

ORDINARY MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

HELD AT WICKLOW COUNTY BUILDINGS, WICKLOW TOWN

ON MONDAY, 12TH MARCH 2018 AT 2:00 P.M.

Gwen Malone Stenography
Services certify the
following to be a true
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of the stenographic
notes in the above-named
action.

GWEN MALONE STENOGRAPHY

1 THE MEETING COMMENCED ON MONDAY, 12TH DAY OF
2 MARCH, 2018 AS FOLLOWS:

3
4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.
5 Good afternoon, everybody, you're all very welcome to 14:02
6 our meeting here this afternoon of Wicklow County
7 Council. Before we start I'd like to propose a vote of
8 sympathy. In particular, I want to propose a vote of
9 sympathy for Emma Hannigan who passed away very
10 recently. Emma was a great ambassador for Wicklow and 14:02
11 Bray and did a lot of good work in relation to the book
12 she's written about cancer. I'd like to propose a vote
13 of sympathy.

14
15 I'd also like to propose a vote of sympathy for Garech 14:02
16 de Brún from Luggala estate as well. Thank you.
17 Cllr. Shay Cullen.

18 CLLR. SHAY CULLEN: Thanks, Chairman. I'd like to
19 extend sympathy to the Kavanagh family of Roundwood on
20 the recent death of Sean Kavanagh, a young 28-year-old 14:03
21 teacher from Roundwood Village who unfortunately died
22 after a short illness. A very prominent young man in
23 the community involved in a lot of athletics. The
24 whole family involved in fundraising for cancer,
25 leukaemia research over the years and it was a real 14:03
26 tragedy for the community. Probably one of the biggest
27 funerals that I have ever seen in the area and I
28 suppose that's testament to how the family and Sean was
29 held in high regard. So I extend sympathies to his

1 parents, Noel and Marie, his brothers and all the
2 extended family. May he rest in peace. Thanks.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. McLoughlin.

4 CLLR. McLOUGHLIN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, I also
5 would like to extend sympathies to Garech de Brún. 14:04
6 Garech was president of the La Touche Legacy and we
7 were only up with him over the course of the summer in
8 Luggala. It's the end of an era and it's very, very
9 sad. I would like, on behalf of the La Touche Legacy,
10 to extend sympathies to his whole family. 14:04

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Dunne.

12 CLLR. DUNNE: Thank you, Chairman. I'd like to extend
13 a vote of sympathy to the Furlong family in Wicklow
14 Town on the death of Sham. Sham was a well-known
15 footballer, played for Wicklow on the day of the long 14:04
16 whistle. Not many people remember in the 50s and he
17 had a great association with St. Patrick's in Wicklow
18 Town. Thank you, Chairman.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Ruttle.

20 CLLR. RUTTLE: Yes, Cathaoirleach, I'd like to propose 14:04
21 a vote of sympathy to the Kelly family of Lisheen, on
22 the death of Pat Kelly, a family and a man highly
23 associated with Gaelic football in this County. I
24 remember him in the 1968 County championship team and
25 indeed his son Mark played for the County team. Highly 14:05
26 involved with the Community Games in County Wicklow and
27 a great man sadly leaving the scene too early in life,
28 and a great neighbour.

29

1 I would also like to be associated with the vote of
2 sympathy to the family of Garech de Brún or Garech
3 Browne as some of us knew him, a man highly associated
4 with Irish music and culture and the promotion of it
5 and the fostering of it. I knew Garech quite well over 14:05
6 the last 25 years or so. He will be sadly missed in
7 that area. A unique, and indeed a one-off person.
8 Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Fortune.

10 CLLR. FORTUNE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I'd just like 14:05
11 to be associated with your comments on the passing of
12 Emma Hannigan. She was a special lady who went through
13 a lot of suffering and I'd like to pass on my
14 condolences to her husband and children and her dad and
15 all the family. 14:05

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr. Snell.

17 CLLR. SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I just want to
18 pass on our condolences to Mrs. Bridget Hynes, the wife
19 of former Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council the
20 late Frank Hynes, who was a public representative for 14:06
21 decades here in Wicklow County and done Trojan work,
22 not just in East Wicklow, but throughout the whole
23 County. His wife, Bridget, passed away a couple of
24 weeks ago at the hale and hearty age of 100 years of
25 age in Roscommon and we just want to pass on our 14:06
26 condolences to the Hynes family.

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr. O'Neill.

28 CLLR. O'NEILL: Again, I'd like to offer my condolences
29 to the five people who died in west Wicklow during the

1 past two weeks. You know, some of them was in the bad
2 weather and a lot of the funerals were delayed up to
3 eight days. I would just like to offer my condolences
4 to all of the families connected with the people who
5 died in west wicklow over the last eight or nine years. 14:06

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr. Tommy Cullen.

7 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Chairman, I'd like to be
8 associated with Cllr. Snell's remarks about Mrs. Hynes.
9 I served here with Mrs. Hynes' late husband, Frank,
10 here on the Council for a number of years. He was a 14:07

11 stalwart Labour Party County Councillor. He was
12 Chairman of this Council and I often had lunch there in
13 the Hynes' home. They were great servants of the
14 people of wicklow, the Hynes family. I think it's a
15 fitting tribute that Mrs. Hynes would be remembered 14:07
16 here today for that. Thank you, Chairman.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Lorraine.

18 MS. GALLAGHER: Yes, Cathaoirleach. For Aileen Synnott
19 of Ashford, mother of Treacy Synnott, gardener at
20 Wicklow County Council. Thank you. 14:07

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, we'll have a minute's
22 silence.

23
24 [ONE MINUTE'S SILENCE WAS OBSERVED]

25
26 CATHAOIRLEACH: Before we start, Cllr. Behan, you'd
27 like a Suspension of Standing Orders.

28 CLLR. BEHAN: Yes, Cathaoirleach, I just want to
29 propose a Suspension of Standing Orders to discuss the

1 ongoing lack of progress on the opening of Coláiste
2 Ráithín and Ravenswell school in Bray because of the
3 collapse of the Carillion Group. You might remember
4 last month I had a proposal that we suspend Standing
5 Orders but we didn't have time to discuss it. But the 14:09
6 fact is that this is an ETB school and the KWETB is a
7 constituent body of this particular Council and I would
8 ask that we get at least ten minutes to discuss it at
9 the meeting today, Cathaoirleach. We didn't have time
10 last month. But there has been no progress since. 14:09
11 CATHAOIRLEACH: I have no issue with that. Is that
12 agreed?
13 FROM THE FLOOR: Agreed.
14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. O'Brien.
15 CLLR. O'BRIEN: I just want to second that. 14:09
16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Thanks, Members. Item 1 on the
17 agenda: To confirm and sign minutes of Ordinary Meeting
18 of Wicklow County Council held on Monday, 15th January
19 2018.
20 MS. GALLAGHER: Proposed by Cllr. Snell; seconded by 14:09
21 Cllr. Dunne.
22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Item 2: To confirm and sign minutes of
23 Special Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on
24 Monday 22nd January 2018.
25 MS. GALLAGHER: Proposed by Cllr. Matthews; seconded by 14:09
26 Cllr. Lawless.
27 CATHAOIRLEACH: Item 3: To confirm and sign minutes of
28 Ordinary Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on
29 Monday 5th February 2018.

1 MS. GALLAGHER: Proposed Cllr. Snell; seconded
2 Cllr. Vance.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Item 4: To consider the
4 disposal of 15.35m x 3.7m of land comprised in Folio
5 NJO 4484, Plan 9, Property No. 166 being lands situated 14:10
6 in the townland of Prettybush adjacent to Knockroe,
7 Delgany, County Wicklow to Mr. Eon Reynolds, No. 7
8 Knockroe, Delgany, County Wicklow. Proposed by
9 Cllr. Fox; seconded by Cllr. Fortune.

10 MS. GALLAGHER: Thank you. 14:10

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Item 5 --

12 CLLR. THORNHILL: Cathaoirleach.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I read out Item 5 first, please?

14 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Chairman, before you go to that
15 Item 5 can I just say I want to propose that we would 14:10
16 thank all the engineers and outdoor staff of the County
17 Council who handled the recent crisis.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: We will be having a report on that
19 later and we'll discuss it then. That's coming up on
20 the agenda. 14:11

21 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: All right.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks. Item 5: To consider report in
23 accordance with Section 179 of the Planning and
24 Development Act 2000 as amended; Part 8 of the Planning
25 and Development Regulations 2001 as amended; to carry 14:11
26 out an extension of the Herbert Road Car Park, Bray,
27 County Wicklow (copy attached).

28 CLLR. BEHAN: Cathaoirleach, on a point of order. The
29 residents who are concerned about this development

1 wrote to you in the last few days and they had written
2 to you previously and they made a request to address
3 this meeting before a decision is made on the Part 8.
4 Now, they did come to Bray, they got their opportunity
5 in Bray, but 32 Members of this Chamber are going to 14:11
6 make the decision. A year ago, exactly a year ago the
7 group from Little Bray, from The People's Park had the
8 opportunity, rightly, to address this meeting before a
9 decision was made on a Part 8 with regard to The
10 People's Park. So what I want to propose, 14:12
11 Cathaoirleach, I think they're here in the public
12 gallery at the moment, that they get 10 minutes to put
13 their case, because not only have they got a case - I
14 might not agree with their case with regard to the
15 house itself, but they certainly have very strong 14:12
16 points and arguments to make about the process that has
17 been used by this Council in coming to this decision.
18 I want to propose that they get the opportunity to
19 address the meeting before we have any further
20 discussion on it. 14:12
21 CLLR. KAVANAGH: I'll second that.
22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor, I reject your statement and
23 I think it's a little bit one-sided. We had a group
24 from Bray called SWAP who made considerable --
25 CLLR. BEHAN: It's a different group. 14:12
26 CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I speak? Can I finish what I'm
27 saying? I let you finish, I didn't interrupt you. And
28 they requested to address the full Council meeting and
29 we refused their request and then they contacted

1 individual Councillors. I'm just saying you're giving
2 the example --

3 CLLR. BEHAN: You're getting mixed up, Cathaoirleach.
4 CATHAOIRLEACH: I'm not mixed up.
5 CLLR. BEHAN: It's a different group. 14:13
6 CATHAOIRLEACH: I know it's a different group.
7 CLLR. BEHAN: It's the Little Bray Residents Group.
8 CATHAOIRLEACH: I know that. Yeah, that was a year
9 ago. But you're not listening to me. I said recently
10 SWAP contacted us and we refused to let them meet the 14:13
11 full Council. I said that. And the Council then, they
12 then --

13 CLLR. BEHAN: Because they were discussing the
14 Development Plan.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, please don't interrupt me. 14:13
16 CLLR. BEHAN: When you were elected into the Chair I
17 had a discussion with you and you said you did not want
18 to shut people down and you wanted to encourage debate.
19 Now, as far as I'm concerned, if those people have a
20 point to make and it affects them and it affects their 14:13
21 communities they're entitled to make it. And a year
22 ago another group was also allowed to make it. Now,
23 I'm disappointed that you're going to change your --
24 before you were elected Cathaoirleach you said you were
25 not going to be stifling debate in your year as 14:13
26 Cathaoirleach so please allow us to have a vote on this
27 matter.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, Cllr. Behan, this is optics by
29 you. You know full well I give people a say here and

1 you give you, especially, a large say at this meetings
2 and you had a lot of say over the months I've been
3 here. So I do not stifle debate. You ask people
4 around here do I stifle debate? I give everyone here
5 their fair say and that includes residents of Bray 14:14
6 whoever. Under Sanding Orders anyway I can't actually
7 allow anyone address this meeting for ten minutes. So
8 that's it. End of story.

9 CLLR. BEHAN: Cathaoirleach, I have made a proposal and
10 it's been seconded. 14:14

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: The Meeting Administrator would like to
12 read out the Standing Order.

13 MS. GALLAGHER: Yes, Cathaoirleach, it's Standing Order
14 20: Deputations:

15 14:14
16 "The Council may, by resolution, decide to receive a
17 deputation. Subject to the direction of the
18 Cathaoirleach three persons may speak on behalf of the
19 deputation for not more than a total of 15 minutes
20 unless permitted by the Cathaoirleach. Request for a 14:14
21 deputation to be heard by the Council shall not be
22 considered unless the subject matter to be raised be
23 notified in writing on the motion of a member of the
24 Council or direct application by the body concerned
25 sent to the Meetings Administrator at least seven clear 14:14
26 days before the date of the meeting."

27
28 CLLR. BEHAN: Cathaoirleach, the request was made in
29 writing more than seven days ago.

1 MS. GALLAGHER: Not to the Meetings Administrator.
2 CLLR. BEHAN: Cathaoirleach, it was made to the
3 Cathaoirleach.
4 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Behan, it should appear as an
5 item on the agenda for a resolution to be passed the by 14:15
6 the Council for the following meeting. That's normally
7 what happens, or it goes to Protocol.
8 CATHAOIRLEACH: My understanding was the people in
9 question addressed the Bray local district last Tuesday
10 night. That to me was their forum. Cllr. Matthews. 14:15
11 CLLR. MATTHEWS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, and could I
12 just say I agree with the spirit of what Cllr. Behan
13 has requested but I also agree with your interpretation
14 of Standing Orders that it's not permitted to invite a
15 group up to talk. So I support you on that, Chairman. 14:15
16 Much as I would like them to get the opportunity, we
17 have to stand by Standing Orders and the rules that
18 we're governed by.
19
20 Cathaoirleach, in relation to this item I wish to 14:15
21 propose that this Council passes a resolution in
22 accordance with the Local Government Act to delegate
23 the function of considering a report in accordance with
24 the Planning and Development Act to Bray Municipal
25 District, and following the consideration of this 14:16
26 report that the decision to vary, modify or decide not
27 to proceed with the development shall be taken by Bray
28 Municipal District.
29

1 Cathaoirleach, I'm going to propose that if I get a
2 seconder I'd like to be able to speak on that motion,
3 please, and I'll explain to you exactly what it is. I
4 have it printed out here ready for --
5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you have a seconder? 14:16
6 CLLR. O'BRIEN: I'll second that.
7 CLLR. MATTHEWS: Have I got a seconder? Cllr. O'Brien
8 seconded it.
9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.
10 CLLR. BEHAN: Cathaoirleach, I thought you were -- 14:16
11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, there's other Councillors here.
12 Cllr. Thornhill is next.
13 CLLR. MATTHEWS: Can I finish this point? Can I finish
14 this point please, Cathaoirleach?
15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. 14:16
16 CLLR. MATTHEWS: Under the Local Government Act there
17 are certain functions that can be performed by a
18 Municipal Districts; there's certain functions that can
19 only be performed by the full plenary Council; and in
20 the middle there's a number of reserved functions that 14:16
21 can be performed either by the Municipal District or by
22 the full Local Authority. There's a schedule which I
23 have here in front of me. We were all issued it when
24 we were started as Councillors. I've read it very
25 closely over the years. If we pass a resolution here 14:17
26 today, the decision to proceed with this development
27 can be taken by Bray Municipal District and I believe
28 it should be taken by Bray Municipal District. This is
29 an issue that affects the local area. The decision

1 should be taken by Councillors who were elected from
2 the local area. It affects the area greatly. I don't
3 think it's fair on Councillors from outside the
4 district to be as familiar with it as the Bray
5 Councillors would be. This is a very contentious issue 14:17
6 in Bray. I think it's unfair to expect Councillors
7 from the west and the south and other places such as
8 yourself, Cathaoirleach, and I don't doubt that you
9 read it, but to take on board just how concerned people
10 are about this. 14:17

11
12 As Councillors we have always argued that the Municipal
13 District doesn't have the authority anymore; it doesn't
14 have autonomy; and it doesn't have responsibility in
15 decision-making. In fact the Local Government Act 14:18
16 allows us to delegate that responsibility back to the
17 districts and we should take that opportunity here and
18 this would work well for all districts. Every district
19 would be able to take this decision on Part 8s in this
20 regard. 14:18

21
22 So I'll let other people speak on it. I think I'm plan
23 permitted to speak more on the resolution then after
24 everyone has spoken. Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: The Meeting Administrator would like to 14:18
26 come in.

27 MS. GALLAGHER: Can I just say to Elected Members in
28 relation to Standing Orders. The reason that an agenda
29 is sent out and giving people three clear days' notice

1 of what's on the agenda is so that Members can be
2 prepared for business that's appearing on the agenda.
3 You cannot just propose motions without notification
4 for other Members. So you can't just change the agenda
5 and, you know, for business it is important is what 14:18
6 you're saying, Cllr. Matthews.
7 CLLR. MATTHEWS: It's an item that is on the agenda.
8 With respect. It wasn't on the agenda that was sent
9 out last week.
10 MS. GALLAGHER: I know, but I'm just saying that's the 14:18
11 reason for Members getting notice of what appears on
12 it, to give every Member the opportunity to give due
13 consider to business that is to be discussed.
14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Thornhill.
15 CLLR. THORNHILL: Cathaoirleach, go raibh maith agat. 14:19
16 Cathaoirleach, in relation to this item I would like to
17 make a statement at this very minute. The statement
18 goes, and I'd like to have it put on record, right,
19 when I became a member of the Garda Síochána - and just
20 to let everyone know that there are two ex-gardaí in 14:19
21 this Council and it also pertains to that other garda.
22 I took a solemn oath to defend and protect the citizens
23 of the State from wrongdoing, irrespective of where the
24 wrongdoing emanated. I have lived by that oath to
25 defend the integrity and honesty in Public Office. I 14:19
26 still stand by that oath today as a Member of Wicklow
27 County Council in defence of the people of Wicklow whom
28 I have the pleasure to represent.
29

1 In the context of that statement, Cathaoirleach, I wish
2 to make a resolution to this Chamber. I propose that
3 in view of the contradictions that are apparently
4 related to the acquisition and proposed demolition of
5 St. Paul's, Herbert Road, Bray, that the Council will 14:20
6 adjourn the subject item number 5 on the agenda for
7 today's meeting and will seek independent counsel
8 advice on the procurement and proposed demolition
9 planning process.

10
11 I also would just like to make three points in relation 14:20
12 to the matter. Cathaoirleach, how can Councils be at
13 all confident that the CEO report deals appropriately
14 with the responses/submissions from a Senior Counsel,
15 from An Taisce, from Bray historians and from a Herbert 14:21
16 Road Residents Group amongst 150 others? What
17 implications does it have for briefings to Council on
18 other matters?

19
20 Number 2: It is my opinion, two tucked away site 14:21
21 notices in the existing car park did not conform to law
22 and thus, in effect, concealed the Council's intention
23 to destroy St. Paul's Lodge on which no notice at all
24 was erected.

25
26 Number 3: We had been led to believe, and it's my 14:21
27 understanding, that the Part 8 proposal would be put
28 before this month's meeting of Wicklow County Council
29 and we've planning to meet and discuss with each of you

1 the proposal, when we discovered by chance that the
2 proposal was to be rushed in the next Monday because of
3 the lack of notice and the time of the meeting even
4 Members of the Steering Committee from the Herbert Road
5 Residents may not be able to attend. 14:22

6
7 This is a very serious issue, Cathaoirleach, and I
8 think now that it's about time that this matter should
9 be addressed. I would like to say that I have other
10 things to say on this matter as well later on. 14:22

11 Cathaoirleach, go raibh maith agat. But that is my
12 resolution and I'd be looking for a seonder

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Thornhill, could you get a
14 seonder and hand it up please so we can see it?
15 Cllr. O'Connor. 14:22

16 CLLR. O'CONNOR: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I think all
17 the previous speakers made a lot of sense on this in
18 their own different ways. This issue is way too
19 important to the Town of Bray and to the residents in
20 that particular part of the Town of Bray to be dealt 14:23
21 with in the way that the Council Officials are
22 proposing to deal with it today.

23
24 St. Paul's, as anyone who knows it, is a very
25 well-appointed house of some architectural merit. It's 14:23
26 a problem that could be used for any number of
27 extremely valuable reasons in the town. There's a
28 possibility there of providing homeless accommodation.
29 It could possibly be a home for the likes of the Jigsaw

1 Group. There's any number of a reasons why you would
2 want to keep it. In terms of architectural heritage to
3 knock this building is an absolute travesty and is not
4 something that is doing well by the people of Bray to
5 propose this. I think at the very least what we should 14:23
6 be doing with this proposal is if we are hamstrung
7 somewhat by the need to give notice before a group
8 addresses the Council, I would suggest we could put
9 this decision back a month, allow the local residents
10 to address the meeting at the beginning of the next 14:23
11 meeting and then take a vote on it.

12
13 We've received a lot of correspondence by e-mail from
14 the local residents. Their points are extremely well
15 made. They're not just saying we like this house, just 14:24
16 keep it, they're making very, very strong points as to
17 why this house should be kept. In terms of what the
18 Wicklow County Council want to do in demolishing this
19 house I see it as absolutely pointless. They're going
20 to demolish this house to provide a few car parking 14:24
21 spaces when, at the last meeting of the Bray Municipal
22 District the local residents, in giving their
23 submissions on this particular issue, pointed to
24 numerous places in Bray that could be used
25 alternatively for car parking spaces. There's no need 14:24
26 to knock this house down. Absolutely no need at all.
27 I will not sit here and happily smile away while the
28 Council goes and tries to knock over this building.
29 It's too important to Bray; too important to the

1 architectural heritage of the town. We've had too many
2 buildings knocked down over the past few years and
3 we're going to be left with nothing. This house has to
4 stay and the least we can do is put it back a month to
5 consider it.

14:25

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Kavanagh.

7 CLLR. KAVANAGH: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Yes, I agree
8 that we should defer this today. I'm actually alarmed
9 at the speed that we're trying to rush this through.
10 This was not on the agenda for 5th March. So had last
11 week's meeting gone ahead this wouldn't have even been
12 on the agenda.

14:25

13
14 Now there's a couple of points that have arisen. It
15 has resulted in an absolute flurry of e-mails from
16 concerned residents. They wanted to hold a meeting for
17 the Members of the Council so that even if they
18 couldn't address them in this Chamber, they had booked
19 the hall in Bray and were going to invite Councillors
20 along to hear their side of the argument. Now what we
21 have is, we have been sent the submissions and the
22 Council's responses to the submissions but some of the
23 Bray residents feel that those submissions were cherry
24 picked, that there were items left out that weren't
25 properly answered. They don't have the opportunity to
26 rebut the answers that were given so that is actually
27 procedurally unfair. Now we cannot proceed if there's
28 any doubt overall the validity or legality of the
29 planning process. There's a doubt as to whether the

14:25

14:25

14:26

1 signs have been properly displayed. There's a doubt as
2 to whether the timeframe for the submissions was
3 adequate. Some people say it should have gone as far
4 as 6th March, it actually ended on the 2nd. Had it
5 ended on 6th March there would have been some more time 14:26
6 to get information flowing backwards and forwards. I
7 just think with everything that has come out in these
8 e-mails we just cannot proceed on a vote today. We
9 need clarification. We need legal answers. I agree
10 with Cllr. Thornhill, we should possibly have somebody 14:26
11 legal looking at it but I just think it would be
12 absolutely careless of us, as Councillors, to go
13 against the wishes of these people. If this was
14 deferred for at least a month it would give the Bray
15 residents the opportunity to have their meeting to put 14:27
16 their side across. There's a lot of legal people,
17 people's interpretations behind what they say to be a
18 fact. It's been refuted by the Council so we're in a
19 quandary: who do we believe? We need to know the
20 facts. Thank you. 14:27

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Behan.

22 CLLR. BEHAN: Cathaoirleach, there is provision within
23 the Standing Orders itself for an emergency motion to
24 be taken at any time during a meeting. We have used
25 that process before. We also have the option of 14:27
26 Suspending Standing Orders if that is what the Council
27 agree to. I'm just thinking, for ten minutes the
28 residents group are there, why not give them the
29 opportunity to make their case and then let us make the

1 decision? I honestly don't think that's unfair because
2 the officials will always get the time to make their
3 case. Always. But why not give these people the
4 chance, ten minutes is all we're asking, Cathaoirleach,
5 and I'm asking the Members of the Council to agree to 14:28
6 that proposal. And if we agree to it is within
7 Standing Orders because it's an emergency proposal,
8 Cathaoirleach.

