# HELD AT W CKLOW COUNTY BU LDI NGS, W CKLOW TOWN 

ON MDNDAY, 10TH SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 2: 00 P. M

Gwen Mal one St enography Servi ces certify the following to be a true and accurate transcript of $t$ he st enographi $c$ notes in the above- named action.

THE HEARI NG COMMENCED ON MDNDAY, 10TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2018 AS FOLLOV:

CATHAO RLEACH Members, can I have your attention please? We know why we're here today. Just a few housekeeping issues. RTÉ have requested that they film the proceedings here today and I put that before you if there is no objection I'm happy enough with that if there is no objection from anyone here?
FROM THE FLOOR: No. CATHAO RLEACH And The I ndependent in regard to taking photographs if that is agreeable by the Members?

## FROM THE FLOOR: Agreed.

CATHAO RLEACH Thank you very much. As we decided at last Monday's meeting we decided that Wicklow County Council would nominate a person in regard to the presidential election next month. In accordance with the legal parameters that have been laid down, any nomination had to be in by Wednesday at 12:00 o'clock. We agreed that. There was two nominations that came in; Gavin Duffy and Joan Freeman. They were properly proposed and seconded. Obviously we have the agreement that both candidates can be part of this.

What we have here this morning is a straightforward between the two candidates.

Certainly I'd like to welcome I think Gavin Duffy is down at the end of the Chamber here and I would like to
welcome him here tonight.

So it's up to the Members to decide exactly what it is. what I'm going to, as per the agenda, the first nomination that came in is obviously a proposal in regard by C11r. Fox. C11r. Fox, I'm going to let you in first in regard to that and then $I$ will let in C11r. Behan after that when you get your seconder on that. Then whether people want to say anything or not we can go straight for a vote in regard to this. Thank 19:02 you very much. C17r. Fox.
CLLR FOX: Okay, thank you, Chairman. Well, first of a11, can I say in relation to the process, I suppose once it was decided that there was going to be a presidential election and that there was going to be a contest for the presidency, in my mind I felt from that point on that there should be as wide a choice on the ballot paper as possible for people to decide. I would urge all the members here tonight to vote for one or other of the candidates and to give them the opportunity to put their name on the ballot paper. I think what would be disappointing, I suppose, would be if members decided to abstain tonight because, in effect, what they would be doing, they would be restricting the ballot for the presidential election to a very narrow group of people. So I would first of all urge people to participate in the process. As you know, the Local Authorities have nominating powers. Each person needs to get four Local Authorities to get
on to the ballot paper and I think we, as a Local Authority, should use our powers in that regard, okay?

I propose Mr. Gavin Duffy on foot of the presentation he made last week. I won't rehash what was said last week but I thought he gave an excellent presentation. To me he came across extremely well. There's no doubt that he has a very diverse background in business. не's obviously involved in certain charities. He spoke at length on what the pillars of his campaign would be and he struck me as somebody who was extremely capable and extremely confident. whether or not people decide to support him during the presidential campaign, whether he gets the nomination or not here tonight, I think we should afford him the opportunity to get on to the ballot paper. So in that regard I formally propose Mr. Gavin Duffy. Thanks, Chairman.
CATHAO RLEACH okay. A seconder for that, please? CLLR. RUTTLE: Cathaoirleach, I second the nomination of Gavin Duffy who addressed us in this Chamber on Monday last. I think we all agree it was a great presentation setting out the vision of the role of president and he competently answered all questions that were put to him. He told us of his values which were hard working, integrity, family, community, welcome for all, regardless of colour, creed, orientation or ethnicity.

We were all impressed, I think, as well by his knowledge of the Constitution and the history of the office of the presidency of the country. I believe he would make a worthy candidate for the electorate to consider as president of Ireland and therefore I'm very 19:06 happy to second the proposal. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAO RLEACH C11r. Behan.
CLLR BEHAN Cathaoirleach, I would agree with

Cl1r. Fox on one point which is that I think it's important that we exercise our constitutional right to nominate a candidate here and in fact Councillors will we recall that more than a year ago we decided that as a Council in principle we would be involved in this process one way or the other and nominate a candidate, as happened on the last presidential election when Mary Davis was the nominated candidate on that occasion.

