

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL



Wicklow County Council
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTAIN

Transcript of the County Council Meeting Held on 8 December 2014 In the County Council Chamber, Wicklow



Text streamed live to the web on www.seewritenow.ie



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7 Wicklow County Council meeting -- Monday 8th of December 2014:

8
9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Good afternoon members. I have a number of people indicating. Cllr
10 Ruttle?

11 Cllr RUTTLE: Yes Cathaoirleach, I'd like to request a change to standing orders later this
12 afternoon to deal with the issue of the lack of funding of the Blessington green way on the recent
13 allocation of national funding.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Is that agreed by the members? Okay. Cllr Behan?

15 Cllr BEHAN: Mr Chairman, could I ask or propose we suspend standing orders to discuss the
16 situation arising from the result, as a result of the forum on homelessness that was held last week
17 by the Minister for Environment, which excluded this authority, despite the fact that we have
18 suffered a number of homeless deaths in this country, and in particular in north Wicklow over
19 the last two years.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, is that agreed? Cllr Lawless?

21 Cllr LAWLESS: Thanks Cathaoirleach I'd like to ask for suspension of standing orders to
22 discuss the funding cut to our Wicklow Youth Drug Information Officer, which will be
23 happening this week, of a case for urgency, she was the only one for our county at the moment.
24 Thank you.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Is that agreed? Cllr Fortune.

26 Cllr FORTUNE: Thanks Cathaoirleach, I'd like to request a suspension of standing orders to
27 discussion the location of the McDonald's restaurant proposal in Greystones.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

29 Cllr FORTUNE: And can I also, before we kick off maybe bring up a point of order, before you
30 start the meeting proper?

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Now the other three members did indicate to me earlier they wanted to
32 suspend standing orders but -- with the indulgence of the members, is that agreed? By the
33 members, under the suspension of standing orders? Agreed? Sorry maybe you might repeat
34 that.

1 Cllr FORTUNE: My request for standing orders was to discuss the planning, the location of the
2 proposed McDonald's restaurant in Greystones

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: It's up to the members, is that agreed?

4 Cllr FORTUNE: And my second point chair to you was will you allow me to bring up a point of
5 order before you kick off the meeting as well in relation to the Budget Meeting? Just a comment
6 I want to make that's all.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Would it not be more appropriate under agreeing the minutes of the
8 Budget Meeting if it's referring to the Budget Meeting? If you hold your comment until we're
9 agreeing the minutes of the Budget Meeting.

10 Cllr FORTUNE: Sorry?

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Will you hold the comment until we're agreeing the minutes of the
12 Budget Meeting, it's not relevant to any of the minutes we are going to discuss.

13 Cllr FORTUNE: No I accept that, that's why I asked on a point of order can I do it?

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: I'd rather not discuss it during the other minutes if that's all right? It's not
15 relevant to the minutes, okay?

16 Cllr FORTUNE: It's relevant...

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: I need to get agreement on item 13, I'd like to take that pretty early and
18 get it done, it's ongoing for a while since Cllr Blake resigned his position, with your indulgence
19 I'll take that at the start of the meeting and also item 15, Joe Lane has asked that we get to that
20 today, so what I'm suggesting is if we don't get to it before 4.30 we'll take item 15 at 4.30, if
21 that's agreeable to the members? It will just free up a few committees. We'll take suspension of
22 standing orders after 4.30 after Joe has come in. So at 4.30 we'll take suspension of standing
23 orders.

24 Cllr BEHAN: Chairman, can I propose if it's in order that we extend the meeting to half past
25 five, as we started a half hour late.

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, what we'll do is see how we progress and make a decision on that
27 before quarter to five, okay? But that's fine by me.

28
29 Okay so is there any votes of sympathy? No. Okay. We'll take item number 13 then to
30 nominate a representative to the Regional Health Forum Dublin/mid Leinster. Cllr Ryan?

31 Cllr RYAN: I'd like to propose Cllr Irene Winters for that role. She has a passion for health and
32 a good knowledge of it and I think it also helps from the agenda point of view.

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: Have I a seconder for that?

34 Cllr CASEY: I'll second that.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Any other proposals? Okay. Cllr Tommy Cullen, is it related to this?

2 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: Chairman, I'd like to support the councillor's nomination, but also pay
3 tribute to Cllr Vincent Blake for his contribution to the Health Forum and making strong
4 representations on behalf of the people of Wicklow.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks councillor, any other nominations? Okay Cllr Winters.

6 Item number 1, confirm minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on
7 Monday the 6th of October. Proposed?

8 Cllr SNELL: Proposed.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Seconded Cllr Fitzgerald. Item 2, confirm minutes of the Ordinary
10 Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on the 3rd of November, proposed? Cllr Casey.

11 Seconded Cllr Blake. Item 3, confirm minutes of Special Meeting of Wicklow County Council
12 held on Monday the 10th of November, proposed? Cllr Bourke and seconded by Cllr Shay
13 Cullen. Item 4, confirm disposing of Council's interest in the land at 13 Monteith Park,
14 Kilcoole? Proposer Cllr Fortune, seconded by Cllr Vance. Or Cllr Walsh. Item 5 -- is that
15 agreed? Everyone agreed? Yes. Item 5.

16 Cllr BOURKE: I propose that Chairman.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed by Cllr Bourke seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald, is that agreed?

18 Item 6 consider the disposal of the land Main Street Kilcoole, proposal of Cllr Fortune, seconded
19 by Cllr Vance, is that agreed?

20
21 Item 7 consider disposal of the Council's interest in 19 O'Byrne Road, Bray, County Wicklow.

22 Proposed by Cllr Vance, seconded by Cllr Matthews, is that agreed? Item 8 -- I'd like to
23 welcome Aidan Dempsey Chief Fire Officer to the chamber. Very good. He is going to give us
24 a presentation.