9 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Behan, that's if you want to deal
10 with a matter of an urgent nature, urgent to the 14:28
11 workings of the County Council as opposed to receiving
12 a --

13 CLLR. BEHAN: No, it's not.

14 MS. GALLAGHER: It's actually there for dealing with
15 urge urgent business that -- 14:28

16 CLLR. BEHAN: This is urgent because a decision is
17 going to be made today, with respect.

18 MS. GALLAGHER: No, urgent business for the
19 organisation.

20 CLLR. BEHAN: This is urgent because a decision is 14:28
21 going to be made today. How could it be more urgent?

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. O'Brien.

23 CLLR. O'BRIEN: I have to agree with what
24 Cllr. Matthews says, it's a local issue. I think the
25 way the business of this Council is being done is very, 14:28
26 very ineffective. You take, for example, the
27 floodplain issue in Bray, five Councillors voted in
28 Bray to overturn that decision and when it came down
29 here, the majority decision in Bray was overturned. I

1 think that's not leading to a very helpful situation.
2 I think what Cllr. Matthews is suggesting is very, very
3 sensible indeed. This is the Bray issue and it needs
4 to be sorted out in Bray. As well as that, I was
5 absolutely, I must say, hugely impressed by the people 14:29
6 that are behind this. Like some of the other
7 Councillors said, they weren't just coming in saying
8 don't knock down the house, the they had an awful lot
9 of other ideas that would be very good for the
10 promotion of the town. I think we need a lot more 14:29
11 involvement of people like that in it.

12
13 Just one point I'd like to make. To me it doesn't make
14 any sense at all. Makes no economic sense the way it's
15 operating at the moment. Basically speaking, you have 14:29
16 a business operation you want to start going in The
17 Florentine Town Centre in Bray, which of course is
18 very, very badly needed there. But I don't see why the
19 taxpayer, the ordinary taxpayer, I'm talking about the
20 person that suffers, is going to have to foot the bill, 14:29
21 not alone for the purchase of St. Paul's Lodge, and now
22 for its knocking down and now for whatever else
23 they're doing putting the car park in there. That
24 doesn't make sense at all to me. If a business is
25 going to be successful it should be able to stand on 14:30
26 its own. It shouldn't be needing a leg up from the
27 ordinary taxpayer to succeed. I think there's a need
28 to look into this issue far more deeply than we have
29 for the whole -- I remember when I first went for

1 election in Bray and I remember saying that if aliens
2 looked at Bray from outer space they'd say who was
3 running the town for the past number of years? When
4 you looked down the Boghall Road and you saw AO Smith
5 was closed down you saw Schering Plough and Dell you'd 14:30
6 say what in the name of God is happening in Bray? I
7 think like what Cllr. Matthews said, it's time to
8 involve the people of Bray more in the decision-making
9 process in Bray and not be rushing this through because
10 after all that has been there for 20 years in Bray, The 14:30
11 Florentine Centre. I would second Cllr. Matthews as
12 the more sensible proposal. If we can't get that
13 through, at least go with the other proposal to give
14 the people an opportunity to speak.

15 14:30
16 One hundred fifty submissions have been made by people
17 voluntarily on this. I mean I haven't read any of the
18 submissions. I wonder have any of the other
19 Councillors read the submissions? I think that's
20 something we should be entitled to do before we make up 14:31
21 our mind on stuff like that. We should have all the
22 information. There's a massive amount of information.
23 I was up late last night to get through some of the
24 stuff as well because it is put together by a very,
25 very gifted team and there's a lot of technical data 14:31
26 about stuff. So I really think that at the least it
27 should be put back and given them an opportunity to
28 explain. That's democracy.
29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Vance?

1 CLLR. VANCE: Chairman, thank you. Listening to the
2 debate here one would get the impression that this only
3 has arrived, that people knew nothing about it. In
4 actual fact it's been going on for a considerable
5 amount of time and the first notices about a Part 8 14:31
6 appeared before Christmas. At two meetings of Bray
7 Municipal Authorities, Councillors were informed by the
8 Manager that he was in the process of purchasing this
9 house with a view to demolishing it and provide car
10 parking in lieu of the Florentine site coming in 14:32
11 stream. That is a fact. That's a matter of public
12 record. At those meetings two Councillors expressed
13 support for it and not one, not one other Councillor
14 objected to it in any same or form. The purchase of
15 this house happened after Christmas and there was ample 14:32
16 time for any Councillor to put in a motion to say that
17 they disagreed with this decision. Nobody done it.
18 Not one Councillor objected to it or even questioned it
19 when they got reports from the officials in regard to
20 this report. These are facts. 14:32

21
22 Then the Part 8 went out again after Christmas and
23 there was further eight weeks again up to, as we know,
24 1st March. So for people to start saying -- the
25 parking has been a problem in Bray for a long number of 14:33
26 years. It's been the policy of various Councils in
27 that regard to improving the Council. As a matter of
28 fact when paid parking came into Bray the Bray
29 Councillors rightly, in my opinion, put all the money,

1 instead of going into day-to-day funding they put it
2 into the Centre Town Fund and also to improve the
3 centre of the town and also to improve the parking
4 situation in the town. A number of years ago when the
5 developer dug up The Florentine Centre to put in an 14:33
6 underground car park and didn't do it and didn't start
7 it, a Bray was without their car park for a number of
8 years and it devastated the town because there was no
9 parking in the town. Absolutely devastated. So there
10 is a concern, a major concern among traders in the town 14:33
11 that The Florentine Centre is going out of operation
12 roughly in May of this year which effectively will mean
13 that 220 car parking spaces are going to be lost to the
14 town from that date. And it is the responsibility of,
15 whether people like it or not, for the Council and the 14:34
16 members of the public and the ratepayers in the town to
17 be concerned about this. They're looking for the
18 Council to provide alternative parking.

19
20 Now 50 alternative car parking spaces is not going to 14:34
21 solve this particular problem because we need more.
22 But what was proposed by the people at the meeting last
23 week was absolutely ridiculous. The Civic Centre they
24 said 120 spaces. I've been up in the Civic Centre
25 twice in the last few days and there's practically no 14:34
26 spaces up there. Also, Bray Municipal Authority do not
27 control it. That is controlled by all the different
28 people, the HSE, the Social welfare, the Courts
29 Service, the Council. We don't control any of this

1 parking. So in actual fact we've a major problem
2 coming down the stream in regard to when The Florentine
3 Centre - and this is why there's an urgency about this
4 as well, The Florentine Centre is due to come on stream
5 in May which may mean the closure of that car park in 14:35
6 the middle of the town with the loss of 220 car parking
7 spaces and effectively any car parking spaces, 50 plus
8 that can be generated between now and then I think is
9 very desirable. There is an urgency, whether people
10 like it nor, to take a decision on this. It's been out 14:35
11 there long enough and as far as I'm concerned we should
12 take a decision on it today so traders will have some
13 certainty what's going to happen in the coming months.
14 We've heard of residents at the meeting last week, we
15 haven't heard from traders in the town in regard to it. 14:35
16 I think there's been a lot of communication in the last
17 few days in regard to that as well and they have a
18 significant part to play in this town as well. And
19 remember there are 33,000 people in the town as well
20 and a lot of those people come from outlying areas and 14:35
21 have stopped coming into the town because of the
22 parking situation. Thank you, Chairman.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Matthews.

24 CLLR. MATTHEWS: Cathaoirleach, thank you. The
25 proposal that I put down has a seconder and if he we 14:36
26 proceed to a vote on that and that vote passes we then
27 proceed to decide this at Bray and then the residents
28 will have their opportunity to come in and make a
29 presentation to us at that stage. It would actually

1 speak up the meeting greatly if we pass this
2 resolution.

3
4 Cathaoirleach, I apologise to you and to the Meetings
5 Administrator for springing something on you. However 14:36
6 it's no a tactic I normally employ, okay. It wasn't on
7 the agenda for last week. Had it been on -- I expected
8 this to be on the agenda for April and it had been my
9 intention to submit this in advance but when this was
10 put onto the agenda a week later I didn't think I had 14:36
11 any choice in it. It's not an attempt to spring a
12 surprise on you. But it is a power that is available
13 to us to delegate responsibility to the Municipal
14 Districts. It's something that we complain about
15 around this table, certainly at Bray, that we don't 14:37
16 have enough power and responsibility in the
17 decision-making process. I think we should take this
18 opportunity, proceed to a vote on that. If you want to
19 defer that vote until you have had time to consult the
20 Act I'm happy enough to do that but we don't proceed to 14:37
21 item number 5 until we have taken my resolution.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: I accept your bona fides,
23 Cllr. Matthews, but we've been given no notice on this.
24 It should have been going out on the agenda so I can't
25 just take it as is. 14:37

26 CLLR. MATTHEWS: Cathaoirleach, it's an agenda item.
27 It's an item on the agenda. This is a proposal in
28 relation to that item. If the item wasn't on the
29 agenda I'd agree with you and I would have looked for a

1 Suspension. Or had I known -- I made the assumption it
2 was going to be on for April. In fact I think we were
3 told at Bray initially that this would go on the
4 Wicklow agenda for April. And because of the mad
5 weather we had a delay meeting in Wicklow and it has 14:37
6 ended up on the March agenda. I'm willing to offer a
7 little bit of leeway and concede yes, I have brought
8 this in, maybe outside the process but within the
9 Standing Orders. If you concede that this should have
10 gone down for April and I would have had the 14:38
11 opportunity then to make that submission.
12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Well my advice is your proposal is very
13 far-reaching, you know, we should have really got
14 notice for it.
15 CLLR. MATTHEWS: Well, you would have got notice of it 14:38
16 had this item been the agenda for April.
17 MS. GALLAGHER: In terms of precedent it's
18 far-reaching.
19 CLLR. MATTHEWS: Cathaoirleach, there's been proposals
20 made around this table that have never been sought 14:38
21 under suspension, have never been on the agenda and we
22 have passed them and that happens on a regular basis.
23 We can go back to it. Yes, it's far-reaching but it
24 has far-reaching consequences.
25 MS. GALLAGHER: Implications. 14:38
26 CLLR. MATTHEWS: Far-reaching implications, of course
27 it does, but it also has very positive implications as
28 well. Every Municipal District represented around this
29 table now has the opportunity to vote on Part 8s for

1 their area. Cathaoirleach, in fairness I've had to
2 vote on issues in part of this County that I don't even
3 know where they are. People in Bray know the issues.
4 The Bray Councillors were elected by Bray residents to
5 make decisions on their behalf and I'll make decisions 14:39
6 that are unpopular if they're the right thing but we
7 should at least bring it back to the lowest level of
8 decision-making. That's one of the tenets of EU law,
9 that decisions for community should be made at the
10 lowest possible level. We have the opportunity to put 14:39
11 that to the Council today to make a resolution to bring
12 democracy back to the lowest and I think we should take
13 that opportunity. I've made the proposal; it's been
14 seconded. I think we should go to a vote on it. If
15 the vote passes then we go to Bray. If the vote fails, 14:39
16 then we take Item 5. I think that's the way it should
17 be, Chairman.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Thornhill.

19 CLLR. THORNHILL: Cathaoirleach, go raibh maith agat.
20 I would just like make a few points in relation to this 14:39
21 item as well. Now Cllr. Vance mentioned about people
22 saying nothing about this issue at previous meetings.
23 Well, I actually did mention the fact about this item
24 and mentioned the fact about it being a fait accompli
25 and it was put, I remember Mr. O'Brien was speaking and 14:40
26 he said no, this wasn't the case but we all know at
27 this stage this was the case.

28
29 Now, I'll saying just another few words on it as well.

1 Now the residents in this case now have been treated
2 abysmally. They have been treated very poorly.
3 They've had to go and seek freedom of information on
4 different items. I mean at the end of the day I was
5 watching the television the other night and I was 14:40
6 watching Boxer Moran talking about the flood relief
7 schemes and whichever. He said one of the most
8 important things in relation to Government services
9 with people was communication and in this case
10 communication has gone out the window. Disastrous. 14:40
11
12 You know, Cllr. Vance mentions about car park spaces.
13 Well now, I don't know but in my mathematics 220 into
14 50 won't go.
15 14:41
16 Now in this case you have a situation and the history
17 of Bray is abysmal. I mean you've had Turkish baths.
18 The Town Hall which is now a food outlet. We all saw
19 what happened to Barracuda. I mean, the end does not
20 justify the means in this case. A fine building. In 14:41
21 this day and age, you know, I have seen housing been
22 discussed around this Chamber and people right, left
23 and centre talking about it, you know, and including
24 some Councillors I know one Councillor was like a
25 broken record every time he opened his mouth. His 14:41
26 party were responsible, plus other parties, you know,
27 for standing on their hands in relation to it. At
28 least when Liam Kavanagh was there years ago at least
29 there was something done. But I mean this all strikes

1 me as David versus Goliath. It's all about big
2 business. If we remember one thing big business has
3 got us into trouble. This is what has got us into this
4 trouble of recession. We have ignored the little
5 people and I will say, you know, at the end of the day, 14:42
6 you know, I mean, a small bit of common sense in this
7 case. I mean a fine Edwardian structure and okay
8 Edwardian structure demolished. It is supposed to
9 temporary. Okay, car parks can be temporary but if
10 demolish a fine building standing for 120 years that is 14:42
11 immoral and ridiculous.

12
13 I'd like to know about the public money to buy this
14 building. Where does the power come to buy it? Yes,
15 if the Council go buy a pig in a poke, yes, they're not 14:42
16 told. But if it's coming to dispose of the property,
17 oh, yes they'll get it goes around to Councillors then.
18 The mess has been made. So at the end of the day I say
19 to the Councillors here, and also I'll say one other
20 thing, and I've heard people around this Chamber as 14:43
21 well talking about the way the new local Government
22 system has gone on. Now, the thing about it is we have
23 a situation, 75% of the Councillors here are
24 responsible for what is happening in Bray and they
25 probably don't even know where this car park and where 14:43
26 this house is. So what I say to people overall is,
27 come on now, let's get together on this one. I mean at
28 the end of the day what -- you got to Budapest, Krakow,
29 you go everywhere, you see the fine architecture. We

1 talk about tourism. We want to bring people in. What
2 do we want to do? We want to knock all our heritage.

3
4 Cathaoirleach, go raibh míle maith agat but that is me
5 for the moment but not to forget about my resolution at 14:43
6 the same time. Go raibh maith agat, Cathaoirleach.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Fox.

8 CLLR. FOX: Thank you, Chairman. I think it's very
9 unfortunate that Cllr. Thornhill has tried to portray
10 Bray a very negative light and portray the officials 14:44
11 working in Bray in an even more negative light. I
12 think that is very unfortunate. Since I came on to the
13 Council here Wicklow as a county has been portrayed in
14 a very negative fashion. And now we have the largest
15 town in Wicklow also subject to being portrayed in a 14:44
16 very negative fashion. I think it is very, very
17 unfortunate that a public representative would choose
18 to do that.

19
20 Secondly, it has been suggested that this is rushed. 14:44
21 To be fair to you, Chairman, this was originally to be
22 on the agenda on 5th March and I contacted you to say
23 that public display period only finished on the 2nd and
24 I felt 5th March would be too soon and to be fair to
25 you, you put it back by a week, okay. That has to be 14:45
26 acknowledged.

27
28 Thirdly, on Cllr. Matthews' proposal on Part 8. That
29 is a pretty far-reaching proposal. It's not just

1 today, I mean that's suggesting that all Part 8s go out
2 to Municipal Districts.

3 CLLR. MATTHEWS: It's not. That's not true.

4 CLLR. FOX: Well, it's a precedent.

5 CLLR. MATTHEWS: It can be revoked. You can delegate 14:45
6 and revoke at the same time.

7 CLLR. FOX: Up to this point we have done all the
8 Part 8s in this Chamber. Whether I agree or disagree
9 with it, it's a far-reaching proposal. There are
10 Members not here today that if it had have been on the 14:45
11 agenda may have had an opinion on it but it wasn't on
12 the agenda. Okay. So I think it's a far-reaching
13 proposal. I hope it's not made in the context of
14 feeling that a decision could be got one way as opposed
15 to another way. But I'll take it that's not the 14:46
16 intention of the resolution.

17

18 Certainly I am proposing that we proceed with the
19 Part 8 and proposing the actual Part 8 here today. As
20 Chairman of Bray Municipal District I'm happy to 14:46
21 propose Part 8. Thank you, Chairman.

22 CLLR. VANCE: Chairman, I'll second that.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Behan, you're next.

24 CLLR. BEHAN: Sorry, Cathaoirleach, and I know you've
25 been very patient. Okay. I accept that. If we had 14:46
26 the residents speaking for ten minutes we'd be probably
27 halfway through the rest of the meeting by now so all
28 this time has been spent when they could have had their
29 opportunity.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: It's not question time though.

2 CLLR. BEHAN: Now there are two distinct things being
3 proposed here. I'm proposing that the residents group
4 still be invited before we make a decision. I'm on
5 record, the residents know, I'm actually going to be 14:46
6 voting for this proposal but I also think as a democrat
7 it's vitally important that they get their chance to
8 talk to everybody who's going to make the decision.
9 I've been on record as supporting it from day one. I
10 am not quite happy about how the process came to the 14:47
11 way it has been but I'm one of the two that Cllr. Vance
12 is referring to and he was the other one. So I don't
13 have any problem with that. But what I want is to give
14 people the opportunity to have their say.

15
16 Now on Cllr. Matthews' proposal, which is a different
17 one, I would also agree fully with what he's saying
18 because I think we all want to try and make sure that
19 decisions are made at the place where we're most
20 accountable, which is in our Municipal Districts and 14:47
21 where the effects of whatever decisions we make are
22 going to be felt in those areas. I wasn't aware of it
23 until Cllr. Matthews proposed it but I actually think
24 it's well worth, well worth supporting, because it
25 would allow all of us to have the opportunity to vote 14:47
26 on the things in our own area. On that basis I'm quite
27 happy to support it. But there are two different
28 proposals, Cathaoirleach, and again with respect mine
29 has been proposed and seconded as well. I ask also

1 that you take that proposal, please, if you're taking
2 proposals.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Behan, it's under Standing
4 Orders, the proposal to allow a group to address the
5 meeting. It can't be just done at the meeting, it has 14:48
6 to be done in advance. Cllr. Ryan.

7 CLLR. BEHAN: Under Standing Orders we can make a
8 proposal on anything. We can.

9 MS. GALLAGHER: It specifically speaks about
10 deputations. 14:48

11 CLLR. BEHAN: If you're making a ruling on that,
12 Cathaoirleach, could I ask that it be specifically
13 noted in the minutes what you have just said,
14 Cathaoirleach, and what the Meetings Administrator has
15 said. I want it clearly outlined, specifically, that 14:48
16 you are disallowing the opportunity for residents to
17 make a submission. I am proposing that under Standing
18 Orders an emergency motion can be taken. The Meetings
19 Administrator says it has to be urgent business of the
20 Council. This is urgent business of the Council. Your 14:48
21 ruling, I would like that minuted for the record,
22 please, Cathaoirleach. Thank you.

23 MS. GALLAGHER: Sorry, Cllr. Behan, who seconded your
24 proposal? Cllr. Thornhill, was it?

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Ryan. 14:49

26 CLLR. RYAN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, just to deal with
27 the essence of the Part 8 in front of us. Obviously
28 the Bray Economic Think Tank made a proposal. At that
29 time Bray was dying on its feet. If you walked through

1 the town shops were closing all over the place and it
2 was very, very sad to see that happen in the town. The
3 proposal was to for the Council to buy back part of the
4 Florentine that they didn't own because the town had
5 been held to ransom for many years from developers from 14:49
6 not developing that site. With the development of
7 Dundrum and Carrickmines there was massive retail
8 leakage from Bray. So the actual town has been given a
9 massive lift with the belief that that Florentine site
10 is finally going to be a reality. I'd like to pay 14:50
11 credit to the Town Manager, Des O'Brien, and all of the
12 team who have worked so hard to actually make this a
13 reality.

14
15 This is going to be the making of Bray and I think 14:50
16 that's really important. We have, as Councillors in
17 Bray, ensured that we have been putting a pot together
18 to deal with parking in Bray because we know also from
19 the Bray Economic Think Tank that parking is a huge
20 issue in the town and if people can't park in the town 14:50
21 they will just drive to Dundrum and Carrickmines and
22 they'll spend their money elsewhere and that will just
23 be an another foot on the head of retailers who are
24 desperately trying to get by. So it's up to us to come
25 up with solutions to resolve the parking issues in the 14:50
26 town.

27
28 As has been said, there's 220 spaces in The Florentine
29 Centre. As of May the doors will close on that

1 Florentine and then the people will actually be trying
2 to find spaces and there will be war. There will be
3 absolute war because people will say that we failed
4 them because we haven't actually provided parking to do
5 that.

14:51

6
7 The proposal that's in front of us will actually only
8 go a small way towards resolving this issue. We're
9 going to have to think outside the box and come up with
10 other creative solutions to actually provide the
11 necessary parking to take us through those 18 to 24
12 months while the Florentine car park is out of action.

14:51

13
14 In terms of this, I don't want to demolish any house in
15 Bray. Sorry, was that a laugh, Cllr. Thornhill? Did
16 you just laugh there, did you? Cllr. Thornhill.

14:51

17 CLLR. THORNHILL: Don't be childish.

18 CLLR. RYAN: Don't be childish. Thank you,
19 Cathaoirleach. I don't want to demolish any house in
20 Bray, particularly one that has heritage, but we need
21 to provide parking for the people of Bray so that Bray
22 can actually thrive as a town. The parking that is
23 going to be provided if this Part 8 goes through, will
24 provide 50 spaces bringing that car park to 251 spaces.
25 As I say, that's not going to be enough but these
26 aren't temporary spaces because there are people out
27 there and they're putting forward the idea that we're
28 going to demolish a house just for the sake of a few
29 temporary spaces. These spaces and maybe

14:52

14:52

1 Manager O'Brien might clarify this, these spaces are
2 there forever. This is actually -- and hopefully, I
3 have mentioned that at a previous meeting in Bray and
4 Manager O'Brien said he will investigate this, is the
5 idea of digging down into the Herbert Road Car Park 14:53
6 when we have the full plate there and when the
7 Florentine is back in operation to increase the size of
8 that and bring two levels to it. I think that will
9 certainly help. Because if the Florentine is going to
10 be the success I believe it will be, we're going to 14:53
11 have to provide an increasing amount of car parking in
12 Bray.

13
14 So this isn't the temporary little arrangement. This
15 is one part of a long-term plan to provide parking for 14:53
16 the people of Bray to be able to shop in the Town of
17 Bray. This has got the 100% support of the Bray
18 Chamber of Commerce. The businesses in the town, the
19 retailers in the town and the people I talk to say that
20 they want us to make this decision today and move 14:54
21 forward to provide parking for the people of Bray to
22 shop in Bray. Thank you.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Thornhill, try and be brief
24 because this is your fourth time in.

25 CLLR. THORNHILL: Cathaoirleach, go raibh maith agat. 14:54
26 You know, as someone that's just relatively new to the
27 Council, I'm four years here now, but I know people
28 over the years and I've been listening to them they've
29 gone on and on and on just because they've here for

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years.

One little point amongst another few that I'll make was in relation to Cllr. Fox making a remark about myself. I have no agenda here. I spent 23 years walking Bray, talking and listening to people. And the thing about it is this, and one of the most discussed items often was how the Town of Bray has gone so far down. It's not today or yesterday it's just happened, you know, this has been going on an awful long time. And I will just say that like we should remember that Bray has an awful lot of history attached to it. But the thing about it is that we should keep it, we should think about our history, our heritage. I mean for 45 spaces, and I still say it, at the end of the day I know Cllr. Ryan is on that he doesn't want to knock a house, yes, that is exactly what is happening unfortunately and it's not right. So all I'm only saying is and in relation to my own resolution, I can't see how this vote will go ahead because there's legal questions to be answered. Process is very important. If process isn't done properly and if there isn't a paper trail for other matters, I mean it's just not right and it should be done properly. If you don't do it right don't do it at all.

14:54

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14:55

That is what I have to say, Cathaoirleach. Go raibh maith agat.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Snell.