It gives me great pleasure to nominate Senator Joan Freeman as the nominee for Wicklow County Council. She also spoke here last week and she spoke very clearly about her priorities and her values. Anybody who has either suffered from suicide or knows somebody or has had a family member or anybody in the community, and we 19:07 have all experience of it, know that the magnificent work she did firstly in establishing Pieta House has been so instrumental in supporting those families, and preventing other families and other people from falling
into that terrible dilemma that faces so many people in society nowadays. Secondly, and she emphasised this very, very clearly, her real agenda is also about positive mental health, about ensuring that we have positive mental health throughout this nation. And she 19:07 was making the point that it wasn't about mental illness it's about mental health. Coming from an education background myself I can tell you - and many people will not be surprised to hear this - anxiety and mental health issues is one of the major difficulties facing many of the children in our country at the moment. whether it is at primary school or second level there is a crisis, both in terms of the difficulties that children are suffering with anxiety, but also the lack of services to support those children 19:08 and young people. Joan freeman has made it one of her key issues that that whole area would be addressed and addressed publicly. And the best way for it to be addressed is during a presidential campaign when she can raise the issue and the people throughout the country would have an opportunity to talk about it and consider it.

So on that basis, Cathaoirleach, it gives me great pleasure to nominate Senator Joan Freeman as our

CATHAO RLEACH C11r. Sne11.
CLLR SNELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I would like to formally second the proposal for Ms. Joan Freeman.

Again, like previous speakers, I think the debate here last week was very worthwhile and all speakers certainly made their point and put their points across to the Members. But in regards to wicklow, I'm glad that the public representatives have turned out in numbers here tonight to exercise their democratic right. while a lot of us don't agree with the system, it's the system and legislation that's in place.

In regards to Ms. Joan Freeman, just like previous speakers, her work in regards to Pieta House. Everybody in this room is well aware of her work. The presidential election, while it's not a one-issue agenda of course, it has far wider benefits for the country as a whole but I think it would be very poignant that we as Members of wicklow County Council on this day, world Suicide Prevention Day, would put our shoulder to the wheel and put Senator Joan Freeman on the ticket for the Áras an Uachtaráin.

In regards to tonight's vote, I wish everyone would exercise their right to vote and I wish both candidates the very best. I'm sure after tonight that there will be opportunities for others but my support lies solely with Joan Freeman. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.
CATHAO RLEACH okay. C11r. Cullen, do you want to come in there?

CLLR TOMMY CULLEN Yes, Chairman. CATHAO RLEACH And then we'11 go for a vote.

CLLR TOMY CULLEN Chairman, I just want to say that I will be voting and supporting the re-election of President Michael D. Higgins. I believe he has done an excellent job as Uachtaráin na hÉireann. He has been an ambassador of excellence and is internationally respected for his role as the representative of the Irish State.

не has been a president for all the people, as he had promised at the last election. His role in the 1916 commemorations was dignified in ensuring for our history and our culture and indeed our heritage.

His state visit to the UK was a diplomatic triumph and internationally praised. He certainly gained great international respect for the office of Uachtaráin. His work in the Third world and with the Irish NGOs has been outstanding. He has been the President that has given great impetus to our national culture, to our national heritage and to the Irish language. I think certainly President Higgins is a president that we all can be very proud of. Certainly I supported him in the last election and I see no reason why I should change that support. I think anywhere you go President Higgins is regarded, he has done so much work 19:12 throughout every community throughout this country and every county throughout this country and north and south and in the European Union, in Africa, in America, Canada, Australia. He has worked very hard with the
farming community, Ploughing Championships every year. не's done outstanding work and there's an old adage, if his it is not broke why fix it? Don't fix it.

I certainly respect the rights of a democratic vote and 19:12 I don't think anyone should hinder, $I$ think Cl1r. Fox and Cllr. Behan are correct in that, people shouldn't hinder the rights to a democratic vote. But $I$ do think that presently we have an excellent president and I certainly would be encouraging people to re-elect President Higgins as a candidate that has a proven track record. He is the President of the people and I certain7y would be --
CATHAO RLEACH Just --
CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN I'm just finishing, Chairman.
CATHAO RLEACH I have an announcement to make. Sorry, sorry, just wait there for a second. Will you please finish and I'm going to speak then because I have an announcement to make.

CLLR TOMM CULLEN That's my position, Chair.
CATHAO RLEACH Okay. I've received news and I'm going to adjourn the meeting for ten minutes until we get it checked out to see if it's correct, that Joan Freeman has got the nomination from Galway and that she's withdrawing her nomination from wicklow. If that is
the case we have to check it out because that news could be coming from anyone. Give us ten or fifteen minutes to check it out and I want to make that information -- I promised that I would do that and
that's what I'm going to do, rather than go ahead with a vote when one of the candidates here has asked to withdraw her name. I want to clarify that if we possibly can. We'11 adjourn it and be back in ten minutes time right. Thank you.