25 FIRE OFFICER AIDAN DEMPSEY: Thanks councillors, Chairman. At a Special Meeting of
26 Wicklow County Council on the 19th of May this year the following resolution was passed that
27 the Council would revisit its present policy adopted by the members of the Council in relation to
28 the provision of a full-time fire service for Bray and north Wicklow and that a detailed report
29 would be provided to the Council within six months.

30
31 On foot of this resolution I was tasked by the chief executive with producing a report, the second
32 such report, there having been a previous report published and produced in 2007.

33
34 The content of my presentation I propose to break down as follows, I would hope to introduce

1 Keeping Communities Safe, a document published by the Department of the Environment, this is
2 a contentious document at a national level between SIPTU and the Department of the
3 Environment, there is some dispute over some of the content, but it contains -- Keeping
4 Communities Safe, as a document, contains the methodology for assessing risk and determining
5 appropriate response for fire station areas and therefore the application of certain elements of its
6 content I considered necessary in order to develop the comprehensive report required for the
7 elected members.

8
9 I would hope then to present the analysis of the Bray Fire Station area based on the risk
10 assessment process outlined in keeping communities safe, published by the Department of the
11 Environment in 2013, to provide a short update on the current situation in Bray Fire Station and
12 Wicklow Fire Service in general. Present an analysis of possible staffing arrangements based on
13 options contained in the draft report of 2007, in relation to the provision of a full-time fire
14 service and report on current full-time staffing arrangements in Louth County Council fire
15 service, where in recent years they have changed over to a full-time fire service and it being the
16 most up-to-date model available.

17
18 And then to finish off with an analysis of financial implications of the various options outlined in
19 the body of the report.

20
21 As I said Keeping Communities Safe is a contentious document but it does contain the material
22 necessary to produce today's report, and I have included a number of quotes from it, in that it
23 states into the introduction that the overriding principle is that the safety of the public from fire is
24 regarded as paramount. This document is fundamentally about assessing fire safety risks,
25 looking at the available resources and proposing a plan for matching risks, needs and resources
26 in Irish society to ensure that the public are safe.

27
28 In effect it provides a national methodology to determine the appropriate level of fire service
29 response in each fire station area in the country.

30
31 The objective of the fire service is to reduce the risk, using an appropriate blend of the full range
32 of available approaches in fire prevention, fire protection and response. Again this is a direct
33 quote from page 15 of the report. In general fire prevention refers to education and public
34 awareness schemes, to increase the number of smoke alarms in family houses and to educate

1 high risk groups within society. Fire protection refers to the work of fire service officers in
2 processing fire safety certificate applications, disability access certificates, inspecting licensed
3 premises and responding to complaints from the public and members of the local authority.
4 Response is, relates to the blue light response, the fire service responding to emergencies.

5
6 Three further quotes state that Keeping Communities Safe sets down a risk management
7 approach to service provision and differentiates emergency response on the basis of risk or threat
8 to life, whereas previous models may have been more based around property. Each fire
9 authority is required to prepare a fire and emergency operations plan which sets out how it meets
10 its statutory duties. Each fire service will undertake a review of its current services in light of
11 the approaches and the targets of Keeping Communities Safe and prepare an updated revised
12 statutory section 26 plan. The adoption of the section 26 plan is a reserved function. The new
13 section 26 plan will set out how the individual service will deliver on targets in this policy, being
14 Keeping Communities Safe.

15
16 Following discussions with the chief executive it's proposed to present a draft plan to the Council
17 in the third quarter of 2015 for consideration in line with the other plans being developed
18 nationally at the moment in other fire authorities, it would keep us in line with the work going on
19 concurrently in other fire authorities around the country.

20
21 Keeping Communities Safe recommends certain safety roles for the fire service to reduce the
22 number of fire incidents occurring in the functional areas to limit damage where fires do occur
23 by ensuring appropriate fire protection facilities such as early detection and warning systems are
24 in place and to prevent escalation to a point where single or multiple fatalities are like to occur
25 and to extinguish fires.

26
27 Mitigating measures are appropriate and in particular community fire safety measures such as
28 smoke alarm schemes can be utilised to increase the safety of the public in their dwellings. Fire
29 authorities can determine the priority needs in their areas and apply the available resources in the
30 most effective configuration, ensuring an appropriate and effective balance between fire
31 prevention, protection and response measures, as I have previously outlined. Currently in
32 Wicklow County Fire Service we visit all primary schools in County Wicklow on an annual
33 basis where local fire fighters present the content of a national primary schools programme in
34 order to educate at an appropriate level. And during the summer of 2014 all caravan parks in

1 County Wicklow were visited at weekends and fire safety advice given to the occupants and the
2 operators. I offer those simply as examples of the work of the current Wicklow County Fire
3 Service.

4
5 In terms of community fire safety, Keeping Communities Safe recommends smoke alarm
6 programmes to focus efforts on identifying vulnerable people through working with community
7 and voluntary sectors. Implementing checks for working smoke alarms in neighbourhoods after
8 attending fires, the primary schools programme, engagement with public on targeted fire safety
9 messages such as fire safety week, queries and fire safety information, and all this through
10 partnerships with related sectors and community groups.

11
12 International and national best practice now states that the single most important appropriate
13 means of protecting people from fire in the home, where the majority of fire deaths unfortunately
14 occur in Ireland, is seen as the provision by householders of working smoke alarms.

15
16 To give the Council an update, in 2015 it's proposed to run a pilot project to identify vulnerable
17 members of the public through partnerships with health, community and voluntary sectors with a
18 view thereafter for the fire service to install smoke alarms in a number of those premises. In
19 addition, a pilot project to introduce visits to domestic properties to check on working smoke
20 alarms in what are considered to be high risk areas and in the aftermath of serious local fires.
21 Based on the analysis of these pilot project as request for budgetary funding may be made at the
22 end of 2015 to implement a more wide scale programme in 2016.