1 CLLR. SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Again, look, like
2 other Members not from the Bray area I welcome the
3 debate here today but unfortunately, you know, it's
4 coming to us as Members to make a decision and I'm
5 still looking for a little bit of clarity. As a member 14:56
6 of County Wicklow Heritage Forum I want to know the
7 status in regards to this building. I can only assume
8 that it's not a listed building. But irrespective of
9 whether it's listed or otherwise, has there been any
10 dialogue with the Heritage Office within Wicklow County 14:56
11 Council, and in particular the Heritage Officer? I do
12 believe that buildings like this, the beautiful
13 architectural building that it is, that buildings that
14 are coming under threat, whether it be through
15 development or otherwise, certainly the opinion should 14:56
16 be sought of the Heritage Officer in these cases
17 whether they're listed buildings or otherwise. I think
18 it's something the Heritage Forum would have liked to
19 have had a discussion around. I accept that Members
20 are saying it has been on the agenda for quite a while 14:57
21 in Bray. I've spoken to Members of Bray and they
22 certainly wouldn't concur with that but then, as I say,
23 I'm not privy to what goes on in Bray Municipal
24 District. But I do know that they have more Elected
25 Members than any other district in the County and 14:57
26 certainly in regards to TDs, by and large most of them
27 are based up around the Town of Bray and I just feel
28 that, you know, we should have certainly had more of an
29 input or more clarity around issues that we're expected

1 to vote on here later on. But I certainly want, if you
2 could get that information for me in regards to the
3 Heritage Office and the Heritage Officer whether they
4 were consulted on this building. Thanks,
5 Cathaoirleach.

14:58

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Lawless.

7 CLLR. LAWLESS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I've been
8 listening very intently to the debate around the
9 Chamber here today. I suppose what comes to mind with
10 me is the actual cost of what you've actually paid for
11 the house and then the cost then of the demolition of
12 it and then actually constructing this car park as
13 well. Knowing at the time we're in with the housing
14 crisis we have no proper emergency accommodation for
15 people to go to. We have the Cold Winter Initiative at
16 the moment which will be closed now at the end of March
17 and we've nowhere to put those people. We are supposed
18 to be housing people. There is opportunities where the
19 Housing can actually go out and buy properties and
20 house people and I just think it's a sheer waste of
21 money to not use this house for something else. I
22 would be proposing that this house be kept as a house
23 and be converted into emergency accommodation for the
24 people need it in wicklow.

14:58

14:58

14:58

25
26 Now I understand completely where the other Bray
27 Councillors are coming from and the town, yes, we all
28 want to see Bray grow. But they knew that was coming
29 down the road and I just want to know did Bray look at

14:59

1 other alternatives for car park spacing other than this
2 particular prime piece of property? Because it is a
3 prime piece of property and it's a beautiful, beautiful
4 house. I just think it's a complete and utter waste to
5 use it for car park spaces. I want to know what were 14:59
6 the other alternatives that Bray Town Council looked at
7 for extra car parking spaces knowing that the
8 Florentine development was going to happen and we were
9 going to lose 200 odd spaces. I can see the arguments
10 on both sides very, very clearly but I'm actually 14:59
11 proposing that that house should stand as it is and be
12 used for proper emergency accommodation, like we've had
13 in Wicklow, to house people. That's what we should be
14 doing with that. I just think a million euro for the
15 house and then God knows what else it's going to cost 15:00
16 to actually put tarmac down. I think it's a sheer
17 waste of our taxpayers' none.
18 CLLR. O'CONNOR: I'll second that.
19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Nicola, could you put it in writing and
20 send it up here? Cllr. O'Neill. 15:00
21 CLLR. O'NEILL: I just want to echo my colleague,
22 Cllr. Snell there, how it hasn't been a listed building
23 is beyond me. But having said all that, I honest to
24 God think there's a lot of shapes being thrown today at
25 today's meeting. It's as clear as day that people's 15:00
26 minds are made up on this and to go on now for an hour.
27 Cllr. Behan is talking about maybe a presentation of
28 ten minutes from the public gallery. So be it but if
29 you go for ten minutes or ten hours or ten days,

1 whatever you like, Cllr. Behan has made his mind up
2 that he's going for the demolition of it anyway. I
3 honest to God think that this thing is over and done
4 with. I think Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and a few
5 Independents already are working on it, they're going 15:01
6 to unite to vote for the demolition of this. I think
7 that's the end of the story. I suggest that we move on
8 here. I would be totally against the demolition of an
9 old structure like that. Again, I'd like to second
10 what Cllr. Snell has said. There should be a way of, 15:01
11 you know, checking it out why it isn't listed or if it
12 is listed I'm not quite sure.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Walsh.

14 CLLR. WALSH: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Firstly, I
15 think Cllr. Thornhill is correct when he talks about 15:01
16 Bray being in decline. I can go back to the early
17 eighties, I worked in the town for a number of years
18 and it was a thriving town at that particular time.

19

20 I had a conversation there recently with one of the 15:01
21 shop owners that survived all down through those years
22 and during the conversation, you know, he listed the
23 number of shops and premises that closed down during
24 that period. When he mentioned it, it was alarming.
25 Really, I think, generally The Florentine Centre and 15:01
26 the announcement that The Florentine Centre is about to
27 be, you know, the work is about to begin and it's going
28 to be delivered in 2019 or 2020 or thereabouts, it has
29 been welcomed by the traders and all concerned. Now

1 it's not desirable. I think, nobody will -- I think we
2 all agree it's not desirable to be knocking down
3 structures such as this building. But on the other, on
4 the flip side, car parking is essential for the likes
5 of the Florentine to be successful. So in that regard 15:02
6 I think, you know, it's a different choice but I'm sure
7 the Director will address the options and address what
8 options were explored before coming to this decision.
9 We would be interested to hear it. We did get a
10 communication last week but I would assume that all 15:02
11 other options have been explored before a decision has
12 been reached. Thank you.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Fortune.

14 CLLR. FORTUNE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. The
15 conversation that I've listened to now for the last 15:03
16 hour, which I think is a healthy conversation one and a
17 necessary one reminds me of the conversations we do
18 have here sometimes on housing where people talk about
19 housing and people talk about the need and then people
20 get kind of get attacked, maybe, by certain Councillors 15:03
21 saying you're not favour of this, which isn't the case
22 at all. Everyone's in favour of housing. I think at
23 our discussion before Christmas and after Christmas in
24 connection with The Florentine Centre it clearly stated
25 here in the Chamber that everybody in the Chamber was 15:03
26 in favour of the development. I think the vote, if you
27 go back on the vote, that reflected that nobody
28 actually in the Chamber voted against the proposal.
29 What the issue has been all along and what the issue

1 still remains, and it remains very clear to me
2 listening today, and I've listened purposely to all the
3 points of view today is the process. There's a good
4 number of Councillors have issues with the process. We
5 had Cllr. Ryan in his remarks say that it's a heritage 15:04
6 house and basically he doesn't want to be knocking a
7 heritage house but there's no choice. I mean the sheer
8 fact that a public representative admits that here in a
9 public forum that it's a heritage property should be
10 enough. 15:04

11
12 cllr. O'Connor, when he was making his comments, made
13 reference to other parking opportunities in Bray, you
14 know, we're all -- where are they? We need to be told
15 where they are because we're here to make a vote and we 15:04
16 have to be informed. I was a bit surprised with
17 Cllr. Fox's comment on 5th March and 12th March. I
18 mean, as someone has already said, on 5th March it
19 wasn't on the agenda and on 12th March it is on the
20 agenda. I mean Cllr. Behan's request, in the 15:04
21 circumstances when you allow for the fact that
22 originally it was obvious from Cllr. Matthews that this
23 was to be on the April agenda, which would have given
24 everyone plenty of time for talk and communication and
25 sorting out and in the circumstances of it now being 15:05
26 put on the 12th which is today, Cllr. Behan's request,
27 in my view, in regards to Standing Orders is reasonable
28 and does makes sense.
29 There's an article, and in fact before anyone makes a

1 decision today here I would strongly suggest, there was
2 a two-page article in the March edition of The Village
3 Magazine and I would suggest that Members read that
4 before you make any decisions here because to me it
5 just paints the picture of the whole situation. It's 15:05
6 obvious to me, or if my obvious comment is wrong well
7 then explain to me, but obviously St. Paul's and all of
8 that is connected to the Florentine and in the article
9 there was reference that we were looking at buying two
10 houses and then we'd said we'd only buy one. I'd like 15:05
11 to understand why we didn't buy the second house and
12 what was the background to that? So really and truly
13 there's loads and loads and loads of questions.

14
15 I just can't accept sometimes what goes on here in the 15:06
16 Chamber. Nobody in this Chamber is against that
17 development, even the residents up on the Herbert Road
18 are not against the development of the Florentine. But
19 what people have issues with is the way things are
20 being done. You go back over the correspondence that 15:06
21 we got before Christmas and after Christmas there was
22 contradiction and then there was changes. To be fair
23 to the Chief Executive, he's brand new into the
24 organisation, I wouldn't expect him -- I would expect
25 that he has to be directed and informed of all this 15:06
26 historical stuff.

27
28 So really and truly, you know, it seems to me we're
29 rushing this. I think from memory at our discussion on

1 The Florentine Centre I think I suggested that day in
2 the discussion, the way it was going, why don't we put
3 it back and have proper reflection time on it and it
4 wasn't accepted. And we have the same scenario here
5 today.

15:06

6
7 I'll just wrap up by repeating what I said at the
8 outset. Nobody in this Chamber, and even people in the
9 public gallery, nobody has an issue with the
10 development in Bray. Nobody has an issue with things
11 that should be happening Bray. I know Bray as well as
12 anyone in this Chamber. I went to school in Bray.
13 I've got family in Bray. I know Bray very well. And
14 no one is against that. What people have issues with
15 is the process, the communication, the communication
16 not being included. I had exchanges of e-mails on it
17 myself with the Clerk of Bray and I think some of the
18 answers were smart rather than giving me about the
19 communication. Let's be straight here and say it as it
20 is. It's the process people have the problem with. If
21 you look at the involvement, we're going to get
22 €2.6 million, or thereabouts, at the end of the
23 development of the Florentine. If you add up the
24 numbers in connection with the Herbert Road you're
25 almost going to be up on top of that €2.6 million or
26 maybe even over it. So therefore there's an actual
27 cost to the Local Authority in the process which seems
28 mad in this day and age with the way everything is
29 starting to book again that we would end up in a

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1 situation in a commercial scenario where we are
2 actually potentially going to lose money on it.

3
4 I just will repeat again, and I'll keep saying it, it's
5 the process and because of the process we should not be 15:08
6 forced into making decisions here today. That's my
7 opinion.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: I'm going to ask The Director of
9 Planning to come in.

10 MR. O'BRIEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I'd just make 15:08
11 comments on what's been said. First of all,
12 Cllr. Kavanagh, you said items were left out of the
13 synopsis and not answered. I think that's somewhat
14 fair because huge work was put in to make sure every
15 single point that was put in the submissions on this 15:08
16 Part 8 was recorded and answered. I think that's
17 probably one of the longer submissions synopsis you
18 have ever seen on a Part 8. I went to huge effort to
19 make sure that every point of view is represented. I
20 just want to put that. 15:09

21 FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY: The residents don't agree.
22 Chairman, if you're going to give one side I need a
23 point of order here.

24 MR. O'BRIEN: We're talking about the heritage
25 buildings. 15:09

26 FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY: Cathaoirleach, excuse me.
27 Cathaoirleach, just a point of order. I'm very sorry
28 to interrupt.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, you can't. You're not part of

1 the meeting.

2 FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY: -- on behalf of Herbert Road
3 Residents and I would ask for permission to address
4 this meeting. I'm not going to interrupt the meeting
5 but if Mr. O'Brien, on one side of the argument, is 15:09
6 going to be allowed to comment, your Vice-Chairman,
7 Mr. Vance, has already made statements that I regard
8 a --

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: I'll have to suspend the meeting if you
10 don't sit down, please. 15:09

11 FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY: It has to be fair.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry. I'm going suspend the meeting.
13 I propose to suspend the meeting. Fifteen minutes
14 suspension.
15 15:09

16 THE MEETING WAS SUSPENDED FOR 15 MINUTES AND CONTINUED
17 AS FOLLOWS:

18

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Members, thanks for your indulgence.
20 I'm just going to continue where we left off. If 15:26
21 Des O'Brien would come in please.

22 MR. O'BRIEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. There was a
23 fair few questions about the heritage. As I said in
24 the CE's report, this is not a listed structure, it
25 never was a listed structure, there's been 40 15:26
26 structures added to the list since the 1999 Plan. It's
27 not on the national imagery of architectural heritage,
28 unlike 314 other buildings in Bray and it's not in a
29 architectural conservation area.

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To answer Cllr. Snell, no, the Heritage Officer wasn't involved. But then again we don't ask the Heritage Officer to look every single time a house is being taken down or extended. That's not part of the process.

15:27

The question of process. This thing is rigidly adhered to process. Again, this was mentioned in the Chief Executive's report. This is not just an extension of car park, it's actually redoing the existing car park. There was notices at both entrances to the car park, from the arcade and from the main entrance. However, when it was brought to our attention that St. Paul's itself had no notices we took that into consideration and we put up new site notices and we took on board that they might not be conspicuous and legible, which we thought we were, but we put up new signs then in the existing car park entrance.

15:27

15:28

They were up for the requisite period of time and they gave the requisite period of time for people to make submissions. So the second newspaper notice was there purely to say that time was extended. So we have actually complied completely with the process. The Law Agent actually went through -- one of the submissions was from a Senior Counsel and the Law Agent went through it and he's quite happy that what we've done is within the law.

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They're the main points. All I can say is that The Florentine Centre, and I would have thought that the successful bidder would have signed up at this stage. There's been a lot of toing and froing between lawyers. I'm fairly confident they'll sign up probably on Wednesday. They said they've listed another couple of meetings and consultations with their lawyers.

15:29

So The Florentine Centre is a great opportunity for Bray to get a critical mass of new retail development. The footfall in Bray has been declining and I think both of our ex-Garda Síochána Members have made this point that over the last 40 years it has been going down slowly and steadily. We have had a lot of very, very good new outlets opening in Bray during that time but we really need a huge critical mass stepping. And I think we're very, very lucky that the successful bidders are different. They are very, very keen on doing the food and leisure side of the business and what they describe is to improve the retail experience, not just have shops.

15:29

15:29

15:30

We can see this is another start for Bray but this was all discussed in the Bray Economic Think Tank document that was adopted by Bray many years ago at this stage, probably five years ago.

15:30

CLLR. RYAN: A bit more, eight.

MR. O'BRIEN: Eight years ago. Sorry. It was made

1 clear you have to have more parking. If people are
2 going to come to shop they need to have a place to
3 park. That was brought up as well about the process of
4 how we went about the parking. We have been fairly
5 clear on this and I think everyone has been fairly 15:30
6 clear on this, there was no point having parking 400
7 metres away because no one uses it. Seymour Road in
8 Bray for years was empty. Ravenswell Road was empty
9 and Ravenswell Road actually had no parking charges and
10 had about three or four cars at a time. The only 15:31
11 parking that's going to be useful to support the town
12 and support the traders who were there and support
13 what's going to be a reinvigorated town has to be
14 proximate to the Town Centre. We were looking, first
15 of all, to put a multi-storey and we were experimenting 15:31
16 with different configurations to see what would be cost
17 effective. When we discovered there was actually a
18 house for sale and in fact had been for sale for quite
19 a long time, but didn't realise it, and when we went
20 after that house we actually went after a second house 15:31
21 on the idea that we would improve what was a very, very
22 poor shaped site, that we could get immediate parking
23 because if we did go for tiered parking there was more
24 planning risk that it could be delayed. The other risk
25 there was with decked or tiered or multi-storey parking 15:31
26 is that while you're doing that the entire car park
27 will be closed down. If we lost time because of, say,
28 planning risk or any other risk, then the two car parks
29 would be out together and we could just not even

1 entertain that.

2
3 when this site came up it really does straighten up the
4 site. So if ultimately Bray is successful and will
5 need another deck of parking it is far, far more 15:32
6 possible to do that. As well as that, in the
7 opportunity sites in the Development Plan - and this
8 was conceived in the Tiger days, albeit that there
9 would be decks of parking and something on top of it,
10 some business, that is actually far more realisable 15:32
11 with a more uniform shaped site. So that was our
12 process.

13
14 we certainly have looked at temporary sites. We've
15 looked at nearly all the ones, not the ones that need 15:32
16 land acquisition or land aggregation but we've
17 certainly looked at all the ones that were mentioned
18 there and we're now negotiating at the moment and we're
19 fairly advanced in negotiations. For the same reasons
20 we didn't tell Councillors when we were trying to buy 15:33
21 land, because when dealing with private people about
22 land they don't really want their business being
23 amplified out into a public forum. We are close to an
24 agreement on that.

25
26 So that was the process we went through on it and at
27 the end of the day it was the point of risk, what was
28 achievable and what was good for the future as to why
29 we went down this road. We did actually, and someone

1 was saying did we look for a second house? That's
2 actually in the Chief Executive's report. We were
3 negotiating with a second person and we weren't happy
4 that we couldn't reach agreement on a price that we
5 thought the property was worth.

15:33

6
7 So, Cathaoirleach, I think I've answered most of the
8 major questions that have been raised.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Behan.

10 CLLR. BEHAN: Cathaoirleach, first of all, I presume
11 you're still going to take Cllr. Thornhill's proposal
12 that this be put off to another day and I presume
13 Cllr. Matthews' proposal is also going to be taken but
14 in advance of you taking those proposals or deciding
15 what to do, just the substantive issue if I could for a
16 minute, because I wasn't sure when we were moving into
17 the substantive issue but obviously we have.

15:34

15:34

18
19 As I said here and I said in Bray, I see this as being
20 not a permanent solution but an improvement on the
21 prospect of having no additional car parking spaces
22 when the Florentine closes. So it's a partial
23 solution. It was never going to be the full solution.
24 But I completely reject the idea that this is the first
25 phase of a multi-storey car park at this location. I
26 am not, absolutely not, nor never will I be in favour
27 of a multi-storey car park at that location. Now the
28 residents' submission, they have suggested they would
29 be happy with that, but I wouldn't and I want to put it

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15:34

1 on record that I'm not in support of that because it
2 would have serious implications for people living on
3 the other side of the car park who are the residents of
4 Connolly Square. As far as I'm concerned that would be
5 completely wrong and it should not happen. And it was 15:35
6 one of the reasons why I was positively disposed to the
7 proposal to extend the existing car park on the present
8 surface because it would mean no additional height
9 imposition on surrounding residents. So that was one
10 of my -- and the second reason I would be supporting it 15:35
11 is because it is easier to do while keeping the rest of
12 the car park in working order. From that point of view
13 I can still honestly say that I would be support it for
14 those reasons. I'm not happy about the destruction of
15 a house. Everybody has their views about how beautiful 15:36
16 the house was and so on. You know, I'm agnostic about
17 that but I don't like the idea of knocking down what
18 looks like a perfectly good house. Certainly not. I
19 do see a greater benefit for the town and particularly
20 for rate payers in the town who are paying commercial 15:36
21 rates and who are very, very concerned about the lack
22 of parking spaces that will come about when the
23 Florentine is closed.

24
25 On the question of process, could I just say this: It 15:36
26 was only when the residents put in an FOI request to
27 the Council, which the Council turned down and they
28 then went to the Information Commissioner, it was only
29 then, when the Information Commissioner made a ruling

1 against the Council that certain facts were to be
2 disclosed that I discovered, certainly, that in fact
3 the Council had been negotiating for almost a year with
4 two landowners, two householders. We were never told
5 that. We were never given that information. As I look 15:37
6 at it now, and people can make up their own minds, what
7 it looks like is that we were kind of given almost like
8 a fait accompli in December. 'Look, there aren't any
9 other alternatives here, we've a great chance now to
10 buy St. Paul's, we'll have to knock it but we'll get 15:37
11 our spaces.' But in fact a year of planning had been
12 going on and we weren't kept up-to-date. It was
13 regularly at the Council meeting people would say: 'Is
14 there any word?' 'We're working on it. We're working
15 on it.' But we got no detail on it. Now it kind of 15:37
16 makes sense to me that we didn't get a big opportunity,
17 certainly some of us. Maybe the people who run the
18 Council here, as in the Councillors, maybe they got
19 advance knowledge but certainly I didn't and it was for
20 that reason that I said well, look, we're up against 15:37
21 the clock here, something has to be done, and I'll vote
22 for it. And I will vote for it today but I'll do it
23 with reservations and they are my main reservations.

24
25 The last point I'd make is, reference has been made to 15:38
26 a Senior Counsel's submission and there have been other
27 submissions that were very cogently argued legally.
28 The Director has just said, well, the Law Agent looked
29 at it, he says it's all right. We haven't had a

1 point-by-point rebuttal of what the Senior Counsel
2 said. We'll say David Sweetman says it's okay so it's
3 okay.

4
5 Now the history of this Council and going to court has 15:38
6 certainly not always been a happy one from the point of
7 view of the taxpayer so when the Law Agent says it's
8 okay, well I hope he's right and I hope the Director is
9 right as well because there were certainly very, very
10 clearly argued and convincing points put in that 15:38
11 submission and to my mind they haven't really been
12 addressed properly at this meeting at this stage,
13 Cathaoirleach. Thank you.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Matthews.

15 CLLR. MATTHEWS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I want to 15:39
16 thank the Director for the report and for getting it to
17 us in a timely manner, as he promised he would at Bray
18 last Tuesday night. I don't agree with everything in
19 the report. So for that reason I want to propose that
20 we do not proceed with this development, as we're 15:39
21 permitted to propose under the Planning Act.

22
23 I also want to ask the Chief Executive if he's a
24 hundred percent satisfied that we're in compliance with
25 the planning regulations on this as issues were raised 15:39
26 by a number of residents and is he a hundred percent
27 satisfied that we don't require a legal opinion on
28 that? Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: At this stage everyone has spoken and

1 I'd like to thank all the contributions that people
2 have made.

3 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Matthews has proposed that we
4 don't proceed with the development.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, I'd just like to briefly bring in 15:39
6 -- we have to decide now on procedure what way we're
7 going to take the amendments, or if we're going to take
8 them at all. I'd like to bring in the CE.

9 MR. CURRAN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Look, it's set out
10 very clearly in the agenda what's before us, which is 15:40
11 essentially demolition of a house, the extension to and
12 improvement of the existing car park at Herbert Road,
13 Bray. There is set out there the various elements of
14 that. That's what's before us.

15 CLLR. BEHAN: Sorry, I can't hear you. 15:40

16 MR. CURRAN: Look, it's set out clearly in the agenda
17 what's before us which is demolition of the house, the
18 extension to and improvement of the existing car park
19 at Herbert Bray, Bray and it is set out there exactly
20 what that involves in terms of demolishing the house, 15:40
21 new boundary wall, upgrading public lighting, surface
22 water drainage, the relocation of the car parking
23 entrance, surfacing of the extended area, and laying
24 out of a new surface car park with 50 additional
25 spaces. So that's it. 15:40

26
27 with Part 8s there's three options. One is to proceed
28 with the development as set out and, you know, I think
29 it's a very positive development. We've heard about

1 The Florentine Centre which is going to be positive for
2 Bray. We're going to have an increase in retail
3 intensity. There's no doubt about that. We need extra
4 spaces, both permanent and temporary, and this provides
5 the temporary spaces and the permanent spaces, the 50 15:41
6 extra permanent spaces. The options that are open to
7 the Council is to proceed with the proposed development
8 as set out; not to proceed with the proposed
9 development; or to make an amendment to the development
10 as proposed. Those are the only three options that are 15:41
11 available under legislation.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Thornhill, just briefly because I
13 want to kind of push this on.

14 CLLR. THORNHILL: Cathaoirleach, just in case you have
15 forgotten but I just would like know about my proposal 15:41
16 because I think that there's an awful lot of questions
17 to be answered here and process has to be followed and
18 that's the most important thing. I would just like to
19 though what's happening that proposal. Go raibh maith
20 agat. 15:41

21 MS. GALLAGHER: Can I just say at this stage we have a
22 proposal by Cllr. Fox, seconded by Cllr. Vance to
23 proceed; we have a proposal by Cllr. Matthews, seconded
24 by Cllr. O'Brien not to proceed; and we have a proposal
25 just in relation to 179, an amendment to Part 8 from 15:42
26 Cllr. Lawless, seconded by Cllr. O'Connor that
27 St. Paul's Lodge is not demolished but kept as a house
28 and used for emergency accommodation or other use like
29 the Jigsaw Project. I'm just saying in relation to

1 179. I'm just explaining what proposals we have in
2 relation to 179 which is what is set out on the agenda.
3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Just briefly, Cllr. Winters, you want
4 to come in.