## THE MEETI NG ADJ OURNED AND CONTI NUED AS FOLLOVG: ME. MAG NNESS:

CATHAO RLEACH Members, can I have your attention please? I have had it confirmed by a spokesperson for Joan Freeman, Joan Freeman wants it known that obviously she has just got four nominations and in the interest of democracy and the fact that she doesn't want to take anyone else's nomination. She asked us to convey her deepest thanks to the Members of the Council for offering support to her, the proposer and seconder and the other Members that offered that support and that she wanted to obviously not hold up the proceedings but that she wanted to withdraw, officially withdraw her name from the application for a nomination by Wicklow County Council because she has secured the four nominations. I want to read that into the record.

As we have one nomination left I want to put it to the floor that $I$ have the agreement of the Members of the Council to go with the nomination of Gavin Duffy to be the nomination for wicklow County Council. If that is agreed, if not I'11 go for a vote on that. Do $I$ have
any dissension in regard to that? No. Gavin Duffy will be the nomination from wicklow County Council. Formally I want to recognise that. He is here with us tonight. Congratulations. [Applause]

ME. GALLAGER: Cathaoirleach, just do say that Mr. Duffy has consented to his proposed nomination by wicklow County Council and has also confirmed his eligibility for election to the office of president. CATHAO RLEACH I want to congratulate Mr. Duffy. I just want to say to the Members here how we have always taken the presidential nomination very seriously. It's evidenced here by the full Chamber that we have here tonight as well, and the interest that people have had in regard to this and the dignified manner that it was approached, first of all by the candidates, which was very dignified, the presentations that were made by the candidates as we11 and certain1y the two candidates that we have left here today were excellent. Either one of them would make excellent presidential material. From that point of view I think we were very lucky that 19:28 we got some excellent candidates here. Certainly from my point of view I'm very happy that the Members turned up in the numbers today and certainly their thoughts were very measured and very interesting that I listened to over the last few days as wel1 and certainly behaved 19:28 in a manner that was very complimentary to Members of Wicklow County Council. We can be very proud of the fact that we handled our business in such a professional manner.

I'd just like, on all our behalves, to wish Gavin Duffy well. It's going to be a very interesting election and I'm sure he'11 survive it. But anyway, at the end of the day just to say that he is our nomination and I'm sure on behalf of all the Members here we want to wish him well in his endeavours in the next few weeks. okay.

Now, I think in The I ndependent there is going around taking a few photographs. He wants to get finished there. You're finished? Grand so.

Maybe I might offer Gavin the opportunity to just address the Members here just given that he is our nomination and given that he's here as well, give him the opportunity to come up here and address the Members and then we'11 go -- there's a number of items that have been on the agenda for a number of months and I just want to clear them up as quickly as we can, Notices of Motion.

MR. DUFFY: Comhairligh, I just wasn't expecting it to come that way but I very much appreciate it. I want to thank you for giving me your trust and endorsement to go forward now and hopefully be on the ballot paper. Your nomination brings to the number three that $I$ have and I expect a fourth is very, very close just by the nature that I'm only the nomination in one other Council as well and that's not because of a withdrawal, they have put me further and will vote later on that.

This is a very special night for my family and myself. Can I assure you when I woke up this morning and I contemplated the day ahead of me, Cathaoirleach, which was going to be a busy day, I didn't expect to see it like this with all the meetings that were happening around the country.

I just also want to say that through this process, the insight that I have received into the great work that our Local Authorities do and Councillors like yourselves on the front line of democracy, you know, it's so heartening and it's a pity that it's when it's something like a presidential nomination it gets the coverage of the media nationally as to what you do and the great work you do. I have noticed this a number of times that in some of the hearings $I$ went to previous7y, it was part of a meeting, but they were going on to another meeting and coming from one before it. Cathaoirleach, it just shows the commitment that people like yourselves in a chamber like this give to the local community.

I want to also acknowledge Senator Joan Freeman who withdrew here this evening and saved us going to a vote, etcetera. I think it's a mark of the type of candidate that she is that she was gracious enough to do that. We had made a commitment to one another that whichever one of us would achieve the four nominations first would stop at that and leave the field open for
democracy and I think that resonates with yourselves in the room because both sets of proposers and seconders were saying the same thing. I just want to acknowledge that.