23
24 Then that brings us on to the actual risk based analysis of Bray Fire Station based on the content
25 of Keeping Communities Safe. Keeping Communities Safe the Department of the Environment
26 and national director for fire and emergency management chose the fire station area as the basic
27 unit of analysis for this project, an analysis of fire station activity indicates current fire risks and
28 shows how these relate to percentage of population covered and also travel time from station to
29 incidents. What they consider to be key factors in determining risk and response.

30
31 On the 21st of November this year, Wicklow County Fire Services was visited by an inspection
32 team from the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management to assess the outputs of
33 our risk based approach project, including our assessment of the Bray Fire Station area. The
34 team was led by Mr Sean Hogan, national director for -- in the National Directorate for Fire and

1 Emergency Management and Mr Brian Sweeney the former Chief Fire Officer of Strathclyde
2 Fire Rescue Service, considered to be an international expert in this area.

3
4 The inspection team assessed how Wicklow County Fire Service had undertaken the project, the
5 rigor with which we applied the national methodology and how we determined the outputs of the
6 national process. At the end of the inspection on the day the -- the full day they spent with us,
7 Mr Doyle and myself were debriefed by both Mr Hogan and Mr Sweeney, we were told that the
8 inspection team endorsed the methodology used by Wicklow County Fire Service, that the
9 process, the analysis and conclusions were robust, reliable and have the agreement of the
10 inspection team and that the outputs of the process are consistent with the national guidance and
11 are therefore considered reliable. I'm simply outlining this in advance of presenting the content
12 of the analysis.

13
14 One of the key features of the analytical process has been the provision at a national level of
15 maps of each station area outlining the travel time from fire stations into the fire station area and
16 beyond. On the screen you can see a travel time map, which has been provided in this case for
17 the Bray Fire Station area, these maps indicates the travel time from a fire station to areas within
18 and outside the current station boundaries. It's computer generated, based on a range of data
19 sources I'm told, and it is considered to be very reliable, and any testing that we've done of the
20 travel time distances have proved to be reliable.

21
22 The blue line outlines the extent of the fire station area, which follows county and townland
23 boundaries, and has been based on historic data. The area shaded in gold is the area that can be
24 reached from a fire station in a travel time of five minutes or less. The area shaded brown can be
25 reached in travel time of 10 minutes or less, the Teal area is 15 minutes or less and the light
26 green area is 20 minutes or less, radiating out from the fire station.

27
28 So looking a little closer, what we can take from it is that the Bray fire crews can reach most of
29 Bray in a travel time of five minutes from that map. There are some areas in north Bray around
30 Fassaroe and areas around the seafront in Bray which take slightly more than five minutes to
31 attend. Bray fire crews can also reach Enniskerry and Kilmac in a travel time of five minutes
32 based on the output of the map and Bray fire crews can reach Glencree in 20 minutes.

33
34 Information like this is then used to compare against an area risk categorisation, the national

1 directorate provide the following areas where statistics have to be gathered. The population of
2 the main urban area, population density of the main urban area, total population of the station
3 ground, number of incidents averaged over three years, number of dwellings in the station
4 ground, annual dwelling fire rate per 100,000 of population, other building fires per 100,000 of
5 population, and road traffic accident or collision activity and special services which are rescues
6 per 100,000 and the extent of individual special risks.

7
8 Each of those headings that I have listed represent a column on this table, given the small size of
9 the print I reproduced them in A3 size, hopefully for ease of reference by councillors. So each
10 column represents a statistical area that requires analysis and each row represents or reflects the
11 risk associated with that parameter. So for example if we look at the first column which is
12 population of the urban centre, if you had an urban centre with a population greater than 100,000
13 that would place that parameter into a very high risk category, if there were less than a thousand
14 people in that you are ban centre it would place it in a very low risk category.

15
16 The first parameter that is used is the population of the urban area and there is an issue around
17 how you generate that figure. Looking at the map that I have reproduced from CSO figures, it's
18 possible to see that in 2011 the census, from the census the population of what's referred to in the
19 CSO as the legal town of Bray was 26,852, it's highlighted in orange and the area of the map that
20 it covers is also presented in orange. The settlement of Bray which is quoted by CSO is shown
21 as having a population of 31,872, this difference is explained by the population of South Dublin
22 living in the Old Conna area approximately 3,341 souls and the population around Fassaroe and
23 the Southern Cross Road numbering approximately 1,679, shown in purple in the bottom left
24 hand corner.

25
26 So from a fire service perspective, the population that we cover from the fire station in Bray is
27 28,531, 3,341 persons live in that area of South Dublin.

28
29 In correspondence with Dublin Fire Brigade the Chief Fire Officer indicates to me that the fire
30 station in Kill Avenue in Dun Laoghaire is designated to respond to all emergency incidents in
31 South Dublin up to the Wicklow border, I'm informed by him that Dublin Fire Brigade's process
32 of assessment indicated his crews from Kill Avenue are the closest available in terms of time of
33 response to that area, that's under legislation, it is for each fire authority to determine how and
34 who will respond, and that response is that Dublin Fire Brigade deem that area containing 3,341

1 to be part of Dublin and to be responded to as a fire response by Dublin Fire Brigade.

2
3 So we see both the -- I've produced both figures on the chart for reference purposes to see the
4 effect of the difference. If the current figure is used it falls as a medium category, if the larger
5 figure is used it would be in the higher area, exceeding the 30,000 limit by 1,872.

6
7 The total population of the station area is by national standards not much bigger, in many station
8 areas the town will represent 50% of the population of the station area, in Bray the total
9 population of the station area is 33,218, falling on that row there that's designated medium or C1,
10 if you're looking to the right.