5 CLLR. WINTERS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I'm just 15:42
6 wondering if the Part 8 doesn't go ahead today what
7 actually happens? We've just spent the best part of a
8 million pounds what happens? Can I just say this is
9 always the situation that I seem to find myself in in
10 this Chamber is that we're with an "it's this or 15:42
11 nothing option" and that is extremely difficult to have
12 to deal with all of the time. I know that Mr. O'Brien
13 said that it was, you know, commercial sensitivity and
14 people don't want their business known, but if they're
15 selling their house and their property to the taxpayer 15:43
16 and we're using taxpayers' money to be kept completely
17 in the dark and then be told "it's this or nothing"
18 constantly means that we don't actually have a say
19 really as Councillors and I find that most grievous. I
20 want to know, today, like was this bought subject to 15:43
21 planning? Or have we purchased it and if we don't get
22 a car park we're stuck with it? Or was it bought and
23 we'll see what happens? Thanks.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: I'll ask Des to come back.

25 MR. O'BRIEN: Councillor, no, it was not bought subject 15:43
26 to planning. But it is well within the Members' rights
27 to say no. What would happen then is we put it back on
28 the market again. We'll obviously take a hit from the
29 difference between buying and selling but that goes

1 against, if we had to try and CPO that it would have
2 cost twice as much. The other thing it can be used
3 for, if there is actually finance to buy the house, it
4 can be used for a homeless hostel, it can be used for
5 an arts centre, it can be used for anything if you can 15:44
6 raise money and the Councillors can allocate money for
7 that sort of thing. This is not a take it or leave it.
8 This is an opportunity to buy the site at the time.
9 Really people don't sell their private houses subject
10 to planning unless they're getting a huge premium on 15:44
11 them.

12 CLLR. WINTERS: well then why do you say we take a hit?
13 Surely we paid market value and if we put it back on
14 the market we should be getting the same value.

15 MR. O'BRIEN: No, we paid market value plus a special 15:44
16 purchaser amount. Our valuer advised that would be
17 very reasonable and normal within most commercial
18 transactions that a special purchaser, like someone
19 next trying to accumulate a site, pays extra. There
20 has been a rising market in the meantime so the loss 15:45
21 would be less than it would have been if we sold the
22 following day.

23
24 Can I just say as well, Cathaoirleach, I don't consider
25 that Cllr. Lawless's motion is a modification. I think 15:45
26 it's a new development. For a start you won't get any
27 of the parking efficiency that was part of the scheme.
28 Secondly, you're actually changing the use of a house
29 to a new use. I don't think it's a modification.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Therefore we can't take a vote on it?
2 CLLR. LAWLESS: I would like to see the house being
3 used for what I have stated for because there is a need
4 for it. So I wouldn't really be happy about that.
5 MR. O'BRIEN: Cathaoirleach, what I have advised, if 15:45
6 you want to achieve that and you reject this proposal
7 and then you try and find finance, or the Council tries
8 to find the finance to be able to purchase a house for
9 the use you want, because this is ring-fenced money
10 from parking contributions. I think that's the way you 15:46
11 go, if you want to achieve that aim.
12 CLLR. LAWLESS: The money is ring-fenced from parking
13 contributions?
14 MR. O'BRIEN: Yeah.
15 CLLR. LAWLESS: From Bray Municipal District? 15:46
16 MR. O'BRIEN: Yeah.
17 CLLR. LAWLESS: So is it up to Bray Municipal District?
18 Is that set in stone that it's ring-fenced?
19 MR. O'BRIEN: No, no, that's set in stone by law
20 because when you do development contributions you have 15:46
21 to tell them what the rate's for.
22 CLLR. LAWLESS: Okay.
23 CLLR. MATTHEWS: Chairman, is my proposal to be taken
24 first? It's not made under the Planning Act it's made
25 under the Local Government Act. 15:46
26 MS. GALLAGHER: You have also proposed that it not
27 proceed, which is what is on the agenda. It
28 specifically states section 179. On the agenda it
29 specifically states 179.

1 CLLR. MATTHEWS: I made the argument for why I made it
2 under the Local Government Act. It's well within our
3 rights to do it. There's a reluctance to give powers
4 back to local Councillors to make decisions for their
5 local communities and there's some reluctance around 15:47
6 this Chamber. It's ridiculous. We're elected locally
7 to make decisions. I think Councillors should be given
8 the opportunity to say here yes, we want the
9 decision-making to be brought to the local level. I'll
10 leave it at that, Cathaoirleach. If you don't want to 15:47
11 take the proposal you can decide not to but it is made
12 legitimately under the Local Government Act and I think
13 it should be taken here and a voted on.

14 MR. CURRAN: I think that's a separate issue and it's a
15 broader issue, whether we want to deal with Part 8s 15:47
16 here or at Municipal Districts and it's something that
17 we can have a debate on at another time. People will
18 need notice and they'll need time to consider that.
19 But it's a separate issue. We can vote here, as I
20 said, with not proceeding with the development; or 15:47
21 proceeding with the development; or varying or
22 modifying it.

23 CLLR. MATTHEWS: Do you agree that it's a legitimate
24 proposal to be made in the Chamber?

25 MR. CURRAN: It is something that people would want 15:47
26 notice of and it should come out as part of the agenda.

27 CLLR. MATTHEWS: well, it would have had the agenda
28 been set -- Cathaoirleach, put it up and Members can
29 vote against it. If they want it they can vote for it.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. O'Brien.

2 CLLR. O'BRIEN: I was just going to propose that it
3 would be put before the Members to decide whether they
4 would like to do something like that. I'm hearing a
5 lot of the time about lack of power in the local 15:48
6 Municipal Districts, et cetera, et cetera and this is
7 an issue that's very, very, very important. I mean
8 what better time to vote on Cllr. Matthews' issue than
9 now when it's actually going to be of some immediate
10 practical benefit to what's happening here. It's an 15:48
11 issue that's involved very much in Bray and it should
12 be the Bray Councillors who decide the issue in
13 relation to that.

14

15 I mean I presume the Baltinglass and all the other 15:48
16 districts are the same, that they want the power back
17 for themselves. You can't have it two ways. You can't
18 have, say, if it's voted down in my district up there
19 well then I'll come done here with my mates and we'll
20 gang up together. That's not democracy and it's not 15:48
21 the way to do it. I don't see any reason why, if
22 you're entitled to do it under the Act, as he is
23 suggesting, it looks like 30, 40 seconds to do it for
24 you to call out "i bhfabhar" or "i gcoinne" and I don't
25 think there's any -- I am seconding it and I think it 15:48
26 would be a very good move forward to doing things, to
27 do it now because it will have an immediate impact.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Members, it's now ten to four. I have
29 the task of conducting a meeting and an agenda with

1 other items, including Regional Planning Guidelines,
2 which have serious implications for County Wicklow.
3 I'm not going to indulge any other speakers.
4 Cllr. Thornhill, you can speak, Cllr. Kavanagh,
5 Cllr. Vance. That's it. Like this is the sixth time 15:49
6 you've come in, Cllr. Thornhill.
7 CLLR. MCLOUGHLIN: Why are you letting him back in
8 again?
9 CATHAOIRLEACH: I can't go on forever. I'm saying I'm
10 just going to give you one minute. I can't go on 15:49
11 forever. I have to close this issue now. After these
12 proposals I'm going to bring it to a vote on what's on
13 the agenda. That's all I'm doing. I've given enough
14 indulgence to people now and I'd appreciate if Members
15 would just go for a vote. Cllr. Kavanagh, you were 15:49
16 just ahead of Cllr. Thornhill.
17 CLLR. KAVANAGH: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, just very
18 quickly. I really am afraid if this proceeds today and
19 we discover down the line that there were errors, legal
20 errors in the planning and in other issues associated 15:49
21 with this that the house will already have been knocked
22 and it will be too late to save it. I think while we
23 still have time we have to look and we have to
24 ascertain the legal facts. We can't wait until it's a
25 fait accompli and then come back and say, 'oops, sorry, 15:50
26 we were wrong, we made a mistake.' It will be too late
27 then if the house is gone. This house means too much
28 to too many people in Bray. And there are so many
29 other avenues open for this house that it could be put

1 to so many other uses, especially at a time when we
2 have a housing crisis. Thank you.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Thornhill.

4 CLLR. THORNHILL: Cathaoirleach, go raibh maith agat.
5 I would concur with Cllr. Kavanagh's remarks in 15:50
6 relation to the whole matter. I think it is vitally
7 important that this message is got across and that
8 resolution that I put forward. I mean remember the
9 Barracuda? Remember the Barracuda? There was a
10 precedent set there and there was independent legal 15:50
11 advice sought. So I mean the thing about it is, I mean
12 we have Senior Counsel from the Herbert Road and they
13 know their stuff, now let's get an independent legal
14 adviser on the whole matter because it's so important
15 because down along the line, you know like we have to 15:51
16 get it right. That's what I say. Remember the
17 Barracuda? Now, go raibh maith agat, Cathaoirleach.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Vance.

19 CLLR. VANCE: Chairman, could I just ask that we go for
20 a vote on this. I think I've said my piece in regard 15:51
21 to this. I think it's a very desirable project and I'm
22 asking the Members to vote for the Part 8.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Members, I'm going for a vote and
24 thanks for all your contributions.

25 CLLR. BEHAN: What vote? 15:51

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: I'm going for a vote on Cllr. Fox's
27 proposal.

28 MS. GALLAGHER: To proceed.

29 CLLR. BEHAN: Hold on a minute, no, no, no, no, no, no.

1 Cllr. Fox was about the third one to make a proposal.
2 There were two proposals before that, Cathaoirleach.
3 No way, now. That's totally undemocratic.
4 CATHAOIRLEACH: I'm not taking those proposals. I
5 can't take them. 15:52
6 CLLR. BEHAN: You're not taking them?
7 CATHAOIRLEACH: No.
8 CLLR. BEHAN: That's ridiculous. Cllr. Matthews, did
9 you propose something about it not being proceeded
10 with? 15:52
11 MS. GALLAGHER: That's the direct negative to this.
12 CATHAOIRLEACH: I can take that.
13 CLLR. MATTHEWS: That was after Cllr. Fox's one.
14 CATHAOIRLEACH: I can take that one either. It doesn't
15 matter. 15:52
16 CLLR. BEHAN: It doesn't matter. A decision has been
17 made. It was probably made out there in one of the
18 Committee rooms during the ten minutes.
19 CATHAOIRLEACH: I reject that.
20 CLLR. VANCE: Chairman, that's not fair, now. That 15:52
21 comment is fair now.
22 CLLR. BEHAN: Minister Harris wrote to the Fine Gael
23 Councillors asking them to propose this and obviously
24 they're not going to consider. What is happening here
25 is what has happened over every controversial issue. 15:52
26 The two main parties and a couple of their friends have
27 got together and decided to ram this through. That's
28 what's happened.
29 CLLR. VANCE: Chairman, can we go for a vote?

1 MS. GALLAGHER: For or against.

2 CLLR. MATTHEWS: Which one are we voting for?

3 MS. GALLAGHER: It's for or against in accordance with
4 what's proposed by Cllr. Fox, seconded by Cllr. Vance
5 to proceed with the development as outlined in the 15:53
6 report circulated. [VOTE TAKEN] That's ten for; ten
7 against; four not present; and two abstaining. Sorry
8 16 for, I beg your pardon. Sorry, I wrote that --
9 that's 16 for; ten against; four not present; and two
10 abstaining. That's 32 Members. 15:55

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, Members. On to Item 6 to
12 receive a report on the recent severe weather
13 conditions.

14 MR. CURRAN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. We'll just do a
15 quick report just to update people on what happened 15:55
16 during the severe weather event. It started on 23rd
17 February when we got a Met Éireann weather alert ,that
18 was on the Friday. The Local Severe Weather
19 Coordination Group met the following Monday and at 9:30
20 each day for the following nine days. So that 15:55
21 consistent of ourselves, the Local Authority, Roads,
22 Housing, Water Houses, Fire, Civil Defence, Community,
23 and our own Communications people, the Gardaí and the
24 HSE. Look, it's been a phenomenal effort. Above and
25 beyond the call of duty, I think, by very significant 15:56
26 numbers of staff. I'm not going to mention any
27 particular names. We received very good assistance, in
28 a voluntary capacity, very good assistance from local
29 contractors, quarry owners and also the Army. Elected

1 Members certainly kept us informed of issues as they
2 were happening on the ground.

3
4 what I might do is if we can ask for a presentation
5 from Waters Services, Roads, Civil Defence and Fire, 15:56
6 just to give people a flavour of what happened during
7 the event. Thank you.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: A couple of Councillors want to say
9 something. Briefly now, before the presentation.

10 CLLR. TOMMY CULLEN: Thank you, Chairman. Chairman, I 15:56
11 want to congratulate the Chief Executive and his staff
12 for the work they did in this emergency and there was
13 grade coordination. I'm sure, Chairman, you were
14 involved yourself as Chairman. I think we have to note
15 the great work carried out by the water services, the 15:57
16 Fire Services the Civil Defence and the Army and the
17 Council staff, the Gardaí and all the community groups
18 and the IFA and all the community groups that worked so
19 hard to keep the County operating during the very
20 severe crisis. I think also Met Éireann did well. I 15:57
21 think the improving weather notices now gives us more
22 time to plan for these events.

23
24 I think overall it was a good operation by the County
25 Council because our area, West Wicklow, Chairman, got, 15:57
26 I noticed that West Wicklow and the Carlow borders got
27 the most severest of all of Ireland. We got the
28 highest snowfalls in all of Ireland. So I want to
29 compliment that we Mr. Geaney and his men kept the

1 water going in Blessington and Dunlavin and Baltinglass
2 and we kept the main thoroughfares open. I want to
3 congratulate all the Council staff involved.
4

5 The one thing is, Chairman, it does show a lack of 15:58
6 outdoor staff that the Council have. We are operating
7 now on 25% of outdoor staff that we had in the 1982
8 similar scenario. I think there has to be a
9 concentration on upgrading and bringing up the numbers
10 of the outdoor staff a lot more. That should be 15:58

11 concentration -- if employment is going to be in the
12 Council it should be on outdoor staff to bring up the
13 numbers. And other equipment. I think of the only
14 things, Chairman, I would say, is we need some
15 specialist equipment regarding clearing snow from 15:58
16 footpaths in housing estates, mini-snow excavators to
17 clear snow off footpaths because in housing estates
18 people really can't drive so they have to walk in and
19 out. So we do need some equipment to deal with snow on
20 footpaths. I think that's a matter, we should invest 15:59
21 in purchasing a number of those like the have in
22 Northern Ireland and the UK. Thanks very much,
23 Chairman.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks. Cllr. Winters.

25 CLLR. WINTERS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, I just want to 15:59
26 add my congratulations and thanks to all the members of
27 the Severe Weather Coordination Group, the volunteers,
28 the staff and all the emergency services and to say
29 that when particular individuals find themselves in

1 very difficult circumstances it was fantastic to be
2 able to put those individual cases to the group and
3 have their needs met. I think in exceptionally
4 difficult circumstances brilliant job was done. Well
5 done. Thank you. 15:59

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Fortune.

7 CLLR. SHAY CULLEN: Can I suggest we have our
8 presentation before the speakers.

9 CLLR. FORTUNE: I won't be long. I just want to again
10 thank everybody for the great work they done during 16:00
11 that period. The reactions were very good. I had to
12 make a number of calls for people and I must say the
13 reactions were great. And also in a couple of
14 instances I had to talk to the services outside the
15 Local Authority and they were also very supportive. So 16:00
16 it was a job well done by everybody.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Members, would with your indulgence I
18 propose, given the length of Item 5, that we extend the
19 meeting to 6:00 o'clock. We may not go on to 6:00. Is
20 that agreed? 16:00

21 FROM THE FLOOR: Agreed.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: I'll go ahead with the presentation if
23 that's okay.

24 MS. DENNEHY: Good afternoon, Members. Just as the
25 Chief Executive had introduced there, the severe 16:00
26 weather event ran, as everyone is aware, probably from
27 Monday of last week, Monday 26th February to Thursday
28 8th March is the period that we're covering in our
29 presentation today. The Severe Weather Coordination

1 Group met nine times over that period, continuous phone
2 calls and conference calls throughout the day. It
3 consisted -- under emergency management the lead
4 authority in events of severe weather is the Local
5 Authority. The Coordination Group is represented by 16:01
6 all the principal response agencies, senior management
7 team of the Local Authority, Gardaí, Health Service
8 Executive and also contacts to the Defence Forces and
9 Irish Water as part of that team.

10
11 Just in relation to communications as everyone would
12 understand, it was non-stop over the period of time.
13 There was 12 press releases issued over the short
14 period. Social media, Twitter, Facebook, et cetera,
15 was constantly updated. We sent out alerts through 16:01
16 Wicklow County Council Text Alert. We had calls and
17 contact from and with ESB, Irish Water, Irish Water
18 Safety, different food distributers, milk suppliers,
19 Army, IFA, contractors, local people. Everything. You
20 can just imagine there was contact with an awful lot of 16:02
21 different people.

22
23 Just in relation to the events itself. There was
24 actually six Met advisories over that short period of
25 time between 23rd February and 5th March. They ranged 16:02
26 and went from obviously a yellow to orange and up to
27 the severe red.

28
29 Just in relation to water and Environmental Services.

1 There was a precautionary boil water notice issued for
2 just two areas over that period of time, it was due to
3 a failure of a chlorine pump in both areas. That's
4 Aughrim/Annacurra and the second one was Barndarrig.

16:02

5
6 We did preempt the weather based on that we had trouble
7 last time accessing our treatment plants so we had
8 hired in additional 4x4s on the previous Monday to the
9 storm. They didn't really get us to the place we
10 needed to when the storm came but we had some in place.

16:03

11 There was very few bursts over the period. Three in
12 total, only in Enniskerry, Greystones and Donard over
13 the whole two-week period. So while we had been very
14 active in fixing leaks there was actually only three
15 bursts as per the weather.

16:03

16
17 Just in relation the whole water services, both Irish
18 Water and the Ministers have complimented Wicklow
19 County Council staff in association with the weather
20 event. Everybody will be aware of the water
21 restrictions that had been put in put in place by
22 Dublin affect the north of our county, which is Bray
23 and Greystones. However, those restrictions had very
24 little impact on Bray and Greystones. We were
25 restricted the first night and from then on Bray and
26 Greystones were taken off the restriction list.

16:03

16:03

27
28 Just some of the pictures just in relation to access to
29 some of our plants. That was dealing with one of the

1 bursts within a couple of days of the snow. And then
2 just from a flooding point of view. All areas were on
3 active flood watch. So we had sandbags out in all
4 areas. I suppose we expected the snow to thaw a lot
5 quicker which might have caused surface flooding. Bray 16:04
6 were on flood alert, as were Arklow. There was an
7 incident of three houses down in Castle Street in
8 Wicklow that did flood on Friday, 2nd March that was
9 from waves over the sea wall. Following that incident
10 we've actually been in discussions with the OPW and may 16:04
11 improve that as a minor works programme going forward.
12

13 Other areas from an environment perspective, we had a
14 boat sink in Arklow Harbour, it was due to the weight
15 of the snow on the boat that the boat sank. Murrough 16:04
16 Recycling Centre had some small flood damage, again
17 from that incident that happened on 2nd March and Bray
18 Recycling Centre has damage to the roof following the
19 storm.

20 MR. QUIRKE: Thanks, Chairman. Just to give you an 16:05
21 idea, you've probably all seen that Winter Maintenance
22 Map before. That's what we do routinely on a
23 day-to-day basis over the winter period. That covers
24 about 500 kilometres of road. So you can imagine that
25 as of last Friday morning when we got up there was 16:05
26 probably closer to 2,500 kilometres of road under snow.
27 The N11 was kept open to one lane at a minimum at all
28 times and that's done by direct contract between TII
29 and the two road mark contractors, motorway maintenance

1 and renewal contractors.

2
3 These are our priorities, the N81 regional and local
4 roads. As I say there's about heading for 2,500
5 kilometres of that. Our own main road is our national 16:06
6 secondary road and that's what it looked like last week
7 (illustrating), or the week before last I should say,
8 and still on last Monday there was areas of it not
9 fully open.

10
11 we deployed all machinery that we could get our hands
12 on and actually even rounding up successful items, we
13 have 90 items of plant in that, it's probably closer to
14 120. All our staff were involved. 16:06

15
16 I should say, you know, the Severe Weather Coordination
17 Group was very busy, the district engineers were busier
18 and the GSSs, who I think deserve special maintenance,
19 I don't know how they could hold their phones at times
20 because I'd say there were red hot. They were getting 16:06
21 calls from us; they were getting calls from people on
22 the ground; and they were getting calls from the
23 district engineers. So you couldn't say enough about
24 them really over the period of the bad weather and of
25 course our staff driving machines and so on. 16:07

26
27 we did establish an online conditions map on our
28 website so that people could look up and see where
29 roads were impassable. At one point that would have

1 been nearly all red. Anyway we reduced it over the
2 period of time.

3
4 we had various types of calls, and as has been said
5 already, sometimes we diverted equipment for 16:07
6 humanitarian aid or for medical assistance and so on
7 and that's always a tough decision because you're
8 trying to clear roads on one hand and you're trying to
9 provide humanitarian assistance on the other.

10
11 we did employ and we were delighted to get assistance 16:07
12 from quarries and so on to go after big drifts. That's
13 a machine out of a quarry in west wicklow
14 (illustrating). Really we'd probably be at it still if
15 we didn't have the likes of those machines and we were 16:07
16 really happy to get assistance from the quarries.
17 Look, I mean, you've all seen these from the various
18 areas. That was pretty spectacular in Arklow
19 (illustrating a picture of the Avoca River frozen) and
20 so on. Just to say to -- that's the Sally Gap and the 16:08
21 road to Enniskerry (illustrating snow), that's this
22 morning. Last week you could be forgiven for looking
23 out the window here and thinking it's all over. It's
24 still not all over and there's still roads to be
25 widened and so on in the west of the County. 16:08

26 MR. DEMPSEY: In terms of the build up to the incident,
27 the prior information from Met Éireann made a huge
28 difference and then the coordinated meetings building
29 on the regular meetings that we hold with our other

1 local authorities within the region and with the
2 principal response agencies allowed us to prepare for
3 the particular incident.

4
5 The thing that changed suddenly for us was that when 16:09
6 Sean Hogan and the National Coordination Group
7 indicated that the public should stay indoors from
8 4:00 p.m., myself and a number of other Chief Fire
9 Officers contacted him with the implication in terms of
10 the retained fire service, which meant that if the 16:09
11 public wasn't to leave their homes that we felt it
12 wasn't reasonable for firefighters in the retained
13 services to leave their homes. So we suggested and
14 agreed that they should man the fire stations for the
15 duration of the severe weather. 16:09

16
17 So initially on Thursday the 1st we had firefighters in
18 every station over that night. The following day we
19 risk assessed the situation with each location and on
20 the Friday night we scaled it down to three fire 16:10
21 stations where the response time or the difficulty in
22 the local area was such that it would have been unsafe
23 to expect firefighters to respond.

24
25 So on a daily basis we started by contacting the 16:10
26 National Coordination Group at 7:00 o'clock in the
27 morning and contacted each fire station on a regular
28 basis thereafter. Then there was teleconferences
29 within the region with the local authorities,

1 teleconferences with the principal response agencies
2 and that was done twice a day, including the internal
3 meetings here. So there was a huge amount of
4 information being exchanged and the picture was being
5 updated on a regular basis, which helped, I think, 16:10
6 everybody to deal with the situation.

7
8 In terms of incidents, there was no increase in the
9 number of incidents, it was the complexity of the
10 incidents that changed. So on the 28th we had three 16:11
11 incidents building up to eight incidents on 2nd March
12 and then it diminished down in the following days.

13
14 By type we had to rescue motorists on two occasions; we
15 had to rescue ambulances on two occasions; we had to 16:11
16 move casualties to ambulances where the ambulance
17 service couldn't get to the casualty or to a person in
18 difficulty. We had two road traffic collisions; two
19 electrical incidents; two house fires; one outdoor
20 fire; three alarm activations; coastal flooding; burst 16:11
21 pipes; and chimney fires.

22
23 It started on the 28th, as we expected, with a number
24 of road traffic collisions, both of them in the
25 Roundwood area. It was strange that for us we found 16:11
26 that at one point we were dealing with incidents in
27 snow and in another part of the County there was no
28 snow. It just highlighted, as was mentioned by some of
29 the Councillors, how the weather affected different

1 parts of the County differently during the day.