I know everybody says presidential elections are tough, but certainly from my short limited experience, because myself and Senator Freeman have been on the road a good while, certainly the respect and regard we have for one another is special and I know that will be maintained throughout the election campaign. The reason I'm saying that, Cathaoirleach, is I hope now going forward that I will be conscious that I have been endorsed by Wicklow and in the campaign I feel a responsibility to make you proud that you picked somebody who was worthy to be on the ballot paper. But I am contesting against a very successful president who has served us so well and I think we must acknowledge that. But there will be an election on 26th October and the campaign will start shortly. Certainly it won't be a lack of energy or commitment on my behalf put into that.

It was great to talk to all of you. Sorry for phoning you at all hours at different times, and thank you for your call backs and your messages, etcetera. You were certainly engaged. C11r. Annesley, I shouldn't be signalling you out, but, you know, when you speak to somebody in a hospital bed and they're still taking your call, that's very much appreciated.

I wil1 conclude my remarks there. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to say from the bottom of my heart go raibh míle maith agat go léir. Thank you. [Applause]

CATHAO RLEACH Okay. Members, we're back on to Motion Number 1.

MS. GALLAGER: Motion Number 1 in the names of C11r. Christopher Fox and C11r. Jim Ruttle, that this Council would consider during extreme weather events designated certainly roads as 'Local Access On1y'. Inappropriate parking, car journeys and car abandonment 19:34 during the recent snowfall severely impacted the Council clearing our roads network and in some cases delayed residents getting out of their homes by a number of days. The designation of Local Access only should be done by way of a bye-1aw if necessary.

The response is: The practicalities of introducing a scheme permitting Local Access On7y on certain public roads would need careful consideration. Issues such as legal status of such designation of local roads, erection/removal of the signs and enforcement need to be considered. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting with Municipal District engineers. It would be helpful if the Members could identify areas of particular concern and bring them to the attention of their local area officer of transportation and roads. CATHAO RLEACH C11r. Fox.

CLLR. FOX: Thank you, Chairman. we11, it seems a bit funny now that we're talking about the snow after the
summer we've had! Maybe it's an indication of how slow the Notices of Motion come around.

Just if we cast our mind back to March and April and we had the Beast From the East and the dreadful weather that we had in spring, there was a number of roads whereby, well in my particular area which are very attractive for people to come out and, you know, play, we11 'play' is not the right word.
CLLR. RUTTLE: Snow tourists, Chairman.
CLLR. FOX: Snow tourists, whereby they come out and they have a bit of fun in the snow. I don't want to be a killjoy but certainly we had difficulty then when the troubles that come with, when they get back in their car and their car is stuck and they have to abandon their car, and the difficulties that that presents to the local residents. In particular I'm talking about roads like the Red Lane, up as far as the Sally Gap. And in some instances the rescue services had to go out and rescue these people in dreadful conditions when they should not have been up those roads. They're not -- because of their gradients in some of the cases they should not be up. But in one particular case on the R755, the Kilmacanogue to Roundwood road, the Council went to clear it on the Saturday and because of abandoned cars they had to give up, and that road remained blocked until Wednesday. That is an extremely busy road. It's a regional road. It's one of the main arteries to Roundwood, Laragh and beyond, back to the

N11. I think it is absolutely disgraceful that people would be so reckless as to come out and not give due consideration to both the local residents and people trying to get to work or to hospital or to various places where they have to get to. So I would propose that a bye-1aw would be put in place that the District Engineer would have the power to come out, place a sign at the bottom of the Sally Gap, or wherever we identify the road and say: 'Due to weather conditions this road is restricted to local access only.' People coming in and out of their houses. I don't think it's an unreasonable request and I think it will assist the Council when clearing roads during difficult weather conditions. Thank you, Chairman.
CATHAO RLEACH C11r. Ruttle.
CLLR. RUTTLE: Yes, Cathaoirleach. I support obviously the motion. There was numerous difficulties of this nature in various snow storms over the last 30 -something years where people have come out, got stuck, abandoned cars. Sometimes the very people who went to rescue them in their tractors couldn't get out their own gate because they were stuck in it already. It is an incredible issue, particularly in Cllr. Fox's area of north Wicklow, and mine, the north area of west Wicklow, you get a lot of this because of the proximity 19:38 of the urban area near to us. It's an awful problem and sometimes when we have our snow ploughs coming along, they couldn't operate because sometimes underneath the drifts they'd find Fiat or some Toyota
or something just left there. It's a huge problem. I know there are certain logistical problems. The engineering staff might find it difficult themselves to get to the place to put up the sign. We are becoming more accurate in forecasting weather and I certainly believe we should do it and we should restrict this because there are certain roads and we end up with people abandoning cars or turning into what we call snow tourists. It's one issue we have to tackle, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAO RLEACH Councillors, do we agree that we will send that to the engineers at their next meeting for a report back in regard to that?

