLR. WALSH: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Thank you,
18 Christine, for the presentation. I sat on the Strategy
19 Group and I must say it was a very worthwhile exercise.
20 I think Pat there hit the chord where he said, you 16:56
21 know, we have everything, we have the product. It is a
22 great outdoor recreation year-round destination but
23 there are many, many challenges, accommodation issues,
24 like he said there, the figures are there, there is
25 only two per cent of the spend. The average spend is 16:56
26 €100 less than the national average so that needs to be
27 addressed. There are issues around internal transport
28 to be addressed, we need to work with Fáilte Ireland to
29 market the county.

1 I think the proposed garden festival is something to
2 look forward to. We have the Avondale project, which
3 is another forest project, coming up which is another
4 exciting one, and we have the project at Russborough.
5 There's a lot of stuff going on there in the
6 background, there is a lot to be happy about, to
7 forward to.

16:57

8
9 So again the Implementation Group will have a lot of
10 important work to do to put this strategy into place.
11 But we have everybody on the one page now, we have the
12 Council, we have the CWETT group, we have the Local
13 Sports Partnership, we have Wicklow Tourism all working
14 together to promote tourism in the county, so that's to
15 be welcomed. Thank you.

16:57

16 CATHAOLRLEACH: Okay, thank you. Councillor
17 Shay Cullen?

16:57

18 CLLR. SHAY CULLEN: Thanks, Chairman. Yes, obviously
19 it is very good to see a strategy on tourism for our
20 county. I think we are making great strides with
21 regards to tourism in our county over the last number
22 of years, primarily to the work that has been done
23 through this Council and through Wicklow Tourism.

16:57

24
25 I suppose one of my big worries, and I have stated this
26 on many occasions, that we have done a massive amount
27 of work in the whole rural area walkways and, you know,
28 opening up new walks and routes, and so on, but the
29 problem we have, and obviously it's been alluded to

16:58

1 already, is the inadequate number of hotels within our
2 county. And unless we address that issue on the whole
3 tourism area from a point of view of overnight stays we
4 are really in trouble on that point. I mean at our
5 Wicklow Town Team meeting recently it was suggested 16:58
6 that a 100-bed hotel would cost in the region of
7 20 million to build. I mean it is not easy to get the
8 developers to build hotels. You know, we look at the
9 likes of Westport have 12 hotels, Wicklow Town has a
10 small 30-bedroom hotel, so we have an issue there. 16:59

11
12 I suppose I know the Chief Executive was at the Wicklow
13 Uplands AGM recently and he heard loud and clear that
14 we obviously have the product but, you know, one of the
15 issues that is a problem in the uplands areas is the 16:59
16 whole agri-tourism with regards to relaxing the
17 planning with regards to opening up, you know, beds for
18 people to stay, and I think it is an area that we
19 really have to focus on.

20 16:59
21 Glendalough was mentioned, the signage and parking. At
22 the moment there is parking issues in Glendalough, as
23 we know, there is only one way in and one way out. We
24 have to look at creating some sort of a loop that
25 people go into Glendalough and drive out a different 16:59
26 direction, it is certainly an issue at the moment.

27
28 As I said earlier, walkways within our county are
29 really developing at a great rate to try and connect

1 all our villages and towns together. Again that will
2 add to the tourism benefit to our county but we need
3 people to open up coffee shops, you know, have the
4 overnight stays available. But we are going in the
5 right direction and I want to welcome this and 17:00
6 congratulations both to Christine and Pat. Thank you.
7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Councillor O'Brien,
8 Oliver O'Brien?
9 CLLR. O'BRIEN: Yeah, it's great to see that we are
10 tapping into the Chinese market. A very interesting 17:00
11 story is told about a guy over in China and he learned
12 Irish and he came over to Ireland and he was expecting
13 to speak -- he walked into a pub in Dublin and he was
14 expecting them to be speaking Irish and he was shocked
15 that they weren't speaking Irish. Now I was just 17:00
16 looking up there, and I brought it up a number of times
17 before, I am seriously worried that I am being ignored
18 again in relation to the Irish language and the
19 culture. As I pointed out here before, if you go back
20 200 years ago we had everybody in Wicklow speaking 17:00
21 Irish and I would hope that that would be incorporated
22 into the strategy, I don't feel that's happening, I am
23 wondering why it is not being done. (Speaks Irish). I
24 am looking at a beautiful pen here and it seems to be
25 only delving into half of the culture that's hidden 17:01
26 away in this country, it has only the English version
27 and there is no Irish version. We are absolutely one
28 of the most fortunate countries in the world that
29 everybody has two names, we've an Irish name and an

1 English name, and we need to tap into that. Because
2 what the Chinese want to see when they're coming over
3 here is Irish, not just in English only, slapped over
4 on something like that. So we need to look at that and
5 I would be hoping as well that we could get a few more 17:01
6 people in this Chamber to say (speaks Irish) when
7 they're talking but actually interested in promoting
8 the Irish language.