11
12 The rural density is 50%, outside of the town of Bray the population is calculated to be 50% per
13 square kilometre, which is considered low by national standards. And if we look further across
14 at all of the headings there are 12,843 dwellings, the average number of incidents for Bray Fire
15 Station averaged over three years is 275, the number of dwelling fires per 100,000 is 76. Other
16 building fires per 100,000 is 18, road traffic collisions or accidents and special service incidents
17 107 per 100,000 and the individual special hazards relating to number and scale of buildings that
18 would be institutional recreational, places of assembly, education, industrial, Seveso, shopping
19 or commercial was initially set at C1. I asked the inspection team from the national directorate
20 to look at that in particular being that it's a subjective assessment, they have already visited 20
21 other fire authorities and based on their knowledge of Bray and their assessment of Bray and
22 their prior work they believe that that's a correct assessment for that category in that risk.

23
24 As a result you then, the process continues to where you place a band across the number of risk
25 parameters and in this case it fell through the medium risk area, C1 rather than C2 if you look to
26 the right-hand side. I further asked the inspection team if the figure of 31,872 had been used for
27 the population would it have affected the overall assessment? And they told me that it wouldn't.
28 That one parameter will not necessarily sway the overall review.

29
30 So their review of my figures was to agree with that band of medium and that assessment or that
31 category of C1. There's another table provided in Keeping Communities Safe where you take
32 that medium categorisation and you then look to what your current response is. And it is
33 expected in a medium risk fire station area that the first fire engine would reach the incident
34 from leaving the station to time of attendance of ten minutes in 75% of cases. That the second

1 fire engine to attend an incident would make that distance from fire station to incident at 20
2 minutes and the third in 30 minutes. In 75% of cases, that's what's referred to as the confidence
3 level of the parameter.

4
5 That can -- effectively what we're saying is the travel time for the first crew in 75% of cases
6 should be 10 minutes or less, from door to door. The travel time for the second crew in 75% of
7 cases 20 minutes from door to door, and the third, 30 minutes.

8
9 Currently in Bray Fire Station there are two retained fire crews, 15 personnel that are alerted to
10 every incident, irrespective of category. So therefore if we look at the map of Bray to see what's
11 currently being achieved by the crews in Bray, it can be seen as I said previously, that the map
12 represents that the Bray fire crews are reaching Glencree in 20 minutes, it's also worth noting
13 that the travel time from Bray Fire Station to Greystones Fire Station is just under ten minutes.

14
15 The eastern regional communication centre also provides us with statistics to back up the map.
16 So they tell us that the population distribution in Bray Fire Station area is such that 97% of the
17 population are living within 10 minutes of the fire station door to door, and that 99% of the
18 population are living within 20 minutes of the fire station currently. The rest of the table
19 represents other fire station areas in Wicklow.

20
21 They further produced statistics to indicate that 80% of incidents that are responded to by Bray
22 Fire Station are attended door to door in less than 10 minutes, and that 94% are attended in less
23 than 20 minutes. Dwelling fires, 84% are attended in less than 10 minutes and 94% in less than
24 20 minutes.

25
26 So the map and the statistics demonstrate that the first crew from Bray will attend over 75% of
27 incidents in a travel time of less than ten minutes, there by achieving the requirement for the first
28 crew. Because we have two crews in Bray and we alert both crews simultaneously the second
29 crew achieves virtually the same level of response, so therefore it's achieving definitely in under
30 20 minutes at the 10 minute parameter. Which means that in reality the current two Bray fire
31 crews are achieving a higher risk category, the high risk category currently rather than medium
32 risk currently required under statistical analysis.

33
34 The third crew for Bray listed for instance in incidents in the Bray area is Greystones and the two

1 maps on the screen at the moment, the left hand map shows Greystones can reach Bray Fire
2 Station in under 10 minutes, the map on the right is the map we use to indicate Bray Fire Station
3 can reach 97% population, 80% of incidents or 84% of dwelling fires in you under 10 minutes.
4 So from these two statements it's possible to extrapolate if Greystones fire crew drove to Bray
5 Fire Station and responded from there they'd still manage to achieve more than 75% of incidents
6 in under 20 minutes. Therefore the medium risk category is more than achieved, in fact for the
7 three crews they are achieving the higher risk category rating of high rather than medium.
8 Therefore it's possible to say that the two retained crews currently in Bray supported by
9 neighbouring fire stations exceed the standard of fire cover required by the national standards.

10
11 And what I have basically done here is represent to you the outputs of the methodology imposed
12 by the national standard and verified by the national inspection team.

13
14 The current situation in Bray is that the average turn out time in Bray is 6 minutes and 30
15 seconds. This is improved by approximately two minutes over the last two years, solely as a
16 result of the dedication and hard work of the fire fighters in Bray Fire Station, who have worked
17 hard to get the response times down in order to give a better -- the best possible level of service.
18 That's trending at the moment, that's not a static figure, I believe further analysis will show
19 further decreases over time. But perhaps not as drastic as previous.

20
21 The first attendance at fire scenes was estimated in 2011 and at that time this chart was
22 reproduced I've overlaid a number of lines and figures on to it. In 2011 Wicklow County Fire
23 Service attended 22% of fires over the county in less than 10 minutes. When we asked the
24 ERCC to recalculate those figures this year in 2014 they told us that that has improved to 38%,
25 again simply down to the dedication and hard work and determination and sacrifices of the fire
26 fighters in the county. That percentage is reflected in 20 minute response time as well where an
27 81% attendance has increased to 88%, again I believe that to be a trend, I think it's still
28 improving with time. What I would say is those figures are for Wicklow only, the other fire
29 authorities haven't had an opportunity to update their figures and reflect it on that chart, so there
30 may be a national trend in that direction as well.