2
3 That was the second road traffic collision. That car
4 had originally ended up on its roof. Then our most
5 serious incident was later that night where Blessington 16:12
6 was mobilised to recover motorists stranded in the
7 snow. Fortunately that was a scenario that had been
8 pre-discussed by the Chief Executive, guidelines had
9 been issued and so it made the decision-making process
10 at the incident much easier. By using both garda 16:12
11 resources, fire services and local contractors it was
12 possible to extricate the people and not leave them in
13 their cars overnight.

14
15 By the following morning the full affect was seen in an 16:13
16 in all station areas. The first job was to dig
17 ourselves out of our fire stations with the assistance
18 of snow ploughs. And having done that then, as can be
19 seen on the right there, it was moving out into the
20 local community and helping, where we could, any local 16:13
21 residents in this case in Carnew where elderly people
22 mightn't have had access to get out of their homes.

23
24 These are just general pictures from around the County
25 what was being seen and experienced. 16:13
26

27 By 11:00 o'clock on the 2nd then the flooding was
28 reported on Strand Road and these were the conditions
29 just before it overtopped into the community

1 (illustrating). The Fire Service pumped and sandbagged
2 any properties that they could. Here you can see a
3 Fire Service vehicle delivering pallets of sandbags in
4 addition to the sandbags that would have been provided
5 by the Local Authority. 16:14

6
7 The conditions continued to be challenging but we were
8 supported throughout by our colleagues in the Local
9 Authority, Civil Defence and other agencies.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Michael Richardson, Civil Defence. 16:14

11 MR. RICHARDSON: Good afternoon, thank you,
12 Cathaoirleach. As are stated there and stated by Aidan
13 ahead of me, Civil Defence were activated and put on
14 sand by on Monday the 26th as a result of our severe
15 weather warnings and I stood the volunteers down 11 16:14
16 days later, last Thursday evening.

17
18 We had five of our 4X4 fleet working throughout the
19 period of the severe weather. I had up to 26
20 volunteers available. We were bringing them in on a 16:15
21 shift basis. We answered over 300 telephone calls from
22 department within the Wicklow County Council, the Garda
23 Síochána, the HSE, the National Ambulance Service,
24 nurse homes and members of the public.

25 16:15
26 We transported essential staff to County Buildings here
27 at the early stages when the building was open. As a
28 request from the HSE we transported patients to
29 St. Vincent's Hospital and Beacon Hospital for dialysis

1 and chemotherapy. We transported essential staff to
2 St. Colmcille's and St. Michael's Hospital in
3 Dun Laoghaire, again on the request of the HSE. We
4 assisted district nurses from last Monday when they
5 needed to get to people who were housebound for 16:16
6 dressings and treatment. We evacuated residents from
7 properties with no power and water probably on Friday
8 and Saturday in the middle of the storm. And at the
9 early stages we distributed Meals on wheels in the Bray
10 area. And also then towards the weekend we monitored 16:16
11 floodwater levels in the Newcastle/Kilcoole district.

12
13 Also, during the dealing with the dialysis clinics
14 where you were bringing patients in in the morning and
15 calling back maybe five hours later to bring them home 16:16
16 we had problems with our Wexford Civil Defence. Our
17 colleagues in Wexford were transporting patients from
18 as far away as Wexford Town so we liaised with them and
19 picked patients from them at Jack White's on the N11,
20 brought the patients to Vincent's and then brought them 16:17
21 back at and met up with Wexford again to transport the
22 patients home.

23
24 As our resources were very overstretched on the
25 recovery, as in last Monday and Tuesday, when we were 16:17
26 getting numerous calls from members of the public for
27 assistance where they couldn't get access out to the
28 main roads, we got assistance from Dublin Civil Defence
29 with their Hagglunds tracked machine and that was used

1 over in the Manor Kilbride area.

2
3 I gave daily updates to the media, to our media office
4 here in Wicklow County Council, to East Coast Radio, to
5 RTÉ and also each morning to the Department of Defence 16:17
6 who would pass the details on to the National
7 Co-ordination Group. All Civil Defence Members over the
8 period of the storm were in attendance for 1,000 man
9 hours.

10 16:18
11 Moving on to our photo images there. That's one of our
12 jeeps getting assistance from Wicklow County Council
13 outdoor staff to access a patient in Kilmacurragh.
14 We're offering assistance there to the HSE ambulance in
15 Kilmacanogue. We were after digging him out of the 16:18
16 snow a couple of minutes earlier. We're in Manor
17 Kilbride there where we're trying to gain access to a
18 boiler house where it was caught in a drift and the
19 gentleman in the particular property had no heating and
20 we cleared the boiler and helped access out to the main 16:18
21 road from his property.

22
23 On Meals on wheels, that's in the Bray area where we
24 cleared access to properties for Meals on wheels to be
25 delivered and also drove the Meals on wheels staff for 16:18
26 Thursday and Friday. Again, that's our jeeps in the
27 Rathdrum area and further on there in Barndarrig. In
28 Barranisky was where we took the gentleman out that his
29 house had no power or water and we were caught there

1 with a snow drift awaiting for a Council digger to dig
2 us out.

3
4 That's our command and control centre in Greystones and
5 as I have at the end there, our last new recruit 16:19
6 (picture of a snowman)! Thank you.

7 MR. CURRAN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I think we've got
8 a flavour of it there. The effort that was put in by
9 all sections of the County Council. Once again, I'd
10 just like to pay tribute to the staff in Roads. 16:19

11 Housing was a significant part of it as well because we
12 had the Cold weather Initiative in Bray and I know
13 people said on top of that Water Services, Fire, Civie
14 Defence, Community. We've a very good communications
15 team here using social media, radio and the print 16:19
16 media. I think we got a lot of compliments for that
17 that people knew what was happening, they knew when it
18 was happening. That was very important as well.

19
20 There was huge cooperation from the gardaí. They were 16:20
21 here every morning. The HSE, similarly. As I
22 mentioned earlier it wouldn't have been possible
23 without the assistance of locals in a voluntary
24 capacity. But also local farmers, local contractors,
25 quarry owners and the Army who in fact were very 16:20
26 significant both in terms of sending the loading
27 shovels with engineers to supervise them, but also
28 clearing ice. There was over 100 soldiers here in one
29 day clearing ice from footpaths in various towns around

1 the County. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Cullen.

3 CLLR. SHAY CULLEN: Thanks, Chairman. I suppose just
4 to follow up, obviously there was a monumental effort
5 made by everybody concerned, but I suppose I would just 16:20
6 like to pay tribute to the management and the staff of
7 Wicklow County Council, the Fire Service, the Civil
8 Defence, Mountain Rescue, the Army volunteers that got
9 involved. I suppose it was an unprecedented snow storm
10 that occurred. I was in one of the areas that was most 16:20
11 affected up in mountains in Roundwood and Laragh and so
12 on. I have to pay particular comment to the local
13 engineer and the overseers for the area. There was
14 amazing commitment to their job in very trying
15 circumstances. I suppose the level of support that has 16:21
16 been mentioned by the public can't be understated in
17 that anybody that had access to a machine was contacted
18 and obviously put forward their services and gave their
19 services willingly, which couldn't be underestimated.

20
21 The general community spirit that I was involved in and
22 seen firsthand was to be commended. The introduction
23 of the Army, albeit a few days after the main event,
24 was significant in that villages could get access --
25 accessible I suppose would be the point and they made a 16:22
26 huge difference to the areas that they went in to.

27
28 As I said earlier, the commitment of the overseers in
29 particular areas, the amount of phone calls they were

1 getting, not only from the public Councillors,
2 everybody and anybody and the dedication they showed
3 was incredible.

4
5 I suppose unfortunately there's always downsides to 16:22
6 these things and to me there was two particular
7 downsides. One was the new term "snow tourists" and
8 they certainly caused a lot of difficulty for the
9 workers on the Saturday and Sunday and Monday but
10 particularly, I suppose, on the Saturday and Sunday 16:22
11 where you had people, I suppose, coming into the upland
12 areas in their jeeps and cars and getting stuck and not
13 knowing maybe how to drive them properly in the
14 conditions that they were in. But more importantly
15 stopping the progress of the work that was being done 16:23
16 by the staff of the Council. It caused a huge amount
17 of frustration. It is something I know that was dealt
18 with by the gardaí from Kilmacanogue, particularly on
19 the Saturday and Sunday, to stop a lot of these snow
20 tourists from entering the upland areas. I think, you 16:23
21 know, once that was achieved it certainly resulted in
22 better success in clearing the roads.

23
24 I suppose the other point I would make was there was a
25 small but loud cohort of social media activists, I'd 16:23
26 call them, which condemned staff of Wicklow County
27 Council and particularly some of the staff that were
28 working on the roads. It's simply disgraceful is the
29 way I can describe their behaviour on social media.

1 Because as far as I'm concerned the work and the time
2 and the commitment that was shown by people on diggers
3 and track machines and all sorts of equipment was
4 exemplary. I just take exception to any people going
5 on social media and naming people for not, they feel
6 not doing their job and I think it's -- I reiterate my
7 point on that. I think it's an absolute disgrace and
8 they should be ashamed of themselves for some of the
9 comments that were made.

16:24

10
11 I've nothing but the height of praise for everybody
12 that was involved in the whole week's work and the
13 dedication that was shown was absolutely exemplary and
14 I commend everybody involved. Thank you.

16:24

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks. Cllr. Dunne.

16:24

16 CLLR. DUNNE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Again, like
17 Cllr. Cullen, I agree the work that was done in our
18 area was exceptional. I'd like to especially give
19 praise to the GSSs, the engineers involved. Any time
20 we rang them they were always answering the phone.
21 Obviously we're ringing them when we get problems and
22 we're trying to sort out problems for members of the
23 public.

16:24

24
25 I would just also like a special prize for the Fire
26 Brigade who attended Bath Street and Strand Street on
27 the Friday where flooding was at a premium. The
28 sandbags that was left over earlier in the day the, GSS
29 and the guys in the Wicklow Area Office helped maybe a

16:24

1 bigger situation that was going to be very, very poor,
2 they definitely helped it. The sandbags did help.

3
4 I think to be honest about it, the big problem for me
5 is the actual strength of the sea down there and what 16:25
6 they done to boulders and things like that were already
7 down there. If anybody has been up the Murrough in the
8 last number of, the last week or so, the damage that
9 has been to the Murrough is unbelievable. I have it
10 down for a Notice of Motion, it's been down for a long 16:25
11 time and if we don't get to it soon I think the
12 Murrough will be gone because the damage is
13 unbelievable. I know we had the Minister down looking
14 at the Murrough a few months ago. I'd like to know
15 what came out of that meeting with the Minister because 16:25
16 this is getting, this is very, very serious now, you
17 know. There's people talking about spending time on
18 greenways up to Greystones. If we don't do something
19 shortly there'll be no place to work up the Murrough
20 because it will be gone. Absolutely totally gone. I'm 16:26
21 very keen that we get some sort of report from the
22 officials on what is going to happen to the Murrough,
23 sooner rather than later, because, as I said earlier,
24 this is getting very, very serious.

25
26 Again, I'd like to totally compliment the staff on the
27 work they done over the period of time. They don't get
28 the praise they deserve. Cllr. Cullen mentioned the
29 fact of the lack of outdoor staff. It's the one area I

1 think we should be looking at that maybe over the years
2 the area in the Council that has suffered has been
3 outdoor staff and we haven't replaced the guys that
4 have left through retirement and maybe it's something
5 that the Chief Executive might look at and come up with 16:26
6 maybe solid numbers on how we're going to improve that
7 situation. Thank you, Chairman

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Walsh.

9 CLLR. WALSH: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Again, just to
10 concur what with the previous speakers and congratulate 16:27
11 all the Local Authority staff and indeed all the
12 frontline services, including the volunteer services,
13 the Civil Defence and the Coast Guard and the Gardaí.
14 The list goes on, as has already been stated.

15 16:27
16 I must say the community response to what was really a
17 challenging situation was heartening. It certainly
18 reinforces your belief in mankind because people just
19 rallied round. People came out and helped each other,
20 dug each other out and, as I say, that was heartening. 16:27
21 It was a really coordinated response, a team effort.
22 We must remember that the people most affected by the
23 events were the farming community. They losses in
24 livestock, structural damage. They're really going to
25 need support going forward. Then we have our small 16:27
26 local businesses who suffered significant losses in
27 revenue. So, you know, but apart from that the
28 response has been fantastic and heartening so well done
29 to all involved. Thanks.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Lawless.
2 CLLR. LAWLESS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I'm glad
3 actually I waited until after the presentation to speak
4 because I have to say the amount of work that was done
5 by all the services - I'm not going to name them all - 16:28
6 it was absolutely astounding when you actually break
7 down the statistics and the figures and the meetings
8 and the amount of callouts they have. I'd just like to
9 say it's extremely reassuring to know that we have this
10 in place for any bad weather events that may come. I 16:28
11 mean this is the second one we've had, obviously we had
12 Storm Ophelia and I have to say Wicklow County Council
13 handled that extremely well as well and the
14 communications that we get as Councillors from Wicklow
15 County Council is absolutely fantastic and the public 16:28
16 then are reassured again. Compliments to them all.
17
18 In regards to what Cllr. Shay Cullen was saying about
19 the snow tourists as well, has to be the biggest bane
20 of all our lives. I just do not understand why people 16:29
21 need to go up into the Sally Gap area to see snow,
22 considering that we actually had snow down in the lower
23 lands anyway and actually putting our volunteers and
24 people who are working in the services at risk. They
25 have families at home as well. I think people have to 16:29
26 realise they are going out to help the community
27 members and putting their lives at risk for, I won't
28 use the word, that go up there and, you know, cause
29 this disruption. And even with the stuff on social

1 media, I think we all got it. There was people saying:
2 'well what are yous Councillors doing? why aren't yous
3 out?' we were all doing something within our own
4 community within our limits.

5
6 Overall I think there was more positive than negativity
7 here in wicklow and it should be really, really
8 commended.

9
10 Just one kind of thing, I'm just wondering, just in 16:29
11 regards to with the snow, most of the snow is thawed
12 and gone now and with flooding I'm just wondering
13 damage limitation in and around roads and stuff. I in
14 my own area, up in willow Grove the Old Downs Road is
15 quite rural and it wasn't in great condition anyway but 16:30
16 it's in an extremely bad condition now due to the bad
17 weather. Again, that's going to need funning. I'm
18 just wondering in and around funding, will the
19 Government be actually giving local authorities more
20 funding because it looks like we are going to continue 16:30
21 get bad weather and, of course, we're going to need
22 increased funding for our roads and whatever else
23 damage is done. It's probably maybe a little too soon
24 but will we be doing a report of any extra works that
25 might need to be done around the County after the bad 16:30
26 weather. Thank you.

27 MR. CURRAN: Can I just answer that. The Government
28 have indicated that they will fund the extra cost of
29 the response. We've got our figures for that. They've

1 also asked us to look at the roads in terms of an
2 engineering assessment of the damage that was caused.
3 So as soon as the snow is cleared we'll be doing that
4 and submitted it to the Department of Transport.
5 Indications are that we will get funding for the
6 repair.

16:30

7 CLLR. LAWLESS: That's brilliant. Thank you.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Ruttle.

9 CLLR. RUTTLE: Cathaoirleach, like all other speakers,

10 I suppose I would like to commend all our own staff,

16:31

11 our outdoor staff, our engineers, our overseers who

12 were all under extreme pressure and, as was outlined

13 earlier by all the speakers, the numbers are greatly

14 reduced and the demands are huge. A war like that with

15 the powers of nature is very unequal a lot of the time

16:31

16 and very hard to win. They did great work. In our own

17 area I would like to compliment our engineering staff

18 as well, Declan Geraghty, Pat Clarke and Dermot Graham

19 in the Tinahely end of the operation. Any time you

20 contacted them they'd come back to you very rapidly and

16:31

21 provide practical solution or direction as to where

22 we're going in times like that. So right through the

23 whole procedure I would certainly commend our staff

24 greatly.

16:31

25
26 As regards just the snow tourists. Yeah, I counted on

27 the Tuesday, on the Tuesday I went to get some meal

28 with my tractor and I counted four or five - a new

29 departure - wild men on quads who appeared to be out

1 there just going wild, left and right all over the
2 place. I don't know where they came from. I never saw
3 them before but they certainly were a hazard to any
4 motorist. They probably wouldn't worry me too much,
5 the size of machine I was driving, but if you were in a 16:32
6 car or anything like you were in great danger from
7 them. I just don't know where they came from. I'd
8 never seen them before. Quads. And just completely no
9 helmet, probably no insurance, nothing. Something has
10 to be done with that. 16:32

11
12 The other thing, a severe snow storm with the amount of
13 snow that was deposited outlined greatly our dependence
14 on heavy equipment, the big shovels in other words.
15 This was not a snow storm that you could deal with a 16:32
16 JCB at all. In that regard the private contractors
17 that we dealt with, the Fenton Agris, the Stephensons,
18 the Hudsons, and I think Gerry's so-in-law was driving
19 the Hudsons' outfit. Another outfit there was driven
20 by a godson of mine, Jason Griffith. All of these 16:32
21 people, they were hugely, hugely important because
22 without them we don't possess this kind of equipment.
23 But without those men and that kind of equipment you
24 could go nowhere.

25 16:33
26 I've had a little bit of contact since from the
27 representatives of the National Contractors Association
28 who said, look, they've 3,000 registered contractors in
29 Ireland. Good as we did it we could maybe do it a

1 little bit better with a little bit more coordination
2 of what could be available at any one time. That's the
3 number that have that kind of equipment throughout the
4 country. It has to be complimented.

5
6 Also, I'd like to compliment the Civil Defence and the
7 Gardaí, all the other people who rescued people and
8 particularly that woman in Manor Kilbride which was
9 very hairy in my own village. They did great work.

10 where people were very concerned and very worried, cut
11 off, no heat, no access to food, unable to travel,
12 unable to get through drifts. I wouldn't blame them.

13 We all confronted drifts that were eight, ten or twelve
14 high. At no stage would anyone like it. Look, thank
15 goodness it just didn't last. It didn't do a 2010 on
16 us where it lasted for four weeks. But the difference
17 in 2010 was it was flat snow, it wasn't drifting snow
18 and drifting snow, as you know, you're a West Wicklow
19 man like myself, it is lethal. It's a huge problem.

20 Huge amount of snow. The photograph we saw there all
21 day would demonstrate just what it was like. When you
22 cut a road there width of the shovel there was a tunnel
23 and it could be eight or ten feet over your head. It

24 also demonstrates that we are absolutely going nowhere
25 in that kind of a conflict, unless we have heavy
26 equipment available to us. Luckily some of the outfits
27 that came in there were available and did great work
28 and worked very, very long hours and were complemented
29 on this occasion by the Army who came along as well and

1 helped out. All of that was needed but none of this
2 could have been achieved were it not for the
3 coordination, the County-led coordination emanating
4 from here. I think I'd have to say as well that the
5 warnings that were given by the Government in advance, 16:34
6 the various warnings, did bear fruit because people
7 were well warned what could happen. I think it bore
8 fruit. Otherwise I think there would have been an
9 awful lot more fatalities throughout the country but I
10 think the level of warning was very important. 16:35

11
12 I'm sure I should say more. I'd like to thank more
13 people perhaps. It was a job well done in extremely
14 difficult conditions and we got through it. Thank you,
15 Cathaoirleach, as well, for your leadership on this 16:35
16 occasion here in the County, as always, of course, with
17 the snow. Storm Emma. Why are they always named after
18 women? It's not right, they should pass it around a
19 bit to the men as well.

20 CLLR. WINTERS: It does. It goes alphabetically 16:35
21 between them.

22 CLLR. RUTTLE: Remember Ophelia, Chairman? Ophelia was
23 a nasty one.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Moving on swiftly. Cllr. Snell.

25 CLLR. SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Again I want to 16:35
26 commend all the services but I suppose without
27 coordination you don't have anything, so from the
28 Chief Executive down to his Director of Services, and
29 all the officials of Wicklow County Council and indeed

1 all the outdoor staff that were actually out in the
2 weather while this was being coordinated was
3 tremendous.

4
5 To Cllr. Shay Cullen in regards to social media and 16:36
6 that. My answer to that is there'll always be keyboard
7 warriors. Even Members of that Chamber sometimes stick
8 to social media rather than the actual business of the
9 Chamber so I'd pay to heed to them.

10 16:36
11 In regards to the work that went on. I think one
12 organisation hasn't been mentioned so far and that was
13 the ESB and certainly the ESB played a pivotal role in
14 regards to all over County Wicklow. And certainly
15 their swift response in the worst of weathers on 16:36
16 Thursday and Friday in particular, got an awful lot of
17 households throughout the County back up and running.
18 Indeed while none of us want to be getting into
19 individual cases and that, just to put it out there
20 that there is an awful lot of people who are dependent 16:37
21 on electricity for medical purposes in regards to the
22 machines and the apparatus that they have and that was
23 quite concerning for a lot of people throughout the
24 County. To say that the ESB, the Ambulance Service and
25 indeed the Gardaí went above and beyond, but I 16:37
26 personally want to thank the Civil Defence because I
27 know firsthand the work that they done. Certainly in
28 regards to you talk about people volunteering their
29 time and their commitment to the County and to our

1 communities, it was immense.

2
3 I want to say in regards to 2010, certainly, you know,
4 we seem to be better prepared and while it was a
5 shorter period that we were snowed in in regards to 16:38
6 now, we still have to be mindful, there is parts of
7 this community at the moment that still have the
8 effects of the severe weather such as west wicklow and
9 Redcross and Conary and these places. Indeed I was in
10 Roundwood and Laragh yesterday and I just would say 16:38
11 that people would need to be more patient. We have
12 situations where in the lower lands in my own community
13 where the snow receded quite quickly, that didn't fully
14 appreciate the affect that it was still having in the
15 uplands area of the County. I feel that, you know, the 16:38
16 services here were to the pin of their collar to try
17 and open up roads. Then we had people giving out
18 because they didn't have footpaths cleared. Then they
19 wanted cleared from their gate to the door. While all
20 that was happening we had huge parts of west wicklow 16:38
21 under six and eight foot of snow.

22
23 In regards to the people on quads. I know some people
24 who were out on quads and they certainly delivered
25 Trojan effort to their community in regards to making 16:39
26 sure that they had the vital, whether it be bread, milk
27 or otherwise in communities in East wicklow, in
28 particular. Again whether they had insurance or
29 otherwise I'm sure in Manor Kilbride it would have been

1 very difficult to say they were actually on the road or
2 in the field when they were driving on six or eight
3 foot of snow so I don't think the gardaí --
4 CLLR. RUTTLE: This was on the Tuesday.
5 CLLR. SNELL: I just want to commend the 16:39
6 Chief Executive and all his staff, certainly all the
7 emergency services. As I say, we're learning all the
8 time and certainly this time I wouldn't be listening to
9 keyboard warriors. Thanks, Cathaoirleach.
10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Annesley. 16:39
11 CLLR. ANNESLEY: I was just going to compliment the ESB
12 but Cllr. Snell got in front of me. Like everyone else
13 in the Chamber I'd like to compliment everybody that
14 went above and beyond the call of duty. I would like
15 to especially pay a big thank you to our engineer, 16:40
16 Jack Kelly, his phone never stopped and that was from
17 Thursday night right through to Monday/Tuesday. Arklow
18 was the largest town that was affected in the County
19 and I'd never seen the likes of it and a lot of people
20 in Arklow had never seen the likes of it. As 16:40
21 Cllr. Cullen alluded to, the community spirit was
22 great. Everyone got out and helped each other.
23 There's one man we forgot to thank and I think the
24 people of Arklow are grateful to him and that's to
25 thank God he didn't let the thaw come too quickly 16:40
26 because if the thaw had have come very quickly we would
27 have been flooded like 2009 and 2010. We did deal with
28 it. We all have individual cases but definitely the
29 Civil Defence done Trojan work. The local gardaí in

1 Arklow done a lot of humanitarian work as well. I'd
2 just pay tribute to all the Council outdoor staff. As
3 one outdoor staff said to me: "The office staff were
4 told not to come in but we have to come in." And I
5 said: "well, lads, that's the role you do." But 16:41
6 only for them we'd have been worse off in Arklow. Just
7 well done, everyone. Thank you too, Cathaoirleach, for
8 taking all the calls.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Murphy.