9
10 Something else that I would like to point out as well 17:01
11 the economy was mentioned by Mr. Ó Súilleabháin and
12 economics and stuff like that. As far as I am
13 concerned tourism is not all about money and I would
14 say a perfect example there in Bray where the knocking
15 down of St. Paul's which would be a sort of building at 17:01
16 the time which was enlisted at the time was knocked
17 down, and I wonder what sort of strategy we have if
18 that's the kind of stuff that's going on. I would hope
19 that they would be a lot more involved in the strategy
20 than just economics, that it would actually be the 17:02
21 experience of people, and people that get looked at
22 here, and that we wouldn't become a rip-off republic
23 trying develop tourism so that we can rip off tourists
24 when they come in, that the experience would be vital
25 first, and that when they leave the country they are 17:02
26 absolutely happy with it.

27
28 And I am asking the question again; why is it being
29 sanctioned off -- why has the Irish language being

1 sanctioned off, why wasn't it included in the little
2 logo there with Cill Mhantáin, the Irish language of
3 Wicklow, what is wrong with that? There is something
4 wrong with that. And I would just like an answer to
5 that question.

17:02

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Councillor Timmons?

7 CLLR. TIMMONS: Thanks very much, Chairman.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry please briefly, I mean have asked
9 for people, you know --

10 CLLR. TIMMONS: Thanks, Christine, for the presentation
11 and thanks to Pat as well. What I would just like to
12 ask you is, is there anything that we can do, as
13 Councillors, to help you, and in particular in the
14 Development Plan? Is there anything in our Development
15 Plan that would improve tourism, for example, the
16 construction of a hotel, is there any general things
17 that you can know you can suggest that might actually
18 help your project?

17:02

17:03

19
20 Also, the whole idea of us sourcing national funding, I
21 know for example, (inaudible) house, buildings like
22 that, historic buildings, that are in Wicklow that are
23 attractive historic buildings, Avondale House, any
24 things that like that that we should be identifying
25 that could be seen as an attraction to the county and a
26 good source of national funding to go develop these
27 products? Thank you.

17:03

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Thornhill?

29 CLLR. THORNHILL: Yes, thank you. Go raibh maith agat.

1 And I will keep it short.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes, please.

3 CLLR. THORNHILL: I would just like to say that,
4 following on from Councillor O'Brien's contribution
5 there about culture and language, I mean there is more 17:03
6 to tourism than just walks and everything else but
7 culture and language is very important. After all
8 there is an enormous amount of Chinese people coming to
9 Ireland now.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, go ahead. Sorry, it is my 17:04
11 fault.

12 CLLR. THORNHILL: Yeah. There is a big interest to
13 have Chinese people coming to Ireland now, and we know
14 that there is direct ties between Beijing and Ireland
15 thanks to Hainan Airlines, and they are coming here but 17:04
16 one of the things that these people coming from other
17 countries want to hear is they want to hear our
18 culture, our language, and we shouldn't forget about it
19 because there is more than -- you know, it isn't just
20 walkways and fine weather and all the rest, we should 17:04
21 be concentrating on what makes us Irish and we should
22 be thinking seriously about it. It can't be just
23 thrown away, it is so important. Go raibh maith agat.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Grand, okay. Christine? And then we
25 are moving on to the Sports Partnership. 17:04

26 MS. FLOOD: Thank you, Chairman, I will be brief. With
27 regard to, obviously accommodation is the number one
28 priority, we are working on that. In fairness the
29 County Development Plan does support the development of

1 tourism, as does our local economic and community plan,
2 there may be areas that need to be strengthened but
3 they do. So that's the accommodation issue.

4
5 Tá brón orm, Councillor O'Brien, that is totally an
6 oversight on my part. I do actually use -- I have
7 different versions of the logo, Irish, English. I
8 think I gave the English one to the consultant because
9 they didn't speak Irish but, apologies.

17:05

10 Now Councillor Thornhill made a very important point,
11 we do recognise the importance of culture, as does
12 Fáilte Ireland, and that is a really important part of
13 our offering in terms of exposing people to, be it our
14 sports or national sports or our music, and that will
15 play an important role in the development. So I think
16 that's it.