31
32 In terms of key performance indicators, the overall incident rate in Bray is down from 371 per
33 year in the period of 2008 to 2010 to 275 per year in the period 2011 to 2013. That's a 26%
34 reduction. The incident rate per 100,000 is down from 1100 to 828, a 25% reduction. The

1 current rate is above the county average of 759 and below the national average of 1,283 and the
2 dwelling fire rate per 100,000 is down from 114 to 76, a 33% reduction. That places the current
3 rate in Bray below the national average of 99 and slightly above the county average. I have been
4 attending a number of national meetings recently and that trend and that figure of approximately
5 25% is a national trend at the moment, that figure is reflected virtually in every county around
6 the country, it's not a Wicklow issue, it is nothing to do with anything specific to Wicklow or
7 anything that Wicklow Fire Service is particularly doing, it's just a national trend over the last
8 three to six years at 25% reduction that seems to be continuing.

9
10 In terms of national statistics Bray falls among a number of large towns that has a retained fire
11 service, Navan, Bray, Ennis, Kilkenny, Tralee, Carlow, new bridge and Naas. Full-time fire
12 services are in Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway, Waterford, Drogheda and Dundalk and there are
13 towns of a similar size in Northern Ireland that would also have a retained fire service, there
14 would also be towns in the north that, of a similar size that would have a full-time fire service.

15
16 When we look at the statistics for Bray across a number of parameters, in particular the
17 population of the station area and the number of incidents being attended, Bray stays within that
18 band of stations, but is slightly lower in the rankings. Towns like Naas and new bridge double
19 their size, the town represents 50% of the population of the station area, in Bray the town of
20 Bray represent a far higher percentage of the station area, and population dictates incident
21 numbers so therefore the number of incidents in Bray is correct for the population of the station
22 area in terms of other towns on the chart here. The larger the population, the larger the number
23 of incidents and as you can see here towns like Naas that have over 50,000 in their station area
24 would have over 400 calls per year, whereas towns around the 33 to 35,000 population in their
25 station area will have closer to 300 calls per year.

26
27 The advantages of a full-time fire service are that the turnout times decrease by approximately
28 five minutes, so in terms of Bray, the turnout time would drop from 6 and a half minutes to about
29 one and a half minutes. Dublin Fire Brigade recognise they turn out between 1 minute and 2
30 minute. If you have a full-time fire service you have crews available to go around the local area
31 and provide community fire safety advice. If you have crews on duty they can also save
32 financially in terms of the maintenance of equipment, crews are also available to conduct
33 pre-incident planning and crews are available to carry out other pre-incident checks such as
34 hydrant checks.

1
2 So in effect along with those advantages the first advantage of the five minutes reduction in turn
3 out time would mean that instead of attending 80% of incidents in 10 minutes Bray would then
4 attend 90% of incidents in the first ten minutes.

5
6 There are limits to the operational response and that's why the smoke alarm programme is being
7 pushed both nationally and internationally. This is an extract from a paper that has, from a peer
8 review journal and presentation that took place in Belfast a number of years ago where the head
9 of the UK fire and rescue service stated that no matter how good the response time of fire
10 fighters it remains the case that roughly half of those who died in fires are dead before the fire
11 and rescue service has even been called. Fire prevention is the best way of reducing numbers of
12 deaths and injuries from fire, he concluded and his beliefs are now mirrored internationally that
13 getting the highest number of smoke alarms into domestic houses is the greatest way to reduce
14 fire deaths, nationally and internationally.

15
16 There are a number, should it be decided to go with a full-time fire service there's a number of
17 options that are available to a local authority. The first is day manning, it's full-time fire service
18 over a certain period of the day, rather than over the full 24-hour period. Based on the draft
19 report from 2007 I have based my options on that, because they appear to be historically the one
20 that is were being considered and fall within the main options open. Therefore it could be
21 conceivable to amalgamate Bray and Greystones Fire Stations with a new centrally located
22 station manned on a full-time basis. It would be possible to replace the two retained crews in
23 Bray with one full-time crew and keep one retained crew. It would be possible to replace two
24 retained crews in Bray with one full-time crew only. It would be possible to replace one retained
25 crew in Bray with a full-time crew, keep the second retained crew and close Greystones Fire
26 Station, which was the option outlined in 2007. It would also be possible to replace two retained
27 crews in Bray with two full-time crews. I'd like to go through those options and point out
28 advantages and disadvantages.

29
30 That bar chart represents the number of incidents attended per hour of day in Bray Fire Station,
31 what it demonstrates is that in the normal 9 to 5, eight-hour shift, that shift wouldn't be attending
32 when most incidents occur, most occur between 6pm and 11pm. It would also be the opinion of
33 experts in the area that the most serious incidents occur between midnight and 4am. So again
34 that day manning option of having a shift in the middle of the day permanently with no full-time

1 cover over the nighttime doesn't address when most incidents occur or when most serious
2 incidents occur. That is part of the reason why Louth fire service went away from day manning
3 and went over to a full-time fire service.

4
5 The second option listed was to amalgamate Bray and Greystones Fire Stations. The above map
6 indicates that the current station boundary between Bray Fire Station and Greystones is
7 approximately five minutes travel time between the two. Therefore a new fire station on the
8 current station boundary would increase the response time to both Bray and Greystones by
9 approximately 5 minutes thereby negating the main benefit of introducing a full-time fire
10 service. Therefore I am slow to recommend such an expensive expedient when the main benefit
11 isn't being accrued.

12
13 To replace two retained crews in Bray with one full-time crew and one retained crew would
14 mean a reduction from 15 to nine in the number of retained personnel. The number of calls, a
15 disadvantage would be that the number of calls attended by the retained personnel would reduce
16 considerably, the lower call numbers has historically been proven I will show it on a slide from
17 Louth that response times by the retained personnel decrease with a decrease in numbers of
18 incidents. And for serious incidents if this was the configuration chosen the weight of response
19 would still be determined by the retained crew which would be the same or possibly slower than
20 what's currently being provided.