10 CLLR. MURPHY: I'd just like to echo what all the 16:41
11 Councillors said. I actually was going to bring up the
12 subject of funding, as Cllr. Lawless had brought up as
13 well because I think there will be major impact there.

14
15 Also, I think the biggest link as well for people that 16:41
16 mightn't have had the social media or whatever was East
17 Coast Radio. My God I really and truly cringed every
18 hour on the hour when I heard the weather forecast. I
19 used to sit and cry looking at the window saying I'm
20 never going to be out again. I think they really and 16:41
21 truly did keep the updates as they were coming from
22 Wicklow County Council because not everybody is on
23 social media. Elderly people certainly relied on East
24 Coast Radio and RTÉ for their updates.

25 16:42
26 Also, I would like to thank the Councillors, each and
27 every one here. I mean you are high up there in
28 regard as the other agencies as well because you kept
29 the communication going with each other. I have to

1 thank one of my local Councillors who came to the
2 rescue to me when I got stranded and, you know, each
3 Councillor in each District worked so much out to the
4 public there and certainly I appreciated it.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Blake. 16:42

6 CLLR. BLAKE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I don't want to
7 go over all what the other members have said in regard
8 to thanking people, but certainly our staff out there,
9 we were warned in advanced what was coming. I think
10 Emma was originally named down in Portugal anyway, I 16:42
11 think that's where she originated and we got probably
12 the worst part of it. But to the Fire Service, Civil
13 Defence and all the organisations out there I do know
14 they were out there on a regular basis doing a lot of
15 work on the roads. I do know they were called out on 16:43
16 various occasions as well. And being parochial about
17 it, I know our fire service personnel actually spent
18 the night in the fire station. So certainly they went
19 well beyond the call of duty in that regard.

20
21 To our own local engineer, Dermot, while he doesn't
22 live in the area he took up accommodation for the whole
23 weekend so probably the best part of a week there. I'd
24 like to compliment him in that regard.

25
26 I know there was some mention made back of 2009 and
27 2010, two years there in succession that we got two
28 very, very bad storms. So I think we should be very,
29 very weary of the fact that nothing out there -- that

1 it won't happen again later on this year because it
2 happened back on that occasion as well. I think yes,
3 certainly, in comparison to, and I do remember '82 as
4 well and how bad it was. I think we do have to be well
5 prepared and as well prepared as we actually were I 16:44
6 think but for the fact that the level of contractors
7 out there and there was mention about the big machinery
8 that came out of Blessington and so forth, but not
9 every area had that level of machinery. I think we
10 have to actually be in greater contact with the people 16:44
11 who have machinery out there, the farmers, the business
12 people who are actually working in the building trade
13 and that, that actually can make themselves available
14 and did make themselves available. I think we have to
15 compliment them as well. I think it's important that 16:44
16 we ensure that they are sufficiently compensated for
17 the wonderful work they actually done.

18
19 As I said, it did happen in '09 and '10, two years in a
20 row and there's nothing to say out there that it won't 16:44
21 happen again this year or again in 2019. I think there
22 is a need there, too, actually getting consultation and
23 have a level of personnel built up there and we will
24 actually be able to call on in the future if a similar
25 incident would happen. 16:44

26
27 Again, thanks to all the personnel and all the work
28 they've done. Like you said there, there is a
29 difficulty out there with the roads. There is some

1 damage done to the roads there is a lot of potholes.
2 So while the staff might be tired about all the work
3 they have done, I think we can't let them rest because
4 there is, as I said, a number of damage has been done
5 to some of the roads out there as well. Thanks very
6 much, Chairman. 16:45

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Kennedy.

8 CLLR. KENNEDY: Cathaoirleach, I won't go over
9 everything that's already been said, I'll just touch on
10 a few points. First of all, I want to point out this 16:45
11 was probably the worst snow we've had in 36 years and
12 the way it blew in and the way it drifted. I want to
13 thank you, Chair, and our Chief Executive and all his
14 staff for all the work they did. I also want to thank
15 Director Tom Murphy for the way he relayed the message 16:45
16 on behalf of the Severe Weather Coordination Group to
17 all of us as public representatives. I'll just put
18 that on the record.

19
20 I also think at some stage we do have to have the 16:45
21 conversation, as public representatives, around the
22 whole Sally Gap issue and as to whether that is closed
23 and who makes that decision and how it happens. I do
24 think that conversation does need to take place at some
25 stage in the near future and certainly before next 16:46
26 winter. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Ryan.

28 CLLR. RYAN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, like everybody else
29 I just want to express my personal thanks to the staff

1 here in wicklow County Council for everything they've
2 done. The only point I'd make is, I know we introduced
3 the text alert system in 2016. I just think it's, I
4 know all the other media is really great but the
5 ability to be able to send texts out to people across 16:46
6 wicklow to let them know exactly what's going on is
7 fantastic and very targeted. I'm just wondering what
8 is the amount of people, what's the right number of
9 people who are actually signed up to that because I
10 think we should make another big push to get as many 16:46
11 people as possible across wicklow signed up to that
12 because it is the most effective way to communicate to
13 people in that emergency situation. Thank you.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. O'Neill.

15 CLLR. O'NEILL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Again, I just 16:46
16 want to add my voice to Cllr. Ruttle there, he's from
17 the same area as myself and he knows the tsunami of
18 snow that we had in the area. In actual fact I got
19 caught in a lane only yesterday, on a lane behind my
20 own house we were locked in for eight days. It was 16:47
21 absolutely a tsunami and I'd like to pay tribute to the
22 Coordination Group here in wicklow and also our
23 engineer in west wicklow, Declan Geraghty, who played a
24 huge part in coordinating the whole problem in west
25 wicklow. 16:47

26
27 Tom Murphy here, I'll mention him as well. He was a
28 great help to me anyway on the far end of the phone
29 over the eight or ten days.

1 There has been a big problem in west wicklow as regards
2 the loss of livestock. There was several animals of
3 all descriptions died, smothered in the snow. I know
4 of one farmer ho had to walk eight mile to get to his
5 stock and when he did get there there was a lot of them 16:48
6 dead, a lot of them dead, you know, a young chap.

7
8 I'd like to pay tribute also to your local undertaker,
9 as I mentioned at the very outset there was about five
10 deaths in our area over the ten or eleven days and he 16:48
11 played a great part in cooperation with
12 Declan Geraghty. It was a terrible difficult, tragic
13 time for people there as well, you know.

14
15 Just on social media, someone mentioned there earlier 16:48
16 on. You will get that all right but I'm disappointed
17 to think that anyone in the Chamber here would stoop to
18 that level of criticising which was, as I say, was a
19 tsunami. I honest to God think they're drinking wine
20 and on Facebook at the one time. I don't think it's a 16:49
21 good idea, you know.

22
23 If I could also say, people did really work hard and
24 the volunteers around the area, they're the people that
25 really came out and rolled up their sleeves. Then I 16:49
26 would criticise, I seen one TD in Leinster House
27 talking about that we were snowed in and we weren't
28 snowed in at the time, everyone in west wicklow was out
29 at the time, this was three days later. It's wrong to

1 suggest to the world that we were actually, you know,
2 that we were starving to death at that time, you know.
3 It was tough but I mean the operation was over and done
4 with when this outburst in Dáil Éireann happened.

5
6 Just two issues that maybe we could improve on. There
7 was two issues, that being that up over the Shankill
8 area where the Dublin/Wicklow Mountains meet where
9 there was drifts of 30 feet. With the warnings that we
10 did get, it was very clear we were heading into
11 something really terrible and maybe if the Army had
12 brought maybe machines into the Shankill camp to meet
13 up with the workers from the Blessington side and the
14 Kilbride end that the operation to open those roads
15 would have been a bit quicker if they had had the
16 machines actually based back up in the mountains and
17 worked from there out.

18
19 There was another little bit of criticism I heard from
20 the Dublin side where they actually came within
21 50 metres of clearing a house but they didn't cross
22 that border, the Wicklow-Dublin border. I think those
23 things, I think it was just the driver that would not
24 cross, you know. Maybe issues like that could be
25 improved from here on in that borders shouldn't really
26 matter when there's problems like this.

27
28 Again, I would just like to say fair play to everyone.
29 All the workers involved. There was some stories I've

1 heard, I talked to people at all hours of the night, it
2 was 12/18-hour days and there was a huge amount of
3 activity and a great lot of help. What people did for
4 one another was brilliant. I'd just like to thank the
5 organising committee here again for that they've done. 16:51

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Behan.

7 CLLR. BEHAN: Cathaoirleach, I just want to add my
8 thanks to the staff in the Bray Municipal District,
9 particularly Liam Burke, the District Engineer for the
10 work in did in Bray, but particularly in Enniskerry and 16:52
11 Kilmacanogue and to recognise what everyone else has
12 said about the entire organisation here and in
13 particular I'd like to pay tribute to Tom Murphy and
14 his staff for the communications flow that came from
15 the emergency group regularly throughout the whole 16:52
16 period and certainly it was much appreciated. Thank
17 you.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. O'Brien.

19 CLLR. O'BRIEN: I was just wondering, again I
20 absolutely one hundred percent agree with all the 16:52
21 things that were said but I'm actually wondering could
22 a more effective mechanism of conveying our thanks and
23 our appreciation be done, I mean we have 32 people and
24 90% of what they say is just repeated. It's the same
25 thing over and over again. There have been probably 16:52
26 three or four good suggestions coming out of this but I
27 think it's not a good way of doing something like this
28 because there is not one of us here that doesn't
29 appreciate all the work that people do. And if they

1 are, maybe they're the people -- if they do not maybe
2 they're the only people who should actually be talking.
3 I'm just wondering is there some way we could do this
4 more because as someone said to me: "Is it still going
5 on? The thanks?" You are, in effect, repeating 16:52
6 yourself again and again and you are wasting good
7 Council time. I'm just wondering could some mechanism
8 be put in place to make this more efficient. I mean
9 90% of the people are saying the same thing again and
10 again or maybe anecdotal stuff as well. If there is 16:53
11 information or suggestions then it would be a useful
12 use of Council time.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Members. I won't repeat
14 what's been said already, I'll just reiterate what was
15 said. My own experience was really positive. 16:53

16 CLLR. RUTTLE: That's what happens when you're
17 Cathaoirleach they all get a response.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: My own experience was positive and I'd
19 like to compliment the staff from the Chief Executive
20 right across the board, everyone in Wicklow County 16:53
21 Council for a truly really professional job. I've
22 never had phones answered so quickly and so immediately
23 by Council staff all over certainly West Wicklow, the
24 engineer, the overseers they were just brilliant and
25 communication was really excellent. Just to compliment 16:53
26 them as well. Thanks.

27
28 Members, we'll go on to item 7: Introduction to the
29 Wicklow County Council new web portal.

1 MR. CURRAN: Cathaoirleach, just while you're setting
2 that out there. This is a recommendation that came
3 from the County Wicklow Economic Think Tank. It is
4 part of our economic and community plan, the whole idea
5 of having a web portal that gets the message out there, 16:54
6 that improves your online presence. It's information
7 for visitors to the County at one location; people
8 looking to invest in the County; and people looking to
9 access the services of Wicklow County Council. So it's
10 all there in one direction. It's part of improving our 16:54
11 communications. We have seen how that worked last week
12 and we have identified the people well throughout the
13 organisation that will populate this on a regular
14 basis.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: We're going to have a presentation from 16:54
16 Kevin Loughran from Inventise Web Design. Kevin,
17 you're very welcome.

18 MR. LOUGHRAN: Thank you, Chair, thank you, Chief
19 Executive and Members, for your time here today. I'll
20 just set up here. 16:55
21

22 I'll try and keep it brief. Just very quickly who we
23 are. We're a Bray-based company of software
24 developers, graphic designs, so a multidisciplinary
25 agency. We won this tender at the start of last year 16:55
26 to redevelop the Wicklow portal.
27

28 I will skip through these few slides. Some of our
29 clients. We do a lot of public sector work, everything

1 from a lot of the Dublin County Councils, right through
2 to corporate private sectors.

3
4 So the remit for wicklow.ie, it's a web portal to
5 effectively communicate with businesses, investors, 16:55
6 visitors and residents. As per the previous discussion
7 you see the importance of a good communication tool
8 when it comes to an emergency like last week.

9
10 It's all based around the brand identity. The identity 16:56
11 that was developed around aimless opportunities. The
12 real remit is to be seamless, integrated and simple.

13
14 So looking at the brief. The website had to be user
15 focused, intuitive, accessible and responsive. There's 16:56
16 a large range of users out there. It has to show the
17 distinctiveness of wicklow and be very flexible and
18 scaleable for the future. Because it incorporates both
19 the visits, the business and the actual County Council
20 services, it has to be very sort of easy to use and 16:56
21 flexible to add on to. The web portal really
22 represents a single point of contact for all things in
23 wicklow.

24
25 Again, the tone of voice throughout should be helpful, 16:56
26 informative and engaging.

27
28 I will just go on. We did a lot of user experience,
29 looking at user research, developed personas for the

1 common users who would be using the websites. So a lot
2 of work went in at the start of the project.

3
4 We used the universal design approach and this is a
5 customer communication toolkit developed by the public 16:57
6 service. That's all about making all these websites
7 and all public infrastructure accessible, usable and
8 user centred.

9
10 Again, from the brief and from the research we split it 16:57
11 into three different sort of subsections: living,
12 business and visit. It was very important that we had
13 a simple intuitive navigation. People, when they're
14 using the web either on phone or desktop or anything,
15 they don't want to think. They have about seven 16:57
16 seconds to make a choice, they're just in, want to
17 click and find something very easily. We have simple
18 intuitive navigation. It's going to be responsive
19 across all devices. I notice a lot of you are on the
20 phone and tablets and laptops so it has to go across 16:58
21 all those different devices so a lot of testing has
22 gone into that.

23
24 It has to meet the needs of the residents and
25 businesses. It has to be very future-proofed. This is 16:58
26 really the -- what we're launching now hopefully this
27 week it's going to go live that you can build upon more
28 and more business information in attracting investors
29 to the County.

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From a living point of view this is all the County Council information. As you can see the alerts at the bottom, it's easy to see. You can put up alerts for emergencies like last week, user-friendly, easy to navigate. From the businesses' point of view, again has to be very clear, concise information about businesses to come in. We've particularly concentrated around the film and maritime because they're big pieces here and very good imagery and good media to put up there.

From a visit point of view, again it has to show the vibrancy of wicklow, showing what's on, events and everything that's happening out there.

Again, just to reiterate, it's a single point of contact for all things wicklow to help residents, businesses and visitors. I'm just going to show you a quick demo of it. [VIDEO PLAYED]

The Home page has a video running on it showing all things wicklow. People can quickly get a quick insight into the different visits, the businesses, highlights from other different areas. Using events across all the areas from community, arts and heritage and right down to a social media feed for all things that's happening around wicklow.

1 Then if I click on Business. I'm not sure if I have
2 WiFi in here, but a Blue Peter job, here's one I did
3 earlier!

4
5 This is the Business page. Again, we're trying to get
6 the vibrancy of Wicklow across of why choose Wicklow.
7 Video is very important nowadays on the web.

8
9 All the business supports, Wicklow Film, Maritime,
10 again Latest News and all the sort of social media feed 17:00
11 from everything business.

12
13 Then on to the Visit Wicklow, again, a video running
14 and then accommodation, activities, attraction all very
15 sort of good imagery, simple to use and hopefully gets 17:01
16 everything Wicklow out there. Any questions?

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. O'Brien.

18 CLLR. O'BRIEN: Thanks very much for your presentation
19 and for an excellent project on sort of showing Wicklow
20 to the world. Can you get that in Irish? 17:01

21 MR. LOUGHRAN: It's built into it.

22 CLLR. O'BRIEN: The other thing I have an issue about
23 is the logo. Remember I had suggested it before and I
24 brought it up at the Council on a number of occasions
25 that the logo needs to reflect both the fact that 17:01
26 there's an Irish language and an English language,
27 which at present it doesn't. There's a separate one I
28 did get on cards and stuff like that. When you look in
29 to the corner there all you see is "Wicklow Endless

1 opportunities". I had a suggestion that the two logos
2 should be up there, the Cill Mhantáin.

3 MR. LOUGHRAN: We have it in it.

4 CLLR. O'BRIEN: What I'm suggesting is that that should
5 be seen both in the English version and the Irish 17:02
6 version because it somehow can direct people to the
7 Irish one as well, do you know what I'm saying to you?
8 I would like to see that included. When you open the
9 main page of that that the two, the Wicklow and the
10 Cill Mhantáin, the two little logos would be up there 17:02
11 so that it would direct and people would say: 'what's
12 that one there? By the way, do you know you can
13 actually switch over and you can get this through
14 Gaeilge. Is that possible?

15 MR. LOUGHRAN: It is, yeah. 17:02

16 CLLR. O'BRIEN: Does it have to be passed by the
17 Council to get that on? That you'll actually see the
18 two logos on the English version because it's pointing
19 to the fact that there is an Irish one and maybe that
20 it would direct people. 17:02

21 MR. LOUGHRAN: From a design point of view that would
22 be unusual just professionally speaking. Generally
23 you'd have a language, a smaller logo rather than a
24 full logo. If you look at real estate on your mobile,
25 like the real estate of what you have is very small so 17:02
26 you when you shrink that down to hand-held, you know,
27 you can't have something very different, you have to
28 have it scaled. So you can have a switcher but I don't
29 know about a full logo in both languages.

1 CLLR. O'BRIEN: You have the logo up there and what I
2 had suggested before - and I think we should deal with
3 this issue now - I had suggested before that in the
4 logo that you should put, like you have it up there,
5 Wicklow and -- 17:03

6 CLLR. RYAN: This was agreed a number of times.

7 CLLR. O'BRIEN: But that was just turned down at a
8 private meeting, it wasn't at a whole Council meeting.
9 There was a simple little suggestion there, in the logo
10 where you have Wicklow and where you have the little 17:03
11 line, instead of using the little line that you put the
12 two little words Cill Mhantáin across underneath and
13 that would overcome the problem you're facing now.
14 What I'm seriously worried about is what you're
15 actually doing is hiving off the Irish language. 17:03

16 'There's one for you guys, you're a different breed
17 altogether, you're not part of it.' I would like to
18 see that. Why a different breed you are out there. I
19 would like to see that. I don't see any difficulty in
20 designing doing that, that where you have the little 17:03
21 line under Wicklow that you could replace the line with
22 Cill Mhantáin across and people would look at it very,
23 very closely then and they'd say: "What's that word?"
24 And why I feel that would be very, very important. I
25 remember once I was in New York and I went into a place 17:03
26 where there was a load of T-shirts on display and there
27 was one T-shirt with particularly small writing on it,
28 you know. Obviously since it was real small writing I
29 looked up close to see what it said and do you know

1 what it said? "Nosey little fucker, aren't you?"
2 That's what the writing said on the t-shirt, you know.
3 It certainly brought the message back to me. You're
4 putting the Irish thing small but people would look at
5 that and say: "What does Cill Mhantáin mean?" I would 17:04
6 like to see -- I don't think that -- is that a design
7 possibility?
8 MR. LOUGHRAN: We'd have to go back to our designer on
9 that.
10 CLLR. O'BRIEN: If you just slip the little Cill 17:04
11 Mhantáin where the line is it wouldn't obstruct, but
12 you'd have the two and it would save hiding it into a
13 corner. You could still see it there side-by-side with
14 English, not hived off into a corner, as is what's
15 killing the language. We're even trying to get people 17:04
16 to say "tá agus níl" and we find it very, very
17 difficult. That's a key issue.
18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. McLoughlin.
19 CLLR. MCLOUGHLIN: Thank God for that. I'd like to say
20 congratulations, it's great after a couple of years 17:05
21 that we've this up and live now. I have to say, I have
22 to commend my colleague John Ryan when he was
23 Cathaoirleach it was him who actually spearheaded this.
24 Just to answer something that my Councillor across the
25 way said with regards to the Cill Mhantáin, we did 17:05
26 agree in a full Chamber that it was going to be in
27 English. You cannot mess with logos it just confuses
28 people if nothing else. So I'm just saying that it was
29 agreed.

1 CLLR. O'BRIEN: Who agreed?
2 CLLR. McLOUGHLIN: Wicklow County Council Councillors.
3 CLLR. WINTERS: We voted on it.
4 CLLR. McLOUGHLIN: I would like to say that with
5 regards to the content I think it's hugely important 17:05
6 that it is updated all the time, that the videos are
7 updated all the time, the pictures are updated
8 otherwise it will be stale. Congratulations, it's
9 fantastic and it will be a credit to Wicklow and
10 Wicklow County Council. Thank you. 17:06
11 MR. LOUGHRAN: I would emphasise that and I think I
12 said at the last meeting of the Council here that the
13 web is only as good as the content that goes into it.
14 Six months down the line or a year down the line if you
15 put poor imagery up it loses the fact. 17:06
16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Kavanagh.
17 CLLR. KAVANAGH: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Can you give
18 us the web address again?
19 MR. LOUGHRAN: It will be wicklow.ie.
20 CLLR. KAVANAGH: wicklow.ie. And it's live now? 17:06
21 MR. LOUGHRAN: It will be live in a few days.
22 CLLR. KAVANAGH: Okay. Do you have a definite date?
23 It's just I don't want to share it if it's not live.
24 MR. LOUGHRAN: The plan is to go live tomorrow but say
25 Wednesday. 17:06
26 CLLR. KAVANAGH: So by next week anyway. wicklow.ie
27 and it's the Wicklow County Council web portal.
28 MR. LOUGHRAN: Yeah.
29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Behan.

1 CLLR. BEHAN: Congratulations. I think it's a very
2 attractive design and very simple and very
3 user-friendly. Just in relation to the living part of
4 it. I presume that is the part of the citizens of the
5 Council will access the Council services? Am I right 17:07
6 in that?

7 MR. LOUGHRAN: Yeah.

8 CLLR. BEHAN: Is it possible to show us how you're
9 breaking that down please?

10 MR. LOUGHRAN: Yes. You can see there is a mega menu, 17:07
11 a full menu comes up on the desktop on mobile it is
12 different. People can quickly go in and access all the
13 different areas in the menu or they can scroll down on
14 the page. We have some popular links. What these are
15 based on is the most, what people click on the most. 17:07
16 Then you have, again, notices, see all the services
17 again down below, or you can access it --

18 CLLR. BEHAN: Very good. Thank you.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Ryan.

20 CLLR. RYAN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I think if you put 17:08
21 side-by-side the old site and the new site there's just
22 a world of difference and I think it's great. It's
23 very modern and contemporary looking and I think it's
24 the image we need to be putting forward for the
25 Council. I echo the point that was made. I'm just 17:08
26 interested to know is there a communications team
27 behind this and are there people feeding in from
28 different departments because it's really about keeping
29 it fresh and the information the most up-to-date so

1 that people can rely on that as a source of information
2 rather than having to come to phone up the Council
3 Offices. I think that really needs one person to be
4 responsible from every single department to feed
5 information through. 17:09

6
7 The tone of voice piece that you talked about there, I
8 also think that's really important because I think
9 there's a sense that, you know, public sector kind of,
10 you know, County Councils talk in a very formal way. I 17:09
11 think this is an opportunity for us to get a bit of a
12 personality in terms of, you know, a more engaging way
13 to communicate with people in how they might want --
14 it's like The Irish Times in the paper is quite formal
15 but on some of the blogs that they send out, The 17:09
16 Business Digest and the several of the different
17 digests they're quite sort of humorous and I think
18 that's kind of important because I think that would
19 give a nice personality to the Council itself. I'm
20 just wondering where does the likes of subsites like 17:09
21 bray.ie, does that connect from here?

22 MR. LOUGHRAN: The Bray page would have linked into --
23 CLLR. RYAN: Great. Well done. Thanks.

24 MR. CURRAN: Cathaoirleach, just to answer that. There
25 is a communications team set up now, so that's one from 17:10
26 each section and they'll be trained on social media.
27 It's chaired by Lorraine Gallagher. They'll be trained
28 on social media. They'll be the people that will put
29 the content on the website. They're also dealing with

1 print media, how to write press releases and get that
2 information out there. Also it all about flow of
3 information and also inhouse then, in terms of team
4 meetings and stuff like that, how often they're held.
5 The group is coming up with recommendations in relation 17:10
6 to that. Those will be the people that are identified.

7
8 Just to acknowledge (inaudible) as well put a huge
9 amount of effort into the website and Christine Flood,
10 who are the two people that kind of project managed it. 17:10
11 Thank you.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Walsh.