17:05

17 CATHAÓIRLEACH: Thank you. Thank you, Christine and
18 Pat. Just in regard to this, this is one thing really
19 that we should be giving way more time to tourists and
20 tourist products in County Wicklow, and really not at
21 the end of a meeting like 15 minutes and rushing at the
22 end of the meeting as well, because it is probably the
23 biggest advantage that this county has over most
24 counties, the tourist product. I intend to come at a
25 greater level, you know, in the months ahead to have a
26 further discussion in regard to tourism because I think
27 it is vital for development and something that we have
28 made the best benefit of. Just there is a question
29 there, and then we are moving onto the Sports

17:06

17:06

17:06

1 Partnership.

2 CLLR. MATTHEWS: Cathaoirleach, I would taken a written
3 response to --

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: It is positive written response.

5 CLLR. MATTHEWS: Or wait till September, I don't mind. 17:07

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: No, there is a response and it is
7 positive, all right. Thank you, Councillor Matthews,
8 okay. I apologise for keeping you.

9 MR. NICHOLSON: Just, Cathaoirleach, I know all the
10 Members know all about Local Sports Partnership but I 17:07
11 think you have never had a presentation previously on
12 the Local Sports Partnership so we thought it was time
13 to give you a presentation on it. The Local Sports
14 Partnership, there is four people involved,
15 Aisling Hubbard, who you probably all have met at 17:07
16 various stages, she is currently on maternity leave,
17 she will be the Coordinator, Lorraine Dunne is the
18 Administrator, and we have two Sport Development
19 Officers, Denise O'Shea and Andrew McBride. Andrew is
20 going to give a presentation on Local Sports 17:07
21 Partnership in Wicklow. Thanks very much.

22 MR. McBRIDE: Yes, so I won't keep you too long. Yeah,
23 as Michael said, the Sports Partnership as you can see
24 up on the slide is made up of coordinator, two
25 development officers and administrator, and then that 17:07
26 is supported then through Wicklow County Council
27 through Sport Ireland and through its board members as
28 well. So the board representatives are from all walks
29 of Wicklow and, you know, represented by every

1 organisation that kind of fits the remit of what
2 Wicklow Sports Partnership are trying to set out to do.

3
4 Our aim is to kind of increase participation in
5 physical activity in the Wicklow area and to ensure 17:08
6 that the local resources are used to best effect. So,
7 as Christine was kind of talking about all the
8 different walkways and greenways, and things like that,
9 we love to hear that because that is exactly what we
10 try to do, is to make sure that people are actually 17:08
11 making use of those. So, for example, the Blessington
12 Greenway, we would have set up community walking groups
13 out there, you would have a similar plan then for the
14 Vartry Reservoir as well, so making sure that people
15 are aware of the different resources that are there on 17:08
16 their doorsteps and actually utilising those different
17 areas.

18
19 We can do also a lot of other kind of things through
20 club development, volunteer training, enhanced planning 17:09
21 of sport at local level, local directors of sports
22 bodies and facilities, we work in schools and clubs and
23 communities with the National Government bodies as
24 well, so linking in with those. Increasing the levels
25 of local participation, especially more specific target 17:09
26 groups. So the likes of the older people, girls and
27 women, people with disabilities, unemployed people and
28 those who live in identified disadvantaged communities.
29 We also link in with the National Physical Activity

1 Plan as well to achieve all these goals and where those
2 target groups are decided.

3
4 So just some of the kind of programmes that we do, so
5 we have a number of programmes so these are our school 17:09
6 programmes, so 1 Million Step Challenge. So this years
7 to date, so 25 schools have taken part in the Million
8 Step Challenge, so that's when the kids and the
9 teachers will try and reach a million steps within a
10 week. So it's a great way of not only getting the 17:10
11 young people active but also the teachers, and there's
12 also an educational aspect of it as well because you
13 can bring in your mathematics into it and how you count
14 up your steps, and things like that, so it is a really
15 great programme that the whole school can kind of be 17:10
16 involved with as well.

17
18 Primary School Tug of War. So, as mentioned, we work
19 with National Government bodies as well, so we try link
20 in with National Government bodies that wouldn't have a 17:10
21 huge amount of funding, so the Tug of War would be a
22 great example of that. Again Tug of War is a really
23 good programme, it's very inclusive for kids that
24 generally wouldn't get involved in a lot of organised
25 kind of team sports and things like that, it is a 17:10
26 really good one for the shy kids that don't necessarily
27 take part in other sports. So we held two
28 competitions, one in East Wicklow and one in West
29 Wicklow and 12 schools participated in that so it was

1 quite successful.