21
22 Another option from my original slide was to replace two full-times crews in Bray with one
23 full-time crew. This would eliminate the retained from Bray, and -- but in this case for serious
24 incidents the weight of response would be determined by the Greystones crew, which is further
25 away, therefore for serious incidents the response time of the necessary resources would be less
26 than is currently being provided.

27
28 Replacing one crew in Bray with full-time and keep one retained crew in Bray and close
29 Greystones Fire Station. There is no way that this can be done and retain the same level of
30 service for Greystones that's currently being provided. If you close Greystones Fire Station the
31 level of service for Greystones will decrease. Greystones currently turns out in close to 5
32 minutes, the ERCC estimate that it's a 10 minute drive from Bray Fire Station, therefore the
33 response time Ergot is going to be less. For serious incidents the weight of response would be
34 determined by the time of response of the full-time or retained crew depending on the

1 configuration from Bray.

2
3 Finally to replace two retained crews in Bray with two full-time crews, this option would
4 represent an improvement in operational response in the Bray Fire Station area, it represents the
5 lowest risk and the highest cost option in relation to fire service staffing for the fire service in
6 Bray.

7
8 I'm now going to look at Louth fire service and then look at the cost of the options I've just
9 outlined. As I say Louth have recently changed over to a full-time model, and they reviewed the
10 service between 2012 and 2013. They have one full-time crew in Drogheda supported by a
11 retained crew and they have one full-time crew in Dundalk supported by a retained crew.

12
13 Louth County Fire Service were replacing a day manning model for Dundalk and Drogheda with
14 the full-time service, each crew being provided, as I stated, with full and retained crews. This
15 new configuration was considered significant improvement on the day manning system, the
16 existence of a cadre of full-time personnel in the day manning system was quoted to me as
17 making this change-over less financially onerous. As I previously outlined the issues relating to
18 having a full-time crew and retained crew in the fire station apply to the configuration that Louth
19 have chosen.

20
21 Drogheda attend approximately 85% more incidents per year than Bray and Dundalk
22 approximately 51% based on statistics. And more tellingly, in relation to the response of the
23 retained fire brigade, the retained are now only attending 83 incidents a year in Drogheda and
24 100 a year in Dundalk between 16 and 25% of the overall calls, this they tell me has led to
25 retention issues with personnel in the retained fire service, keeping them in employment and also
26 the response times have been shown to reduce with the reduction in calls.

27
28 The system is manned by 55 full-time fire fighting personnel, 28 in Dundalk and, 27 in
29 Drogheda, four shifts of five personnel each. There are still 16 retains personnel 8 in Dundalk
30 and 8 in Drogheda. They get an additional 700 to 800 person days of training per year, they get
31 an extra 200 hours of community fire service out of this configuration better year and the
32 additional advantages of maintenance of equipment, pre-incident planning and hydrant checks
33 for example.

1 Louth Fire Service have stated that retaining manning levels are difficult to maintain due to
2 reduction in income for retained personnel, it's not as attractive a job as it has been in the past.
3 The turnout times for retained crews has decreased. But may come back with time. The
4 manning of special appliances which is a role for retained fire service in Louth configuration has
5 suffered operational response time reductions for the above reasons. Achieving agreed daily
6 routines with the full-time staff has been part of the transition process.

7
8 Training courses of longer than two days seriously disrupt the roster and have serious cost
9 implications. It's very difficult to arrange meetings of all the station officers who are on roster,
10 therefore they have to organise one meeting every four weeks which is the only day that their
11 routines coincide. A reduction in the use of training centres because with full-time personnel
12 training in the yards not possible to have as many courses running, you can't run them
13 concurrently.

14
15 So taking from that, there are some possible disadvantages to a full-time fire service, to look
16 against the advantages that I've previously outlined. Maintaining the manning levels of retained
17 personnel if that configuration is chosen, reduction in response times possibly but that could
18 come back in time. Loss of personnel who don't transfer over to full-time service is possible. A
19 possible loss of community ethos, significant building costs and a curtailment based on the
20 Louth model of the current use for training of Bray Fire Station.

21
22 I took the budget from -- I met with the Chief Fire Officer from Louth and he provided me with
23 his budget and he estimated that to provide two full-time crews it cost an additional 3.8 million,
24 but if you had two full-time crews you might -- depending on the configuration you could save
25 450,000 by the current 15 retained personnel, if they were reduced to nine the saving would be
26 around 200,000 and closure of Greystones fire station on its own would save 230,000. So when
27 we place those figures against the options it looks as follows.

28
29 A one shift day manning system would cost an additional 1.2 million per annum initially,
30 conservatively. Day manning with two shifts 2.5 million. To amalgamate Bray -- fire station of
31 Bray and Greystones 3.1 million. To replace two retained crews in Bray with one full-time and
32 one retrained crew would cost an additional 1.7 million. To replace two retained crews in Bray
33 with one full-time crew 1.45 million. To replace two retained crews in Bray with one full-time
34 crew and close Greystones Fire Station 1.47 million and to replace 2 retained crews in Bray with

1 2 full-time crews 3.35 million.

2
3 So my conclusions to my report that was required by the Council is that the national risk based
4 analysis process indicates that the current staffing arrangements in Bray exceed the required
5 national standards. A full-time fire service in Bray would primarily improve response times by
6 approximately five minutes per crew. Replacing the current two retained fire crews with two
7 full-time crews represents the lowest risk, but the highest cost option in relation to fire service
8 staffing for the Bray Fire Station area. The number of incidents attended by Bray Fire Station
9 area has increased by approximately 25% in line with national trends over the last 3 to 6 years.
10 Statistically Bray can be grouped with a number of other large Irish and international towns with
11 retained fire services. International research indicates that roughly half of those who die in fires
12 are dead before the fire service has been called. National and international best practice
13 recommends a greater focus on fire prevention measures over operational response. Thank you.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much Aidan. That certainly was a very comprehensive
15 report. Do you want to add anything Brian or will I open it up?