13 CLLR. WALSH: Thank you for the presentation, a most
14 welcomed development. Just one quick question, on the
15 visit Wicklow section there, I assume there's a link 17:10
16 from there into the Wicklow Tourism website? I know
17 there's a lot of working being done with that
18 particular website recently.

19 MR. LOUGHRAN: Most of the links there are directly
20 into the main tourism site for Wicklow. 17:10

21 CLLR. WALSH: You will go into that and you'll get
22 everything you need to know on Wicklow Tourism.
23 Thanks.

24 MR. LOUGHRAN: Yes.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Thornhill. 17:11

26 CLLR. THORNHILL: Cathaoirleach, go raibh maith agat.
27 Thanks very much, an excellent presentation. Just one
28 question I just would like to ask you there, what is
29 the difference between a portal and a website?

1 MR. LOUGHRAN: It would be more of a technical term.
2 We'd nearly see this as three different websites within
3 one website. So a portal is you come down to this one
4 landing page for Wicklow and then from that portal you
5 go into the main website for each section. It is like 17:11
6 websites within a website.

7 CLLR. THORNHILL: I know that mayo.ie have a very good
8 website, they're really showing the videos and the
9 whole lot. I mean there's no doubt this is the way
10 technology is going. One other thing, and I would 17:11
11 concur with Cllr. O'Brien and it is one thing that the
12 Irish language, I know there's some people not
13 interested in it or whatever but sure look that's the
14 way it goes. The thing about it we're always talking
15 about culture and diversity and everything like that 17:12
16 but I think that people should make an effort to
17 introduce because that's the way country is going and
18 our language is our language. So I would concur and an
19 effort should be made to promote the language, you
20 know, whatever way. Go raibh míle maith agat. 17:12

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Snell.

22 CLLR. SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. This is something
23 that really this Local Authority has been crying out
24 for, for a few years now. I want to commend you on the
25 work that you've done. Certainly simplicity seems to 17:12
26 be the answer. We want a one-stop-shop in regards to
27 the business sector, the Local Authority and also
28 obviously tourism and you seem to have captured them
29 all.

1 I want to commend the IT section in Wicklow County
2 Council for the work they've put into this and I'm
3 delighted to hear the Chief Executive announce today,
4 in regards to the Sub-Committee on Communications. I
5 think for too long here in Wicklow County Council we 17:13
6 sat back and probably didn't get the information out
7 there into the public domain and, therefore, left
8 ourselves exposed to an awful lot of negative publicity
9 while there was Trojan upon Trojans of good work going
10 on. You have it all there in front of you now and 17:13
11 people can access it, as you say, quite literally
12 within seconds. I want to commend you. I think it's
13 excellent. I would share, in regards to it, I think
14 it's nice to be nice in regards if we can accommodate
15 everybody in regards to their beliefs, cultural beliefs 17:13
16 and otherwise. What I see in front of me I want to
17 commend you.

18 MR. LOUGHRAN: Thank you.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. McLoughlin.

20 CLLR. MCLOUGHLIN: Yeah, very briefly. With regards to 17:13
21 the link into the e-planning section, I notice it's the
22 same picture as before so is it going to be the same
23 link and is there any improvement on that? Because
24 when you're looking for planning applications online
25 it's like something out of the dark ages. 17:14
26 MR. LOUGHRAN: That's a separate system.

27 CLLR. MCLOUGHLIN: So we're not getting any
28 improvements on the planning applications?

29 MR. LOUGHRAN: It wasn't part of our brief.

1 CLLR. MCLOUGHLIN: It wasn't part of the brief. That's
2 unfortunate.

3 MR. CURRAN: We'll be looking at that. We will be the
4 pilot site for e-planning when it comes in. Wicklow
5 County Council will be the pilot so we'll be putting a 17:14
6 lot of work into that in the next month or two.

7 CLLR. MCLOUGHLIN: Will they? Okay. Great.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. O'Brien.

9 CLLR. O'BRIEN: No.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much, Kevin. Next item, 17:14
11 Item 8: To consider the Wicklow County Council 3-year
12 capital budget 2018-2020 (copy previously circulated).

13 MR. CURRAN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. This is the
14 three-year capital plan that's presented each year.
15 It's updated year-on-year. It's increased from last 17:14
16 year, mainly because of the housing target. We have a
17 target of 1,200 units between now and 2021. So that's
18 the reason for the large increase.

19

20 As I say, it's a rolling programme. It's reviewed each 17:15
21 year. It depends mainly on Government grants and is
22 dependent on Government decisions and Government
23 approval, et cetera. Obviously then there's funding
24 from development contributions from our own revenue
25 account and from other sources. I think people have 17:15
26 had a chance to read it so we'll take any questions.

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Vance.

28 CLLR. VANCE: Chairman, it's just not on this, it's
29 just on something that's on the agenda there, the

1 National Planning Framework. Could I suggest that we
2 put it off until the next meeting because, first of
3 all, there's a lot of people in the Chamber gone and
4 secondly I think it's a very important document and we
5 need a full discussion on it and not a discussion maybe 17:15
6 for ten or fifteen minutes.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: I agree with your sentiments. It is
8 5:15 now and the meeting will finish at 6:00.

9 CLLR. VANCE: If people will agree with that we'll put
10 it off until April. 17:15

11 FROM THE FLOOR: Yeah.

12 CLLR. VANCE: Thank you.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Mitchell.

14 CLLR. MITCHELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just a
15 couple of points about this capital investment 17:16
16 programme. This is a very important document for the
17 capital investment in the County. It stems, excluding
18 the Government grants which are to some extent we're
19 not in control of, it stems over 30 million during this
20 period in various capital works in the County so it's 17:16
21 important. I just have a couple of points.

22
23 On the road section, for the last few years, four or
24 five years, the Wicklow Port Access Route has taken
25 most of the development levies which have come into the 17:16
26 County. That, now, I think is finished in terms of
27 paying for it. There are minor capital works funded
28 from development charges of 3 million. I just want to
29 emphasise it's absolutely essential that the Delgany to

1 Blacklion Road, which has been planned for 30 years,
2 when the population was much, much smaller than it
3 actually is now, and there is a plan to increase the
4 population further. I think it's absolutely essential
5 that that road is funded be it by these development 17:17
6 charges, of which quite a lot are being raised in the
7 area, or else by loans or some other fashion. I mean
8 the Council has borrowed money and has another column
9 which quite a lot of money is being spent from and it's
10 absolutely essential that a decision is taken to do 17:17
11 that road and the road objective 16, which is the
12 junction at the end of that road, within this period,
13 in view of the immense expansion of the town and the
14 fact that the road was not built before the expansion
15 of the town, unlike the Wicklow Road, and that really 17:17
16 needs to be done now. It's just disappointing that
17 it's not specifically listed here other than as minor
18 capital works.

19
20 There are a couple of other points here. We are 17:18
21 borrowing -- somehow a substantial amount of money not
22 including housing were spending 11 million from other
23 resources. It's not very clear where this comes from
24 and I'm not sure if this represents a future burden on
25 the local property taxpayers of Wicklow, the fact that 17:18
26 this money has to be paid back. There is a loan column
27 where I think we're spending around 3 million which
28 will be a burden on the future local property tax
29 things. But certainly the 11 million is completely

1 unclear from here where that money is coming to fund
2 all these other expenditures.

3
4 There are a couple of other expenditures here that are
5 just I think worth noting and that is there is 17:18
6 2.8 million for spending on Wicklow and Arklow Harbour.
7 Now I voted against taking over Arklow Harbour because
8 Councils are not funded to do this sort of work. If we
9 look in the paper this week we will see that Dun
10 Laoghaire is refusing to take over Dun Laoghaire Port 17:19
11 where there's a 33 million backlog of money.

12 Dun Laoghaire is a very much more affluent Local
13 Authority than this Council, has a huge rate base, huge
14 local property tax base and they made a fuss and they
15 are making a fuss and I think they're quite likely to 17:19
16 get substantial money from the Government. I think we
17 did not make nearly enough fuss when these were landed
18 upon us. I'm just concerned that these come in and
19 there's no money for other road works which are
20 necessary to support the increased population of the 17:19
21 County. That concerns me. I'd like to know how that
22 money is going to be paid back.

23
24 It's really fairly unclear here how the 11 million,
25 where it's coming from, that's the non-housing other 17:19
26 column here. I'd like some further clarification on it
27 and I think it would be worthwhile, an explanation,
28 maybe another meeting of where that's coming from.
29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Derek, where's the 11 million you're

1 talking about?

2 CLLR. MITCHELL: The 11 million is down here as
3 18 million if you include the housing of 6 million.

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: On page 1, okay.

5 CLLR. MITCHELL: Yeah, on page 1. My general
6 understanding is that housing has tended to be paid for
7 by house sales and by other sort of activities. I'm
8 not quite sure if that's true. I think a reasonable
9 explanation is needed as to where we're going to get
10 the 18 million, is it going to increase future property 17:20
11 taxes and how are we affording this? Thank you.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: I'll just let Brian come in and then
13 we'll deal with the rest of the questions at the end.

14 MR. GLEESON: Just in relation to that, Councillor, in
15 the footnotes you can see the other category covers 17:20
16 areas such as disposal of assets or transfers from the
17 revenue budget which would be commonplace, transfers
18 from the revenue budget into the capital budget to pay
19 for items such as this. So it would be at this stage,
20 this is a plan for three years, so a decision would 17:21
21 have to be made how to fund that element whether it is
22 probably going to be a combination of items in order to
23 bring to fruition.

24

25 I suppose the whole Capital Programme is, I suppose 17:21
26 it's a plan at this moment in time. There's no
27 guarantee that each item that's put forward will
28 actually happen. It is subject to available funding
29 whether it's grant aid or whether it's through our own

1 resources. So I suppose the caveat is that if we don't
2 have the funding for a particular project it can't go
3 ahead. But this is a plan put forward by, I suppose,
4 the Council and the individual departments.

5 CLLR. MITCHELL: There is a question of priority 17:21
6 assigned here and this road which I have been spoken
7 about being on the plan for 30 years and it's absolute
8 chaos. It is easily predictable and it has to be done
9 and a lot of other projects, to me, seem to be coming
10 in ahead of that having been landed on us in the case 17:22
11 of the harbours. I think we should have a much more
12 forceful attitude by the management to try to get money
13 from the Government for Wicklow and Arklow Harbour and
14 piggyback, if necessary, on what's going on in
15 Dun Laoghaire where they're refusing it take it over. 17:22
16 I think there should be some greater fuss than having
17 all this landed on ratepayers of Wicklow.

18 MR. CURRAN: Cathaoirleach, just to answer that. On
19 the Delgany to Blacklion, I know there's pre-planning
20 discussions ongoing at the moment in relation to a 17:22
21 developer in that area, it is zoned residential, as you
22 know. I think I showed you a lot of work that they've
23 done in relation to constructing that road in lieu of
24 development contributions or whatever. So that will be
25 the plan that will be constructed in that fashion. And 17:22
26 then the junctions north and south of that would be
27 done by the Council under the minor capital works
28 that's in there. So that would be the plan for that
29 stretch of road. It's very much a priority. We accept

1 that.

2

3 In terms of the Wicklow and Arklow Port, we have got a
4 certain amount of funding. We've 155K for Arklow and
5 155K for Wicklow in that last number of years and we
6 are doing a strategic study of all the ports now in
7 relation to how they can impact on the various
8 different towns. As part of that we'll be certainly
9 looking at all possible sources of funding.

17:23

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. O'Brien.

17:23

11 CLLR. O'BRIEN: Just dog parks in Bray. I've
12 identified a site for a dog park in Bray. I've gone
13 with the engineer, Liam Burke, and I'm actually
14 wondering I see there's 25,000 down there per year for
15 dog parks and I'm wondering how would you go about
16 getting that project up and running and getting the
17 funds for it?

17:23

18 MR. CURRAN: That's something we can have a look at
19 with the staff in Bray.

20 CLLR. O'BRIEN: Go raibh maith agat.

17:23

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Lawless.

22 CLLR. LAWLESS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I would have to
23 concur with some of the points Cllr. Mitchell has
24 raised, especially with regards to the Delgany to
25 Blacklion Road under the minor capital works as well.
26 Just a few bits and pieces just to try and get my head
27 around how the capital investment thing programme
28 works.

17:24

29

1 On page 8 just under Developments:

2
3 "Conversion of a top floor classroom, courtyard
4 development and conference and catering facilities."

5
6 I'm presuming - and I could be wrong - that this is
7 Claremont or is that Carlow IT? I'm just curious
8 about, because it's 1.7 million over a three-year --
9 that's the expected outlay over the three years. I'm
10 just wondering what is the connection? Again I just
11 spotted the money as well for the dog park, 75,000 over
12 a three-year period as well and I'm just wondering was
13 there something specific in mind or a specific area in
14 mind for that?

15
16 Again the ports as well and the harbours. I didn't
17 agree with that as well at the time for the harbours
18 because I was looking at the cost of it. I didn't
19 think we as a county could have the capacity to
20 actually look after this. I would be in agreement that
21 we need to be looking for funding, definitely funding
22 from the Government. I mean taking on harbours and not
23 having sufficient funding to keep them up and running
24 just didn't make any sense at all.

25
26 Just the coastal protection as well, there's again
27 another 700,000 outlay over three years. I'm presuming
28 is that just all dedicated to the Murrough here in
29 Wicklow or is any of it looking to be invested in any

1 other areas along the coast as well of the County?
2 Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

3 MR. CURRAN: That's mainly in the Murrrough. The dog
4 park we'll come back to you after we discuss it with
5 Bray. The one there, the conversion of a top floor 17:25
6 classroom, that is Claremont. The demand for space is
7 increasing all the time. There's night courses, as you
8 know, going on there right throughout the year but
9 they're running out of space and the idea is to expand
10 in Claremont. 17:25

11 CLLR. LAWLESS: Just to get my head around, just the
12 funding. It is Carlow IT that's accommodating for. So
13 is there part funding coming from them as well, it's
14 not just us?

15 MR. CURRAN: We get funding each year from them and 17:26
16 we're meeting them now very shortly in relation to
17 that.

18 CLLR. LAWLESS: Thanks.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Behan.

20 CLLR. BEHAN: There's mention in the document of 5, 17:26
21 columbarium walls, one in each District. It was my
22 understanding that the one in Bray was to be
23 constructed last year and it hasn't happened yet. It's
24 not the only thing that hasn't happened in terms of
25 capital works. 17:26

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, Joe, five what?

27 CLLR. BEHAN: They're urn walls. They're in burial
28 grounds. They're for ashes. They're called
29 columbarium walls. There's a proposal here to put five

1 of them one in each District in one nominated burial
2 ground. As you know, many more people are having their
3 loved ones cremated now but they don't necessarily have
4 a place that they can go and visit and so on. They
5 don't necessarily want to have the expense of burial 17:27
6 either.

7
8 So the Bray one was to be done last year. It was
9 provided in the Bray Capital Levy Scheme years ago.
10 But it raises a question for me and probably there 17:27
11 isn't time to discuss it, but I would like the
12 Chief Executive to honestly state what capacity is in
13 the organisation to deliver on all of these capital
14 schemes? It's all fine and well having them listed
15 there and bits of money attached to them and so on but 17:27
16 in fact how realistic is it to expect that many of
17 these with ever actually see the light of day? That's
18 the first question.

19
20 The second question is, when are we reviewing the 17:27
21 Capital Levy Scheme? I mean a lot of the works that
22 are in local areas that are specified are from capital
23 levy works. Are we going review that whole scheme?
24 For instance on the Bray section there, "amenity and
25 place making in Bray", that's very similar to a list of 17:28
26 works that was given to us in Bray last Tuesday night
27 where we were looking at having discretionary funding
28 and we were looking at how we're going to spend it. A
29 lot of these were stuck in the list and it looks to me

1 like they were taken directly from this list. What I
2 want to know is, when was this list compiled, this
3 particular list that of the Bray amenity and place
4 making areas? I'd just like to know how long it has
5 been, if you like, planned that this list would be
6 given to us? 17:28

7
8 Finally, Cathaoirleach, are we going to get to the
9 Suspension of Standing Orders please?

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: I hope so. 17:28

11 CLLR. BEHAN: I didn't push it at 4:30 but we were
12 entitled to have it at 4:30.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: It's my intention to have it.

14 MR. CURRAN: Just in relation to capacity. I think we
15 have a very strong team now in Housing so we're looking 17:28
16 at 1,200 units between now and 2021, 600 of those would
17 be through direct labour and the other 600 will be
18 through voluntary housing bodies through Part 5s,
19 acquisitions, turnkeys, that type of thing. I think
20 we've a plan that we're submitting to the Department in 17:29
21 relation to the delivery of that. So I think on the
22 housing side certainly. And similarly on the roads
23 we're working a lot with TII and with our own Roads
24 Department here --

25 CLLR. BEHAN: I can't hear you, Chief Executive. 17:29

26 MR. CURRAN: Sorry. Just in relation to the housing.
27 We have a very strong team in housing and we're working
28 on that. It's about 1,200 units between now and 2021;
29 600 of those will be provided by direct build. So

1 we're working through architectural teams, et cetera,
2 in relation to delivering those. The other 600 are
3 through Part 5s, through voluntary housing bodies,
4 turnkeys, acquisitions, et cetera. So I am confident
5 that we have the capacity there in terms of housing, in 17:29
6 terms of roads also, working very closely with TII in
7 relation to the design on the M11/N11, the widening
8 scheme there, junction improvement scheme.

9
10 Similarly, in terms of the economic development that 17:29
11 we're working very hard in terms of business parks,
12 Claremont. We have the capacity to do that. And the
13 same in all the other sections, fire services. We're
14 looking at the Baltinglass Fire Station now that we
15 have an in-house team that's quite capable of seeing 17:30
16 that through. Simply, on the library side. So the
17 answer is, yes, I think we have the capacity, as long
18 as we can get the money to do it.

19 MR. GLEESON: Councillor, just in relation to the urn
20 walls, the question you raised. We did make provision 17:30
21 within the revenue budget this year for 40,000 to cover
22 four Municipal Districts and there's 10,000, as you
23 rightly referred to there, for Bray under Development
24 Levy Scheme so the funding is there for that particular
25 project. Okay. 17:30

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: I would ask Members to be as brief as
27 they can, please. Cllr. Walsh.

28 CLLR. WALSH: Again, Cathaoirleach, I just wanted to
29 add my support to Cllr. Mitchell's point there in

1 relation to the Delgany Blacklion Road. That's
2 essential that those works are carried out. I welcome
3 the Chief Executive's confirmation there that the
4 Council will in fact be funding the necessary works
5 there for future developments. Thank you. 17:31

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Dunne.

7 CLLR. DUNNE: Yes, Chairman, just with regards to the
8 ports in Wicklow and Arklow, you would think that, well
9 in the case of Wicklow that they are contributing, I
10 think there was over 120 ships that docked in Wicklow 17:31
11 this year and they all pay to come in to Wicklow when
12 the unload their cargo. So they are contributing to
13 the upkeep of the harbour. Thank you.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. McLoughlin.

15 CLLR. MCLOUGHLIN: I'm just looking at this amount for 17:31
16 the Wicklow County Campus 3.7 million and it's
17 something that irks me in some ways, not because I
18 don't think we should have a third level institute if
19 that's what we need, it worries me that we have a third
20 level institute where you have no access of public 17:31
21 transport to it. So what students are we actually
22 looking for there? Do we actually -- basically do we
23 get bang for our buck there? I'd love to see some sort
24 of research with that sort of money what exactly are we
25 going to get back out of it? How many students are you 17:32
26 expecting the college to grow by? We hear all this
27 stuff about Claremont but I actually don't see it in
28 black and white and there was talk at one stage it was
29 going to be a film hub for Wicklow. I think

1 3.7 million is a huge amount of money and somebody
2 should be doing a presentation as to exactly what we're
3 going to be getting for that 3.7 million going forward.
4 Thank you.

5 MR. CURRAN: There's about 250 students there at 17:32
6 present studying mainly at night now. There's a whole
7 range of business, law, HR, health and safety, you name
8 it. A lot of very practical courses. Something like
9 150 people graduated this year. It is worth having.
10 I know from discussions with the IDA, and stuff like 17:32
11 that, when they're selling Wicklow it really is
12 important that there is a third level institution.
13 Companies can come in here, if they want to provide a
14 course, Carlow IT are more than willing to provide that
15 training and we have the location. It's very suitable 17:33
16 from that point of view.

17
18 You mentioned the Content Creation and Audio Visual
19 Centre. We are making an application to
20 Enterprise Ireland for an audio visual centre of 17:33
21 excellence and that would compliment the film industry.
22 So I think that would be a very good use of the site as
23 well.

24
25 We're looking at improving the road network. It 17:33
26 doesn't have public transport. You're right thee.
27 That's one of the downsides of the site but it's still
28 a very good site in terms of location and road acces
29 and what we can do in terms of training and development

1 and this new content creation. We have a number of
2 companies working out there. An architectural firm are
3 out there. Teagasc are out there. There's a number of
4 other companies that are there already providing and
5 we're providing office space for them. 17:33

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, Members, that concludes the
7 topic. I will take the Suspension of Standing Orders
8 now, if that's okay.

9 CLLR. BEHAN: Okay, Cathaoirleach. Just basically
10 particularly, as we have Members of the ETB here at the 17:33
11 moment, which I think is important that we hear what
12 their views on this situation are but basically the
13 Carillion collapse has resulted in a huge amount of
14 frustration and anxiety, particularly for the second
15 level students facing into exams this coming summer who 17:34
16 sustained Coláiste Ráithín. Now, my understanding is
17 that meetings are taking place here, there're taking
18 place in Holland, they may even be taking place in
19 Japan, but in reality the school is just about finished
20 and a couple of hundred yards away or a quarter of a 17:34
21 mile away the students of Coláiste Ráithín are in
22 completely and absolutely unfit accommodation.

23
24 Now I have a few questions I'd certainly like to put,
25 Cathaoirleach, through yourself, to the Department and 17:34
26 to the ETB. The first one is can they, at this stage,
27 or do they have a date in mind for when that school
28 will be open to the students to attend? And secondly,
29 has the ETB made any connection or contact with the

1 Department with regard to this? Has there been any
2 discussion, even, at ETB meetings about this
3 disgraceful situation? Because to my mind it appears
4 that the ETB have kind of walked away from this project
5 and they've left it up to the Department and whoever to 17:35
6 try and sort it out. Now the reality of it is that
7 these schools are vitally necessary. The parents and
8 the students are extremely frustrated by the delays in
9 delivering what they were promised. I think they would
10 like the support of the Members of this authority, 17:35
11 which we've given in letter to the Department. I know
12 that. I think they would like renewed support from us
13 at this meeting today, Cathaoirleach. Thank you.
14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. O'Brien.
15 CLLR. O'BRIEN: I'd like to support what Cllr. Behan is 17:35
16 saying there. I was at a meeting there, I think it was
17 last week, Joe, wasn't it? A packed house there. I
18 mean it was shocking to see a girl breaking down in
19 tears because she was looking forward to getting into
20 her school for the last couple of months and it wasn't 17:36
21 going to happen. There was a Minister sitting down
22 there and I remember saying to the Minister: "You're
23 the Government here, you'd be able to open that school
24 in the morning and you could sort Carillion, Mitsubishi
25 and the Dutch Banks and the whole lot." Sort them out 17:36
26 afterwards but the school is ready to go and ready to
27 open. The shocking thing is that the Government aren't
28 doing their job. They should be opening that school in
29 the morning and sorting the bits and pieces out after.

1 That's the line I'd be coming from on it.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Any other comments? I know there has
3 been correspondence with the ETB and I can maybe send
4 you a copy of e-mails.

5 CLLR. BEHAN: From the ETB? 17:36

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: The Chairman of the ETB has briefed us
7 and sent us various e-mails on it. I can certainly
8 follow up on them and forward them to you, if that's
9 helpful?

10 CLLR. BEHAN: I wouldn't mind if we could get copies of 17:36
11 them I'd like to see them. I think we should pass a
12 resolution again today calling on the Department to get
13 whatever is needed done, done immediately so that the
14 students can get into the schools. If Members agree
15 with that or not. 17:37

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Is that agreed?