2

3 we also have school basketball, so we had a Blitz
4 again, so over a 180 pupils took part in that one.
5 European week of sport is in September so again we 17:11
6 really target the schools and a lot of other key areas
7 within that but it is specifically in this case we did
8 a number of programmes within the schools, so
9 multi-sport activity, and we visited five schools that
10 week and worked with over 300 kids that week. We also 17:11
11 ran an Introduction to Dance programme as well so we
12 targeted four schools in west wicklow and four schools
13 in East wicklow, and that was aimed at the kids from
14 five to eight, so really focusing on their fundamental
15 movement skills through dance. So a lot of kids 17:11
16 nowadays who are actually not really able to do a
17 forward roll, you know, they find it very awkward to
18 kind of crouch down in a squat position, and things
19 like that, because we would have naturally learned that
20 through play when we were growing up running around and 17:12
21 climbing on trees and things like that. So a lot of
22 kids' fundamental movement skills are actually
23 declining now because they are sitting down sedentary
24 for a long period of time. So it's to try to kind of
25 target kids through different kind of forms of 17:12
26 movement. So in this case it was through dance, it was
27 again very successful with the shy kids and things like
28 that because it was a good chance for them to express
29 themselves in a different kind of way.

1 Teenage girls. So teenage girls who would
2 predominantly be more dropping out of organised sport.
3 Again that is decreasing as the years are going on
4 because the programmes like this are targeting that
5 target group. So we ran an Introduction to 17:12
6 weightlifting in Loreto School in Bray so 15 girls took
7 part in that four-week programme. Again it was very
8 positive and the feedback from the school was very good
9 as well.

10
11 Bike week 2018 was just at the start of June. So again
12 we visited a number of schools throughout Bike week and
13 400 pupils we would have worked with. We also provided
14 two physiotherapists at the Wicklow 200 cycle event as
15 well which was again, you know, very, very positive. 17:13

16
17 So another target group would be the older adult
18 programmes and different events that we do. So through
19 our programmes we have about 106 older adults attending
20 one of our classes that we would have help set up on a 17:13
21 weekly basis. So some of the other programmes that we
22 would go for like games and PALS training. As I say,
23 we have mentioned, we have set up community walking
24 groups, we have Active Ageing classes, so Zumba Gold,
25 chair yoga, and adapted exercise programmes. So this 17:13
26 is a key target area because everyone is living longer
27 but it doesn't mean they are necessarily living
28 healthier lives. So through these kind of classes we
29 are trying to help people to live more independent

1 lives and not having to avail of services, like nursing
2 homes and community care, and things like that.

3
4 we also disability programmes, so tailored programmes
5 in schools and clubs, through training and education 17:14
6 courses, supporting clubs on making their club more
7 inclusive through specific programmes and actions
8 targeting the specific groups, and trying to source
9 specialised equipment. It is something we are in the
10 process of getting at the moment is an accessible beach 17:14
11 wheelchair and we hope that that will be rolled out on
12 different beaches in the wicklow area.

13
14 we also funded a three-day Easter camp partnering with
15 wicklow Rugby Club and Leinster Rugby and over 40 kids 17:14
16 attended that camp from all parts of wicklow. That is
17 continuing now on a weekly basis and 20 kids attend
18 that on a weekly basis.

19
20 we also set up three park runs, well four park runs in 17:15
21 wicklow. So there is Russborough Park Run in
22 Blessington, Avondale Park Run and Bray Junior Park Run
23 and we also have a closed park run in an addiction
24 centre in wicklow. So that's the first of its kind in
25 wicklow so it is great for us to be associated with 17:15
26 that.

27
28 Operation Transformation again is another kind of big
29 week for us, well big month for us. So we had three

1 walks this year in Arklow, Blessington and Bray with
2 over 300 people participating. That was helped as well
3 through our Tús programme. We have partnered with
4 County Wicklow Partnership and they run some of our
5 community walking groups and we have done Couch to 5Ks 17:15
6 also.

7
8 We do a lot of training and education so we run
9 safeguarding courses. So your Safeguarding 1, 2, 3,
10 provides sports first aid courses, sports leader, 17:16
11 coaching children courses, community coaching, walking
12 leader, Buntús and a Disability Inclusion. So we have
13 run a lot of the Safeguarding 1 courses with the new
14 legislation being brought in and people having to have
15 their club children's officer and their designated 17:16
16 liaison person, so there has been a huge spike in those
17 his year.