CLLR. RUTTLE: Thank you.
CLLR. O NEI LL: Chairman.
CATHAO RLEACH Did you want to come in on that? CLLR O NEI LL: Just briefly there, Cathaoirleach. I was very much involved in the issues there on 2nd March last where we had a dreadful lot of snow but in the Chamber here I complimented the Local Authorities for the work they'd done against a huge, huge situation. It was crazy, we had eight to 20 foot high drifts in our area. But I think maybe to look at these long range weather forecasts from here on in maybe that we'd have snow ploughs brought to areas like Shankill or the 19:40 Glen of Imaal and work back because I think that's where the biggest problem was. People ended up, you know, not getting out of their houses for over, almost two weeks in some cases. So maybe if you work back.

But I'd support a motion.
CATHAO RLEACH We'11 be back on that. I think it's timely in the sense, I know there's no snow there but I mean we have to have preparations. What happened the last time was unacceptable. I know it was unprecedented, the amount of snow and all we got but it created great difficulty for movements of traffic and particularly locals in the particular area, accessing their own place as well. We'11 get back on that.

Notice of Motion 2. Edward Timmins
M5. GALLAGER: This is in the name of C11r. Edward Timmins that all betting advertising, online betting websites and over the phone betting come with a warning of the dangers of gambling, that it is addictive and will lead to serious financial difficulties. In addition, that month1y statements be sent to all people who hold betting accounts. This will be communicated to the relevant minister.
CATHAO RLEACH C11r. Timmins there.
CLLR. TI MM NS: Just briefly, thank you, Chairman, for bringing this to the meeting. I recognise it's not directly Council business but $I$ just feel very strongly about this. The motion $I$ think is fairly self-explanatory. I don't need to go into explanations 19:41 as to what it means, I think we all understand what it means. I have done it on the basis of speaking to people who have online accounts and in the past they used to get statements every month and then the various
betting agencies have stopped sending them statements, which is a deliberate ploy so that people in their household don't see the statements and also so that people don't know themselves what exactly they owe to these online companies. It's a very topical thing. There was even a programme on it, I don't know if you saw it during the week, about this and the serious impact it has had on people's lives and people have ended up going to prison as a result of being addicted gamblers. Thank you for entertaining this Notice of Motion and I would ask that it be forwarded to the relevant minister.

CATHAO RLEACH Do we have agreement on that? FROM THE FLOOR: Agreed.
CATHAO RLEACH That's agreed, all right. 3. I don't know if this is relevant anymore. C11r. Behan, do you want to talk on this.

CLLR. BEHAN We11, I was just going to say time has overtaken it. Unfortunately that organisation has gone out of existence at the end of August. I just want to note the fact that it was a fantastic voluntary organisation which was helping people who were homeless before this Council actually really got involved in the whole area of assisting people who were being made homeless, and it really was set up as a result of cooperation in the parish in Bray and the local St. Vincent Paul's office. They employed a person by the name of Nicola Jones who provided a fantastic one-to-one service for people, young families
particularly who were about to be made homeless or were homeless. Possibly because of government funding decisions, I accept that it wasn't necessarily fully accounted for, but basically the way things had been restructured in wicklow County Council meant that this particular body, their work was no longer relevant and they weren't getting any more funding from the Council. The Members in Bray felt very strongly at the time when we submitted that, it was May, that something should be done to ensure that funding continued for them to continue to provide a service. But the funding unfortunately stopped in August. Nicola Jones has been laid off, effectively made redundant and that particular organisation no longer exists. I think it's a great pity. That's all 1 can say about it really. Many people are going to miss it. But I accept that people in the Council here are doing their best in their job as well and I understand there is somebody employed full-time to do this work now.
CATHAO RLEACH okay. We're on to 4 now.
MS. GALLAGER: This is in the name of C11r. Joe Behan that this Council joins with colleagues around the country in demanding the Government reverse its decision to take Versatis pain relief patches from over 25,000 Irish citizens suffering from chronic pain.
CLLR. BEHAN I accept, Cathaoirleach, again it's not strictly speaking a matter for the Local Authority, the same as C11r. Timmins', but it is an issue for people who suffer serious and chronic pain who were getting
the assistance of these patches, which more or less are applied in a topical way on top of the person on an area of the skin. The Government basically made a decision, because they were so expensive they were going to withdraw them for many people who were on medical cards and I think it's a really regrettable step. In fact in the last week it has become an issue again because people were being prescribed a medicine called Difene to replace the patches, and Difene has now turned out to certainly have drawbacks that maybe were not known fully before. So I'm just asking that we write to the Minister for Health to express our concern about the people who continue to need these patches but are no longer able to get them.
CLLR. BLAKE: I second that proposal by C11r. Behan.
CATHAO RLEACH Cl1r. Fitzgerald asked to speak on this as well.
CLLR. FITZGERALD Motion 5 I'm talking about.
CLLR. BEHAN Are we going to vote on this?
CATHAO RLEACH Listen. Sorry, Cllr. Annesley.
CLLR ANESLEY: No.
CATHAO RLEACH The agreement then is that we write to the Minister. okay, that's agreed.
FROM THE FLOOR: Agreed.
MS. GALLAGER: Notice of Motion 5 in the name of the urgent need for a new road infrastructure in Arklow Town. The response: A local area transport plan will be considered, subject to funding and availability of