17 FROM THE FLOOR: Agreed.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Fortune.

19 CLLR. FORTUNE: Cathaoirleach, I was at the first
20 meeting inside in Ráithín a month or so ago about this, 17:37
21 I missed the last one because I was sick. That was a
22 packed hall and there was a lot of politicians there,
23 including some of our TDs and there was various things
24 to be done over the next week or ten days. I actually
25 did raise doubts or questions about it on the night 17:37
26 myself. Sadly I have been proved right. We're now I
27 think a month or five weeks on and literally nothing
28 has happened. Like nobody has a clue what's going on
29 or when it's likely to be done. I don't think it's

1 good enough really. I think I would support where
2 Cllr. Behan is coming from because it's just wrong. In
3 this day and age, I mean we've five TDs in the County,
4 and why we can't get even feedback, proper feedback of
5 what the plan is or what's likely to happen over a 17:38
6 period of time, what's the timeframe what's going on
7 because certainly there was things said that night that
8 haven't been followed up on or hasn't happened and I
9 just think that's unfair to the parents and to children
10 and to teachers. 17:38
11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks. That's a resolution we've
12 agreed and you also a question as well which we'll pass
13 on. You had a question as well that we can pass on.
14 CLLR. BEHAN: I didn't have a question.
15 MS. GALLAGHER: You had two questions to be asked to 17:38
16 the Department. You just want us to write and get them
17 in as soon as possible.
18 CLLR. BEHAN: Write and express our concern about the
19 situation. That's fine, yeah.
20 CATHAOIRLEACH: The next item, Item 9: Consider the 17:38
21 Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report.
22 MR. CURRAN: I'll take it as read unless there are any
23 questions.
24 CLLR. BEHAN: Cathaoirleach, can I make a comment? I
25 just want to congratulate the CEO on the format of that 17:39
26 report. It is extremely helpful and gives a very good
27 picture of what's going on across the organisation. I
28 would suggest that, well I certainly need to print it
29 to get the full value from it. It's difficult enough

1 on an iPad or computer to actually get the full impact
2 of everything that is happening. I know it's been sent
3 by e-mail. I would recommend that it might be
4 considered to send it in hardcopy as well because, you
5 know, there's such an amount of information in it and 17:39
6 it's a very welcomed initiative and I want to
7 congratulate the CEO for it.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: It's 24 pages when you print it. Item
9 10 we have agreed to defer to the next meeting. I
10 would like to push through, before Brendan comes on, 17:40
11 Item 12 in case we don't get to it. Wicklow County
12 Council Joint Policing Committee.

13 CLLR. BEHAN: I propose that.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Nomination of Cllr. Brendan Thornhill
15 to replace Cllr. Kavanagh. Proposed by Cllr. Behan, 17:40
16 seconded by Cllr. Fortune. Back to Item 11 then. To
17 receive an update of Wicklow Library Service, deferred
18 from our January meeting.

19 MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I'll be as
20 brief as I can here so we can make the time. 17:40

21
22 This is to give you an update of the service at the
23 moment and where we are. We have 13 libraries. The
24 mobile library is in 30 plus locations on a fortnightly
25 basis and we also deliver to nursing homes once a 17:40
26 month, 20 plus nursing homes both in the towns and
27 around the County, including Carnew Community Care,
28 Rathdrum Hospital, et cetera. That's the map showing
29 that the libraries are well spread out throughout the

1 County.

2
3 There was a staff embargo from 2008 and Wicklow
4 suffered more than most at that time and we had 25% of
5 a loss versus, you can see some of our neighbouring 17:41
6 counties there and what they suffered. We have had
7 some recovery since 2014 but at a mid-management level
8 or higher they were only on a contract basis. There's
9 a Library Workforce Plan which envisages 12 additional
10 posts compared with 2008. Six of these are in the new 17:41
11 Arklow and Wicklow libraries and others are throughout
12 the County.

13
14 The current situation is IMPACT is currently in the
15 Working Relations Commission on national negotiations 17:42
16 re library staffing. Matters are progressing. There
17 was a meeting as recently as last Friday. Things are
18 very hopeful but we still aren't there yet exactly with
19 regard to it. Counties that hadn't got the workforce
20 Plan completely adopted were asked by IMPACT or 17:42
21 instructed by IMPACT not to go any further so we have
22 had a slight problem with regard to that.

23
24 All libraries, however, have remained open and will
25 remain open. There has been great staff flexibility. 17:42
26 We have employed staff from current panels. We have
27 got round that Garda vetting now, et cetera.
28 Short-term reappointment has happened to formerly
29 retired staff while awaiting arrival of staff from the

1 panels but the staff are in now from those panels.

2
3 There's a list of the contracts we've done in the last
4 few years going from 2004 the Mobile Library, which
5 needs replacement again. 17:42

6
7 Baltinglass was refurbished in 2005. Tinahely and
8 Blessington were both 2006. Blessington was a new
9 building. Enniskerry refurbishment in 2007. Carnew
10 2008. Greystones 2010. Dunlavin 2012. Arklow and 17:43
11 Bray 2016. The way that it previously was, until 2018
12 there was a set programme whereby 75% of the funding
13 was provided in grant aid and the other 25 is from the
14 County Council. But since then it's more ad hoc or
15 case-by-case basis. But just to show you the sort of 17:43
16 figures we would have had. In Blessington, for
17 example, which cost about 2.5 million in 2005/2006,
18 they were the figures. In '05 you had 623 members; in
19 2007, after we opened, we had 3,725; 8,824 borrowed in
20 2005 whereas 64,000 in 2007. 50 square metres. So 17:43
21 definitely the public appreciated it. That's
22 Blessington Library.

23
24 Arklow same here. From 2005 to 2014 there was 1,800 to
25 2,400 members annually. In 2016 alone 2,157 joined 17:44
26 that hadn't been joined before. 35,000 to 42,000
27 items were borrowed annually, whereas 95,000 in
28 2016/2017. That's the images. That's the community
29 room in Arklow Library. Children's area. I think most

1 of you have been down there. That's upstairs with the
2 relaxation and IT area (illustrating). Arklow Library
3 won a cultural award in 2016 for public building.
4

5 That's Greystones Library, the upstairs in Greystones 17:44
6 the extension we put on there. Because it was a
7 Carnegie building obviously we're a bit restricted with
8 regard to what we could do. But we've managed to keep
9 the façade and the new development is to the rear on
10 the beach side. 17:45

11
12 The Capital Projects Plan. Wicklow Town currently and
13 archives for the County 2018/2019. New mobile
14 hopefully as well in 2018/2019 and Rathdrum 2018/2019.
15 These are all in our Library Development Plan. Aughrim 17:45
16 2019/2020. Bray extension hopefully 2020/2021. And in
17 Newtown there may be an opportunity there.

18
19 with regard to Wicklow, it's a six-floor building and
20 it's easy to remember, 1234 square metres. The 17:45
21 basement will be local studies. Lower ground floor
22 archives. So they'll work well together. We'll move
23 the local studies from Bray down to the new library in
24 Wicklow to be with the archives. The loan areas will
25 be on the ground floor and the first floor from the 17:45
26 street level now. It's in the former Ulster Bank
27 building, as you know, in Wicklow Town. The second
28 floor will be study/reference and IT area and there
29 will be a community room and an art exhibition on the

1 top floor. The penthouse as we call it.

2
3 Timeframe. Architects have now assessed. Architects
4 are appointed. Procurement construction should be
5 between now and August and construction will take place 17:46
6 between September 2018 and August 2019 approximately.
7 So open late summer/early autumn 2019 is the projected
8 timeframe there.

9
10 Cost and funding, just under a million, 950,000 to 17:46
11 purchase which was a great scoop to get that because
12 the original cost was over 3 million I understand. The
13 construction will cost approximately 3 million with
14 everything, including fit-out and professional fees and
15 the archives and so on and stock, et cetera. 17:46

16
17 We have got 1 million grant aid already for the
18 purchase and I understand we're going to look for a lot
19 more but we'll leave that to our Chief Executive and
20 his persuasive powers. 17:47

21
22 Here's some images of it and I have more. They are
23 here if you want to study them in a bit more detail.
24 You can look at them later. I have more imagines.
25 There's what's envisaged that wouldn't be just straight 17:47
26 from the street, you can see there it would be a double
27 height made between the street level and the first
28 floor as currently there. There's more drawings with
29 regard to that. There's what it would look like close

1 up from the entrance and an idea of the concept of how
2 the children's area would work inside the building.

3
4 You'll see the views there that it would have from the
5 upper floors looking out. You'd be looking out towards 17:47
6 the port at one side and towards the bridge and the
7 Murrough towards the north side.

8
9 Rathdrum, subject to planning and project proceeding.
10 It is a purpose built building in the New Market Square 17:48
11 is planned there. Ground floor of approximately 130
12 square meets where it's currently only 40 square metres
13 and we're looking at a long-term lease there of 10
14 years with an option to extend I understand. That's a
15 image of Rathdrum at the moment. You're looking at it 17:48
16 there from Main Street level. Main Street here is on
17 the south of that image we'll say on the bottom. The
18 blue buildings are where the library would be. The
19 third building there is the library. The pink building
20 over there will be the HSE community care element and 17:48
21 we'll share the building with a coffee shop and
22 pharmacy is my understanding and obviously the centre
23 will be there outside there outside the boundary. It
24 will look very well. It will be the centre of Rathdrum
25 in every respect. 17:48

26
27 There's an image close up to it. We're the dark brown
28 one there, the largest part of that up to the top. So
29 it will be purpose built, it should work very well.

1
2 The Mobile Library. We have 325,000 kilometres on our
3 vehicle. It would cost about 200/250,000
4 approximately. Wexford, for example, launched a new
5 vehicle last Friday and we're hoping to get something 17:49
6 like that. Just an example of how our figures compare.
7 Last year the amount of books issued on Wicklow's
8 mobile was 45,000 versus Kilkenny 26,000; Kildare only
9 14,000; Limerick 25,000. Wexford had more 50,000 and
10 33,000. They had two mobiles, but they only have only 17:49
11 five branch libraries and we have 13 branch libraries.
12 So we're well up there with regard to usage. Usage has
13 continued to grow down the years. The great
14 flexibility of a service is that if it falls off in an
15 area you can cut the time and you can give it to 17:49
16 somewhere else. Every year we get requests from
17 schools in different places to try to facilitate them.
18 So we're able to review the timetable every year.

19
20 Aughrim Library is small in size, only 40 square 17:50
21 metres. Not an attractive building. It's past its
22 sell by date is the way I would put it. The best
23 option is to rebuild on the current site, I'd say. We
24 own the site there. I'd imagine it should be 1 to 1.5
25 million for the project there. 17:50
26

27 Bray Library was refurbished in 2016. There is an
28 extension required. It is our largest town, as you
29 know. Currently 473 square metres. The best option

1 for any of you who know Bray Library, may be to extend
2 into the garden area and provide two floors throughout
3 while retaining the original Carnegie elements. You
4 would retain -- the original entrance was from the
5 Florence Road entrance, that entrance there. So if we
6 went with this plan, and I have discussed it, we
7 obviously have to get permission for it, but the idea
8 would be that we would retain the original entrance as
9 an internal part of the library.

17:50

10
11 Community activity. We will have a Work Matters
12 Programme in Arklow, business software. We have
13 musical instruments in libraries in Blessington and
14 Arklow where people can borrow instruments to learn.
15 There is a Right to Read Programme going on which is
16 nationally, a Healthy Ireland Programme and words
17 Wicklow Literary Festival is part of Creative Ireland.
18 I have brochures on that here. The official launch of
19 that will be on Thursday, 22nd March. You'll be
20 getting invitations to that down in Arklow Library.
21 Writer Michael Hardy will be the main event that night.

17:51

17:51

17:51

22
23 Summer Stars Programme took place in libraries
24 throughout the country. Almost 3,000 children took
25 part in libraries in Wicklow. There was a national and
26 local promotion and a certificate ceremony took place
27 in September. One great thing now is that with the
28 LGMA events get promoted nationally, you might hear
29 them on nationally radio and various national

17:51

1 advertisements.

2
3 Just to show our figures and how we compare. There is
4 the 2017 figures on the left and 2016 on the right.
5 You can see the total was 574,000 up 22% on the 2016 17:52
6 figure. There was 41,000 items online. So a grand
7 total of 616,000 items were borrowed between online and
8 physical books. You'll see some significant increases
9 there in Greystones and Bray. Bray was closed for a
10 while all right hence the large increase there from 17:52
11 2016, but still very significant.

12
13 You can see Arklow 86,000 whereas it would have been
14 only averaging about 35 or 40,000 a year in the old
15 building. 17:52

16
17 Blessington up to 68,000, et cetera, with regard to
18 that.

19
20 Visits are up as well. 567,000 countywide versus 17:52
21 502,000. Same thing IT and WiFi usage, 20% increase
22 and 27.5% on WiFi.

23
24 In many ways we are punching above our weight. We have
25 under 3% of the national population and the items 17:53
26 borrowed show over 3.4% of all items issued in 2017
27 were through Wicklow County Council's branch network;
28 574,000 of 16.7 million.

29 How we compared with our colleagues. Again,

1 population, you can see there if you cut to the bold
2 one there, 4.04 items per head for wicklow versus a
3 national average of 3.5. Apart from wexford, all the
4 other neighbouring counties are into two point
5 something percent. We're above the national average 17:53
6 and we hope to keep going.

7
8 Our book fund rose year-on-year from 2000 peaking in
9 2008 and 2009 per 100,000 in 2008 and 320,000 in 2009.
10 Then obviously with the recession there were cutbacks 17:54
11 and the book fund is always something that has to take
12 a cut, I suppose, because it's the one thing that is
13 "flexible". So from 2010 to 2016 we were generally
14 around 100,000 a year. In 2017 we had 300,000 and 2018
15 250,000 an average of 1.75 per head. The national 17:54
16 target is 3.77 per head. There's very few counties
17 have achieved that target. We would be below the
18 national average somewhat. I couldn't get national
19 figures from the LGMA, one part they're down a bit on
20 is the statistics but I'll try to get more on it. I'd 17:54
21 say we're not too far behind the general, probably
22 about 225 to 250 I'd say would be the national average.

23
24 We have great developments nationally. The Union
25 Catalogue and the National Request Service. People 17:54
26 request items from any library and it can be delivered
27 twice a week for 330 public libraries. So you can
28 request the book in Aughrim Library and it could be
29 delivered to you from Cork Library twice a week or

1 something like that and vice versa. So there would be
2 a list every day for staff to pull from and provide
3 books for every other county as well. There's great
4 public appreciation of this with 100,000 plus items per
5 month moving around the library network nationally. 17:55

6
7 we have online e-books, e-magazines, e-languages and
8 downloadable audio books available to all, regardless
9 of location, whether you're in Leitrim, Wicklow or
10 Dublin it's the same material that you get. So that's 17:55
11 all free memberships. So as long as you have your card
12 that's all available there for you. A library card can
13 be used in any library throughout the country. Same
14 thing, you can borrow an item in Bray and leave it back
15 in Cork it doesn't matter and it will be brought back 17:55
16 with the request service.

17
18 Online resources stats, there's our usage, the figure I
19 mentioned earlier of 41. Online newspapers is 10,000.
20 Magazines, languages, e-audio books, e-books themselves 17:56
21 they're downloading for listening, and online education
22 4,476. The most popular online language is French,
23 German, Spanish, Irish, Polish, Italian and some
24 Korean.

25 17:56
26 I just have one, I'll just show you one more image, the
27 very last, just to give an idea of this. This shows
28 the business hub that we use, education, 42,000 login
29 sessions nationally. Again we're above the national

1 average with our 3.4% of population. Down here now.
2 This gives you an idea of the courses that are there.
3 Wicklow people used Excel, accountancy, typing, yoga,
4 how to draw. These are all available from anywhere, no
5 matter where you join the library, we need to get it 17:57
6 out more. (Inaudible) Anxiety therapy, we could all do
7 with a bit of that and psychology. That's just an
8 overview of where we're at and if you want to look at
9 the images of Wicklow Library, okay.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks. Thanks very much, Brendan. 17:57
11 Cllr. Behan.

12 CLLR. BEHAN: Chairman, just thanks to Brendan and
13 Michael Nicholson and the rest of the staff for the
14 excellent work being done in the library service and
15 there's no doubt about it, just leaving that 17:58
16 presentation there, it's one of the greatest cultural,
17 educational and social assets we have in this County
18 and long may it continue to be and I pay tribute to
19 everybody involved in it. It's a pity there are so
20 many Councillors have had to go today not to actually 17:58
21 see this presentation and it might be worth, at some
22 point in the future, talking about it again.

23
24 I just want to ask you, Brendan, is there an agenda
25 here to downgrade the Ballywaltrim Branch Library 17:58
26 because my understanding of the original Library
27 Development Plan was that Ballywaltrim Branch Library
28 was going to be extended at some point in the future
29 and there is the capacity to extend it there. You're

1 moving the local studies out of Ballywaltrim. You're
2 basically taking things out of that branch and
3 headquarters that were originally designed to be there.
4 I don't agree with that at all but we weren't consulted
5 on it, we didn't have the power of decision on it. 17:58
6 With regard to whether an extension goes on the Bray
7 Branch Library or the Ballywaltrim Library, I do want
8 to have a discussion and I want to have some input and
9 I think all Councillors should have an input into that
10 particular decision. That's the first point. 17:59
11

12 The second point, I want to record my gratitude to the
13 new Chief Executive for taking a very strong leadership
14 role when this plan to close the Ballywaltrim Branch
15 Library, without notice to Members of this Council, was 17:59
16 put in place before Christmas. I don't know what
17 happened behind the scenes but all I know is that the
18 Chief Executive got involved and that decision was
19 reversed very quickly. I don't want to go into
20 recriminations, I just want to say having discussed the 17:59
21 Library Service at the Estimates Meeting the previous
22 week and not having heard one word about a proposal to
23 shut Ballywaltrim without, you know, without very
24 little more notice and also to reduce the opening hours
25 in Greystones and Wicklow it was completely and 17:59
26 absolutely disrespectful to public representatives in
27 this County. And I'm glad that the Chief Executive got
28 involved and reversed that decision and I for one hope
29 we're never going to be faced with that sort of a set

1 up again where decisions are made by executives without
2 reference to Members of the Council and we had no say
3 in it at all. Thanks to the Chief Executive for
4 changing that situation for us. Thank you.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Members, we're just coming to the end 18:00
6 of the meeting so just a couple of sentences, as brief
7 as you can. Jim, you're next.

8 CLLR. RUTTLE: As Chairman of the SPC with
9 responsibility for the Library Service, this is no
10 surprise to us. There's a lot of work put in there, a 18:00
11 lot of initiatives and I congratulate Brendan and all
12 his staff on all the stuff we're doing. As Cllr. Behan
13 outlined, pity more people didn't see it. It's not
14 just about books anymore, it's a lot of stuff, it's an
15 awful lot of stuff. Some of the stuff you outlined to 18:00
16 us at this morning's meeting in the SPC, very exciting.
17 Very exciting stuff. Well done, keep it up and I look
18 forward to further expansion, particularly the Newtown
19 project for a library in Newtown. I think that's badly
20 needed there. 18:01

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Bourke.

22 CLLR. BOURKE: Cathaoirleach, I just want to
23 congratulate Brendan on the fruits of his hard work.
24 It's great to see things like the Arklow Library now in
25 full swing and we're very proud of it in Arklow. I 18:01
26 would like to convey my gratuity and support to him on
27 his plan for the future as well. Thank you.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Walsh, last speaker.

29 CLLR. WALSH: Again, just to congratulate Brendan on

1 the presentation. As he said himself, we're punching
2 above our weight. It's a fantastic facility with some
3 exciting new projects in the pipeline with the
4 presentation there in Wicklow. You had Arklow. You
5 had the extension in Bray. I see Greystones is top of 18:01
6 the pile in relation to usership. Good to see we're up
7 there. That facility I'm familiar with. It's a
8 fantastic facility. Well done again, Brendan, thanks.
9 CATHAOIRLEACH: We just have some correspondence before
10 we finish. 18:01
11 MR. MARTIN: Will I just, if you like, Cllr. Behan's
12 question. There isn't a plan -- Ballywaltrim won't be
13 downgraded. The Workforce Plan has in it to restore
14 the staff that were there. So that will be part of the
15 Workforce Plan and in the future that will all happen 18:02
16 once we get everything through.
17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, Brendan. Correspondence.
18 MS. GALLAGHER: Cathaoirleach, the Chief Executive
19 received a letter from the Department of Housing,
20 Planning and Local Government and the Minister on 28th 18:02
21 February, received on 6th March, and it basically
22 advises in relation to Section 81 of the Planning and
23 Development Act, notice of intent to issue a direction
24 relating to the Arklow and Environs Local Area Plan.
25 So the Minister is considering issuing a direction 18:02
26 pursuant to Section 31 of the Planning and Development
27 Act. That's been circulated to the Elected Members.
28 It will be in the papers this week and it will be on
29 the agenda for discussion on 9th April.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks very much, Members.
2 CLLR. BEHAN: I will take copies of my replies on my
3 motions that are left on the agenda, the other motions.
4 MS. GALLAGHER: You'll take a written response.
5 CLLR. BEHAN: If you can send me copies of the replies, 18:02
6 if I'm happy with them we don't have to have them.
7 MS. GALLAGHER: Fair enough. Thank you, Councillor.
8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, Members.

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THE MEETING THEN CONCLUDED

	144:11 130 [1] - 143:11 14,000 [1] - 144:9 15 [2] - 10:19, 48:16 15.35m [1] - 7:4 150 [2] - 15:16, 133:9 155K [2] - 126:4, 126:5 15th [1] - 6:18 16 [3] - 67:8, 67:9, 122:11 16.7 [1] - 146:28 166 [1] - 7:5 179 [6] - 7:23, 58:25, 59:1, 59:2, 61:28, 61:29 18 [3] - 36:11, 124:3, 124:10 1968 [1] - 3:24 1982 [1] - 69:7 1999 [1] - 48:26 1st [2] - 23:24, 76:17	2009 [4] - 96:27, 98:26, 147:9 2010 [7] - 92:15, 92:17, 95:3, 96:27, 98:27, 140:10, 147:13 2012 [1] - 140:10 2014 [2] - 139:7, 140:24 2016 [9] - 101:3, 140:11, 140:25, 141:3, 144:27, 146:4, 146:5, 146:11, 147:13 2016/2017 [1] - 140:28 2017 [3] - 146:4, 146:26, 147:14 2018 [8] - 1:9, 2:2, 6:19, 6:24, 6:29, 140:11, 142:6, 147:14 2018-2020 [1] - 120:12 2018/2019 [3] - 141:13, 141:14 2019 [4] - 42:28, 99:21, 142:6, 142:7 2019/2020 [1] - 141:16 2020 [1] - 42:28 2020/2021 [1] - 141:16 2021 [3] - 120:17, 130:16, 130:28 22% [1] - 146:5 220 [4] - 24:13, 25:6, 29:13, 35:28 225 [1] - 147:22 22nd [2] - 6:24, 145:19 23 [1] - 38:5 23rd [2] - 67:16, 71:25 24 [2] - 36:11, 138:8 25 [2] - 4:6, 140:13 25% [2] - 69:7, 139:4 25,000 [2] - 126:14, 144:9 250 [3] - 140:9, 140:19, 140:20 2008 [5] - 139:3, 139:10, 140:10, 147:9 251 [1] - 36:24	26 [1] - 79:19 26,000 [1] - 144:8 26th [2] - 70:27, 79:14 27.5% [1] - 146:22 28-year-old [1] - 2:20 28th [3] - 77:10, 77:23, 152:20 2:00 [1] - 1:9 2nd [6] - 19:4, 31:23, 73:8, 73:17, 77:11, 78:27	4 4 [1] - 7:3 4,476 [1] - 148:22 4.04 [1] - 147:2 40 [5] - 48:25, 50:14, 63:23, 143:12, 144:20 40,000 [2] - 131:21, 146:14 400 [1] - 51:6 41 [1] - 148:19 41,000 [1] - 146:6 42,000 [2] - 140:26, 148:28 4484 [1] - 7:5 45 [1] - 38:14 45,000 [1] - 144:8 473 [1] - 144:29 4:00 [1] - 76:8 4:30 [2] - 130:11, 130:12 4x4 [1] - 79:18 4x4s [1] - 72:8	6 6 [2] - 67:11, 124:3 600 [4] - 130:16, 130:17, 130:29, 131:2 616,000 [1] - 146:7 623 [1] - 140:18 64,000 [1] - 140:20 68,000 [1] - 146:17 6:00 [3] - 70:19, 121:8 6th [3] - 19:4, 19:5, 152:21
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