16 Cllr MITCHELL: Thank you Cathaoirleach. Just to say Aidan Dempsey gave a similar more or
17 less draft report to the transportation and environment committee, Strategic Policy Committee
18 and that was very interesting. Just to say as Chairman of that, the two union representatives
19 from Wicklow Fire Service asked to meet me about this and they explained that there is a
20 national issue as to whether five or six crew are needed for the first fire engine, I understand that
21 there is a national cause of contention on this, what I would always want the Council to be run as
22 efficiently as possible, I don't know and I don't think any councillors here are qualified to assess
23 the balance between safety and efficiency on this, consequently I wouldn't like the Council to
24 pass this -- which I understand it has to do, maybe not today, but maybe in another six months,
25 as approval of a fire plan, without it either being resolved, this issue nationally, which would be
26 my preference or at least a full explanation of the issue given to councillors.

27
28 As I understand it from the people in the fire service there would be little efficiency gained in the
29 system such as Wicklow, where every station has one pump with the exception of Bray, as in
30 such a situation it would still, whether five or six on the first tender, you will still need 11 people
31 retained in each station. I understand that it is probably a significant issue in a full-time fire
32 service such as Dublin, but I would not like the Council to actually approve the section 26
33 without this issue being resolved, because I think myself nor the rest of the councillors are able
34 to deal with this. So that's just what I'd like to say as Chairman of the SPC.

1
2 As a councillor here I would just like to say I'm very satisfied with the Greystones retained
3 service, I believe they give a very good service and I would be very oppose to that service being
4 discontinued. I'd also like to say that I'm pleased that with the improvement in response times
5 which Aidan Dempsey outlined which seems to indicate to me that it's gone from 22% to 38%,
6 nearly double the number of fires responded to in ten minutes. I would also like to say that the
7 cost outlined by, in the paper of an extra 1 and a half to 3 million for a full-time service doesn't
8 seem feasible for us to meet this without a special grant from the government. I personally
9 would not be in favour of it, thank you.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: I think the first part of your contribution refers to the Keeping
11 Communities Safe document, which I believe we're coming back to next year, is that correct?

12 DIRECTOR DOYLE: Yes Cathaoirleach I'm -- Keeping Communities Safe is a large document
13 with a lot of work in it, one particular aspect has been raised by the union and fire fighters and
14 we are aware of this situation, we discussed the matter with them.

15
16 Indeed it's, the fire fighter that was involved in the discussion with you and the SIPTU rep, he is
17 actually the nomination to the SPC, so he is going to be available to the SPC at our meetings
18 when we consider the various policy issues and that section 26 plan is one of those. I indicated
19 at the Budget Meeting that that plan will not be brought before the members until the third
20 quarter of next year, probably the September meeting, and hopefully in the interim both the work
21 of the SPC in discussing the matter and the clarification which I'm sure will come from the
22 directorate will ensure that the members have sufficient information to make any decision on the
23 plan in that particular aspect it have -- it's one particular aspect of a matter, principally only for
24 the Bray Fire Station, and the remaining presentation and information contained in the
25 presentation doesn't reference it in anyway on that particular aspect, that will be for another day,
26 certainly a discussion with the fire fighters in Wicklow.

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. So the discussion on Keeping Communities Safe is for another
28 day, so we'll stick to what has been presented here. Cllr Tommy Cullen.

29 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: Chairman, thanks for the report, but Chairman I'm not going to get into
30 too much detail in the area of north Wicklow, but I just would say Chairman that north
31 Wicklow's gain is west Wicklow's loss with transfer of Mr Noel Dooley, a fire officer from west
32 Wicklow who done excellent work there for the Council in west Wicklow, certainly I think that
33 you have got a great gain there with Noel at our expense, but I want to just pay tribute to the
34 firemen in west and south Wicklow, that the voluntary men there do a great job. Congratulate

1 them and like to know when is the -- we approved a building of a new fire station for Baltinglass
2 a number of years ago, we have the site and planning permission, it was supposed to be built,
3 when are we going to have a new fire station built in Baltinglass, I'll leave it up to the lads from
4 north Wicklow they know more than I do. I want to pay tribute to the staff in west Wicklow.
5 Thank you Chairman.

6 Cllr RYAN: Thanks Cathaoirleach, Aidan thank you very much for the report. I think it's good
7 to have statistics like this so that we can know the decisions we're making that they are hopefully
8 going to be the right ones, I'm just also interested to know the idea of the National Fire
9 Authority, is that still something that's there, obviously standards in getting analysis done at
10 national level is something we would all be in favour of, it seems to be a sensible thing to have a
11 National Fire Authority, my understanding is there is one in Northern Ireland, what's your view
12 on that?

13
14 In terms of the -- I'm just wondering the main causes of the fires in the area, do you have a
15 breakdown of that? And particularly just with regard to smoke alarms, with what you are
16 saying, I have no doubt to say it's probably true, that the implementation of smoke alarms is the
17 single biggest thing to stop people dying in fires, smoke alarms are fairly cheap items, you can
18 get them for around a tenner, I am just wondering do you know as a percentage how many
19 houses actually have them currently? And if we were to do some sort of pilot of actually, the
20 County Council buying them and getting them installed in houses, because they are a simple
21 thing to install, have you looked at any pilots to prove the concept that it would make a
22 difference? Just looking at the figures, if you are saying over 12 and a half thousand dwellings
23 in the area, you are talking about a small cost to actually put in fire alarms?

24
25 One other last question, in terms of somewhere like Corke Abbey, which is covered by a
26 full-time fire service, what's the time differential if that's being served by full-time from Kill
27 Avenue versus a retained fire service from the Bray Fire Station? Thank you.