NDA.
CATHAO RLEACH C11r. Fitzgerald and then
Cl1r. Annesley.
CLLR. FI TZGERALD Can I say the town is choked many times of the day with a population of 14,000 . To get from where I live on the south side of Arklow to the far side I have two options; I go the bypass and come back in or $I$ sit in traffic for 20 minutes. We just have one road across the bridge. There are seven objectives in the Draft Arklow and Environs Local Area Plan and obviously one of them in particular is to get a road from Roadstone to the Wexford Road. The amount of heavy goods vehicles coming into the town and going out of the town has increased because of extra business at Roadstone. It's extremely difficult for motorists to get through the town and something needs to be done quite urgently about the situation.

We have discussed this before and we need someone to look at it. We need a traffic management plan or we need something because the way things are be going, I mean it's very difficult -- I don't think there's a town worse than it. Well, there are maybe one or two but there's very few worse at the moment in peak times. You just cannot move in the centre of town. We have tailbacks now from Templerainey at the church to across the bridge up the Main Street and it's not feasible. It's not an attraction for people to come into the town, so it needs to be looked at as a matter of
urgency. They're talking about building more houses which are needed and the town, the population when the sewerage treatment plant is finished, there's an objective to have 24,000 people. We need to be thinking fairly quickly about how we're going to facilitate the traffic and the pedestrians and bicycles and whatever else. It needs to be looked at as a matter of urgency.
CATHAO RLEACH C11r. Annesley and then C11r. Bourke. CLLR. ANNESLEY: As you know, I was in hospital for a couple of days and I don't have a farm but I have a ranch and that ranch is Arklow. And when I got back into the ranch the first thing I done was got into the car and I drove around. The first thing I noticed was work being done in Kilbride, and as I looked across from it, from the Kilbride Industrial Estate, here's a site for a new school. Then I drove into town, gridlock, traffic jam. Then I drove down the quay and I see the great work being done at Eirgas. Then when I went across the bridge and up the street, a new housing 19:49 development on the vale Road. This is absolutely fantastic. Then when I turned around to come back in from the vale Road, gridlock. Then I went on out to look at the development because, as any farmer here in this room knows, if you're out of the ranch for a week 19:49 you want to go back and make sure everything is working right. So I went back to see the development up in Delany Park and that's coming on very well. But what did I meet when I turned to come back down again?

Traffic. More traffic. More traffic in the Main Street. Where's everybody going? But I do know, and people say to me it's quicker for us to go to Gorey. Arklow is struggling. We're being strangled by Gorey. It's quicker to go to Gorey, get parking, do your few bits and pieces, come back, get in the car and back up the N11. If you live on the north side you're gone to Gorey. If you live on the south side you're out the bypass and down to Gorey as we11. The traders in Arklow are being strangled because of traffic. The business people in Arklow are being strangled. I certainly don't have the answers, but when I compare it to our rich neighbours in Bray and Greystones and Wicklow for the port, Arklow has been neglected for infrastructure and I'm sitting on the Council and what
I'm putting up? Shag all. The NRA haven't put the road in place. Now, they've left the bridge there. I'm not saying it's anybody's fault but the infrastructure is there now. We have a development on the vale Road, it's going to connect up to the Johnstown Road. That's a simple little connection. If we go down to our neighbours, and I'm not saying Wicklow County Council is any worse than Wexford County Council, but they've joined you thinking. You go into Gorey, they've streets going this way, that way, the other way. No wonder Gorey's so proactive. I want Arklow to become as proactive as Gorey. I want Arklow to come back on the map like Gorey is. I believe the only think that's stopping Arklow is the
infrastructure. Now when this treatment plants comes, and it is happening because I was down there, my God the Eirgas site, and I was across the road, when this treatment plant comes there will be houses built left, right and centre. We will not be able to move around the main thoroughfare in Arklow because and I live on Ferrybank and the previous planning Director, Des o'brien, he had a meeting in the Council offices at two o'clock on a Thursday. We were all sitting for him. At 2:15 Des O'Brien arrived in. "Were you stuck in traffic, Des?" "Oh, yeah, that's terrible." He was never left again because he wouldn't have that thrown at him. That's the problem we're facing. You have to prepare for the times of the schools. I don't have solutions but there's very, very well educated men upstairs in these offices and I'm sure with a bit of joined up thinking we can move forward.