18
19 Healthy Ireland was a big source of our funding as
20 well. So last year Wicklow would have secured 17:16
21 €134,000, that was through SIPSE(as heard) and LCDC.
22 So the ones in red with Healthy Ireland funding, there
23 was a requirement to link in with your Sports
24 Partnership with programmes if you could, so the ones
25 in red are the ones that Wicklow LSP were the lead 17:16
26 agency on. So we have the physiotherapy referral,
27 older adults and a few others. So you had the
28 presentation, I know you have been here long enough, so
29 I don't really want to go through them all. So that

1 was Round 1 which finished back in March and Round 2
2 was announced then in May and we have applied to
3 through LCDC for €75,000 worth and through SIPSE. So
4 again the ones in red are the ones LSP are the lead
5 ones on.

17:17

6
7 I have a short video, but I think I will leave it
8 because I think you have been here long enough, it is
9 on our Bike Week. It is on YouTube or on our website
10 if you want to have a look at it because I understand
11 you have been here a long time. There are our contact
12 details anyway. We have a great website as well which
13 if you have any questions or you need to refer anyone
14 to our website as it is very up-to-date, it only
15 launched back in December so it is a good source to
16 send people to if they have any kind of questions
17 about, say, our courses or anything like that. They
18 are all up there. And thank you very much for your
19 time.

17:17

17:18

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Andrew. I think that is
21 very valuable really and it is something that I think
22 we need to get Andrew back again in the next few months
23 because the work that is being done there is very, very
24 valuable from the community point of view. It is just
25 a pity that we didn't have much time, we couldn't give
26 as much time as we necessarily need to do in this
27 regard. Councillor Gerry Walsh?

17:18

17:18

28 CLLR. WALSH: Thanks, Andrew, for the presentation. I
29 sit on the board of the Local Sports Partnership so I

1 am well aware of the huge amount of work that is being
2 done there. As Andrew said, it is the specific target
3 groups, you have disadvantaged groups, you have the
4 disability, you have the elderly, you know right across
5 the range there, you have done tremendous work. The 17:19
6 park run was hugely successful and the safeguarding
7 courses there have been a great help to a number of
8 clubs. So keep up the good work.

9 MR. McBRIDE: Thank you.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Oliver O'Brien? 17:19

11 CLLR. O'BRIEN: Just to congratulate you on the
12 tremendous work that you are doing and to second what
13 Councillor Walsh said, I think it would be essential
14 that you come back again because there is an awful lot
15 of ideas, particularly in relation to disability, older 17:19
16 people, and coordination with the major sporting
17 bodies. Because I have often seen as well the big
18 organisations put on the same camp in the one week and
19 the kids are doing nothing else for the rest of the
20 summer. So I think it is an area that you will 17:19
21 probably need in developing it more, you'd need a
22 representative from all the major sporting
23 organisations of the county so that there could be
24 coordination so that the kids benefit by being able to
25 participate in all sports and not just one. I 17:19
26 congratulate you and I hope that you will be invited
27 back again.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Snell?

29 CLLR. SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Again, like

1 previous speakers, I just want to thank Andrew for the
2 presentation, and indeed all the staff, for the great
3 work that has gone into the Local Sports Partnership.
4 I am disappointed that it was at the end of the meeting
5 and I understand the time constraints. But I do think 17:20
6 that there is a huge body of works going on there and I
7 would like this to be revisited at some stage. I know
8 you are looking at the clock, Cathaoirleach, so I won't
9 hold you up.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: No, no. 17:20

11 CLLR. SNELL: But just in regards to the PPNS, I
12 believe there should be more representation probably on
13 the board, I don't think there is enough information
14 filtering back out into the communities. And certainly
15 to the Government bodies of all the organisations, 17:20
16 whether it be football, Gaelic, rugby, whatever, there
17 are so many different sports there but I believe the
18 information is not getting back out into the public
19 domain. I know you have an excellent website, but
20 certainly from this Chambers, I would like to see you 17:20
21 come back sooner rather than later and I think that you
22 are doing a great job and I want to commend each and
23 everyone one of you.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much for that, Michael
25 and Andrew. Thank you very much and we will have you 17:21
26 back at a later date. Thank you. Just correspondence
27 and then we are finished.

28 MS. GALLAGHER: Yeah, just finally, Cathaoirleach, just
29 to note that the Elected Members have been circulated

1 with the Ministerial Direction issued by the Minister
2 in relation to the Arklow and Environs Local Area Plan,
3 and that Ministerial Direction will be published in the
4 local newspapers this week.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. For your information. Okay 17:21
6 thank you very much. Happy holidays if we don't have
7 --

8 CLLR. BEHAN: Ah sure we will be back before September.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: That's what I was going say.

10 CLLR. BEHAN: I will see you before September. 17:21

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yeah, that's right.

12

13 THE MEETING THEN CONCLUDED

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