I'm sorry, Cathaoirleach, for being emotional about this and for taking up so much time talking about this but this is a serious problem Arklow has. And someone had to shout about the roads in Bray, Southern Cross. someone had to shout about Greystones. Someone had to shout - and I'm not shouting by the way, I'm just expressing my thoughts - but someone had to express their thoughts about the Port Tunnel in wicklow. We have a couple of opportunities and, CEO, you came on the bus tour. Now, we didn't win a prize for the bus tour but I pointed out to the road to Arklow is not the
road to nowhere. That's the road to Arklow's future. And that's the mindset we need to put into people. we've a road that goes from the wexford Road, across a couple of fields and you're into the Rock. Take the heavy traffic off the Main Street of Arklow. The main Street of Arklow was not built for heavy traffic, it was built for horse and carts. They didn't expand. Look at other towns that thrived. Westport. They put a one-way system in. we need joined up thinking on this.

Cathaoirleach, thank you very much and I do apologise if I haven't made my point clear enough.
CATHAO RLEACH You have done okay there now. CLLR ANESLEY: I blame the medication.
CATHAO RLEACH C11r. Fitzgerald will be helping you get better very week to stop you giving all those tours all over Arklow! C11r. Bourke.
CLLR BOURKE: It's very hard to follow Tommy there, he's covered everything. I just want to re-emphasise that granting of more planning permission will be unsustainable unless we put road infrastructure in place. There is enough land zoned for about 3,000 houses. The sewerage plant planning application has been lodged with Bord Pleanála. There will probably be ${ }^{19: 53}$ planning applications for over a thousand houses in the next year alone and if that's not matched with the road infrastructure there's no point because you can't move at times in Arklow. It's gridlock at school times,
mornings and evenings. That's my position.
CATHAO RLEACH Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District and then the Manager wants to come in then. CLLR. MRPHY: Can I just echo what my three fellow Councillors have said. Actually, I probably can top that. I live very close to C11r. Annesley. I know he was kind of bedded up in hospital for a week, I won't like to see him if he was locked up for a month, anyway besides that. I can actually get into town quicker than the cars and I actually have to go in most days with my head down thinking please God let no one shout out the window: "what's going on Murphy?" Or "what are yous doing in the Council?" I have been like that for the last year-and-a-half and actually if I was in my back garden all summer I could actually see the cars 19:54 stopped on the main road. I actually watched one jeep for 35 minutes never moving, stuck in traffic on the Dublin Road. I mean it is -- that's how chronic it is. So I mean we can't continue this. I mean it's great to see it as a motion but we really, really, really need a ${ }^{19: 54}$ serious meeting to act on this.
CATHAO RLEACH Okay. Let the Manager in now.
MR. CURRAN Cathaoirleach, as I said the last day, it is one of the applications under the urban regeneration that will have the traffic management plan plus funding ${ }^{19: 54}$ for the road down to Roadstone and on to the south quays and also the access from the vale Road and the new river crossing. That is an application. We will know very quickly whether we are going to get funding
under that. If we don't I suggest we do the traffic management plan anyway, out of our own resources and at least we'11 have a plan there to apply for funding into the future. That's what I suggest there. We will make the application first and foremost. If we're not successful there start the plan anyways.

CATHAO RLEACH So things are happening there. okay. CLLR. MRPHY: Can we be kept informed of that? MR. CURRAN Absolutely.
CLLR. WH TMDRE: I might also point out, Cathaoirleach, there's lots of intelligent women upstairs here as wel1, not just intelligent men.

CLLR. ANESLEY: I apologise.
CATHAO RLEACH I'm sure that's what C11r. Annesley meant.

CLLR. ANNESLEY: I'm on medication.
CATHAO RLEACH Blame medication on that. We're moving on. We're moving on. Last one now.
MS. GALLAGER: This is in the name of Baltinglass Municipal District Elected Members that Wicklow County between the TII and Wicklow County Council and the delegation would consist of the Elected Members of Baltinglass Municipal District as selected by that District in order to discuss their numerous concerns arising from the indefinite suspension of the N81 Tallaght to Hollywood cross Road Improvement Scheme. The Elected Members have also requested that relevant Members of the Executive also be attendance at such
meeting. The response: Wicklow County Council will write to the TII to request a meeting between TII and Wicklow County Council and a delegation of the Elected Members of Baltinglass Municipal District. Just to say also, Cathaoirleach, under correspondence there that was circulated to all of the Elected Members on 6th September, a letter from TII from the regulatory administration unit in relation to that. Members have that. You don't need me to refer to the don't of it.

CATHAO RLEACH C11r. O'Neill.
CLLR. O NEILL: I would like to propose that motion there. I'm a bit disappointed that the Chairman of the Baltinglass District has left the meeting before now because this is a huge issue of importance. If we talk about roads in the country, this 31 kilometre stretch from Hollywood to Tallaght has been designed and approved 12 year ago. We hope for -- there's been eight million spent on the design route. The letter that I received from the TII they tell me that it won't be looked at again until 2027. The last fortnight we learned again that at this stage they might have to look again at the route. There could be a different route than the route they have agreed on. So that kicks it down the road to a long way. People have died on this road over a period of 40 years. There are five 19:58 accidents per week. It's not good enough for farmers and landowners on that stretch of road, it's a 31-kilometre stretch from Tallaght to Hollywood. It is a 300-metre wide strip and that 300 -metre wide strip is
frozen since April 2016. So they can't be left in limbo any longer. So I would propose this motion and that, you know, that we get the TII to a meeting here to explain to everyone, you know, I'd like to compliment the many Councillors in this Chamber that attended a meeting in Blessington earlier in the year. we had a huge turn out of Councillors and they appreciated the situation we're in. So I'd like to propose that motion, Cathaoirleach.
CATHAO RLEACH Okay. Cl1r. Timmins.
CLLR TIMM NS: Just briefly. we discussed this many times and I think it's really important it just doesn't go off the radar. we need to keep plugging away at it. We were treated very badly recently, I don't know if you're aware, Chairman, a month or two ago the Minister 19:59 visited Blessington, visited a meeting outside the offices in Blessington and none of the local Councillors were invited, which was a real slap in the face to us. we have to keep this on the agenda. It's a road that hasn't had any serious improvement in my
lifetime. At the moment there's a place out in Hollywood where the bends have been taken off, that's very, very welcome. But we need to keep this on the radar. We need to keep pushing this and not just accept it as a fait accompli that the money is not going to be spent. In this side of the city as well, you see the N 7 . Currently the M7 has been upgraded from Naas back to the turn off to the N 9 at ten miles south of Naas and it has been brought up to three

1anes. There is real traffic chaos on the M7 and more and more traffic is using the N81 to avoid the M7. The M7 upgrade is going to take two more years and even I think when that's done, given the way development is happening, that it will not suffice. Three lanes from Newlands Cross back to Naas probably won't suffice. Even developing the N81 would be part of an overall traffic management solution for the county, the main exit out of Dublin is in that direction. There's a lot of reasons to do it. Apart from the really obvious one, the safety record of the N 81 which has been ranked one of the most dangerous roads in the country and still continues in that position.

In our local area meeting, we elected a Sub-Committee, which I'm a member of the Sub-Committee of our local area Committee in the Baltinglass Municipal District and we will meet and try to move that forward. I would urge everyone, the Chairman and this Council the County Manager, everyone, just to keep this on the agenda and try and push this project because it is going to happen sooner or later and lets try and make it happen.

CATHAO RLEACH C11r. Behan.
CLLR. BEHAN I want to fully support the motion. I was one of the ones who attended the meeting that C11r. 20:01 O'Neill is talking about. There was a huge amount of frustration expressed by the people who have had to put up with this situation for so long. I think we were talking about this back in the nineties actually and
there has been absolutely no progress. It's not an area that is even served by proper public transport. People just don't have any other alternative. I certainly agree with the terms of this motion and I think it should be, that meeting should go ahead as urgently as possible, Cathaoirleach.
CATHAO RLEACH Is that agreed by Members? FROM THE FLOOR: Agreed.
CATHAO RLEACH I think we al1 agree. Grand. Thank you very much. That completes the business of the

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