28 Cllr BEHAN: Thanks Chairman, first of all can I compliment Mr Dempsey on a very thorough
29 and well researched and extremely well presented report, and it certainly gives us a lot of food
30 for thought, for a whole lot of reasons. It doesn't necessarily mean in my book that it's the end of
31 the possibility of a full-time fire service in north Wicklow. It shows us how it can be done, it
32 shows us how much it will cost, it shows us the benefits, it shows us some of the disadvantages.

33
34 To my mind it's the beginning of a debate and today should not be the end of the debate, we

1 should use this as an opportunity to build our own information and also to seek the views of the
2 population that we represent.

3
4 Many plans that come before this body go out to public consultation and they do so often
5 because it's a statutory basis for doing so, I know there probably isn't a statutory reason for
6 putting this on consultation, but I think there is a very good reason to invite the people of the
7 county to give their views on what is contained in this report. Because there's no doubt no
8 matter what way you look at it, if you had a family member who died in a fire and if they died in
9 that fire because of a delay, or the length of time it took for a fire service to get to the fire, you
10 would feel that no money is too much. In other words it's all about what value are we going to
11 put on saving human life at the end of the day.

12
13 One of the very strong arguments I think in favour of the full-time fire service is the additional
14 work fire service can do, exactly the point Mr Dempsey was making about fire prevention,
15 education in schools and communities and also things like having a smoke alarm, smoke detector
16 programme and also checking hydrants, because I think people may or may not be aware of it,
17 but a lot of hydrants in north Wicklow I would say haven't been checked for a long time and
18 could do with being checked on a regular basis, so there are a whole lot of implications in the
19 report. There is no doubt Cllr Ryan said we'll probably be unable to do this without some
20 assistance from central government, but let's not forget the people of this county are contributing
21 massive finance now to central government by way of property tax, and this is an opportunity for
22 us to look at how we can actually return some of that money in terms of additional services for
23 the people of the county.

24
25 So I know we're at the beginning of the discussion Chairman, I certainly would advocate that this
26 report be used as a template for us to continue our deliberations on this whole issue. We should
27 put it out to public -- I propose we put it out to public consultation, invite the views of the public
28 on what's contained in it. I think we should take the opportunity to pay tribute to all of the
29 members of the fire service who work in retained capacity at the moment throughout the county,
30 who risk life and limb daily and nightly on all our behalves, and to thank them sincerely for this
31 service and also to compliment the Chief Fire Officer and his staff on the excellent job they are
32 doing, thank you.

33 Cllr BRADY: Thanks, I suppose thanks to the Chief Fire Officer Aidan Dempsey on that very
34 thorough report, an awful lot of figures and statistics contained within, and certainly a lot of

1 interesting reading over the last week or so since certainly I got this document.

2
3 Now a lot of it is directly out of the Keeping Communities Safe document coming from the
4 Department and the KFC -- KCF -- that document Keeping Communities Safe, is known by
5 most people as Keeping Chiefs Safe, as opposed to Keeping Communities Safe because
6 contained in it -- no disrespect to you...

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: We're not going there.

8 Cllr BRADY: I'm not getting stuck into that, but I think within that document it talks about
9 reduction of frontline fire fighters and doesn't talk about the fire officers, Chief Fire Officers and
10 we know it's top heavy here, and reference was made to the six counties, where we have one
11 Chief Fire Officer up there as opposed to how many we have here now. But certainly a huge
12 number.

13
14 I just want to ask how many of the Keeping Communities Safe document is used to compile the
15 figures here? Because just looking at the page number 9 there, if we look at the risk categorised
16 response capability, we're talking about crews of five and that to me wouldn't appear to be the
17 crew numbers that we use today, so are we working on the assumption within the format of this
18 report that section 26 has been adopted by this Council, because that has to be adopted by this
19 Council. I hear what you're saying there Cathaoirleach and the director that it will come before
20 this Council next year at some stage, are you working on the assumption that this Council has
21 voted to accept section 26 thereby reducing crew numbers? If that is the case I think that's a
22 wrong assumption to make.

23
24 Now just after the deaths of the two fire fighters in Bray back in 2007 there was actually an
25 awful lot of outpouring, which you would expect not just from the public but also from some of
26 our national politicians as well, and in Leinster House just after the two guy's deaths there was a
27 motion put forward, obviously expressing sympathies with the deaths of the two fire fighters to
28 their families, but also asking the current government at that time, Fianna Fail and the Green
29 Party, to implement fully the recommendations of the Farrell Grant Sparks report, much of
30 which hadn't been implemented, one recommendation was a National Fire Authority, that motion
31 was put forward, a call for the establishment of the National Fire Authority and also called for
32 the establishment of a full-time fire service in the Bray area and the interesting thing to note
33 there, that motion was actually put forward by Labour, the Labour Party, who as we know at this
34 time are currently in government, Alan Kelly is the Minister for Environment with direct

1 responsibility for the fire service, so it's disappointing that we haven't had the implementation of
2 the Farrell Grant Sparks Report and more importantly the National Fire Authority, what we have
3 is this document here, Keeping Communities Safe, which I think falls a long, long way short of
4 the key recommendations that are needed. Because I have always said it and I'll say it again,
5 until the operation of the fire service is taken out of the control of local authorities and put under
6 the auspices of a National Fire Authority, we're going to have parochial thinking, fighting over
7 finance and funding of the services, as opposed to it being done centrally within a National Fire
8 Authority.

9
10 Just a few points out of the document, questions around statistics and figures and how the figures
11 were actually arrived at, because I think, again no disrespect, I think there is a long standing
12 attempt to reduce figures, artificially massage figures with the purpose of ultimately stopping the
13 placement of a full-time fire service in Bray. We know when the fire station in Bray was built
14 and opened in 1984, it was deemed to be important enough to have it built as a facility that
15 would cater for a full-time fire service, it has all the bedrooms and all other facilities that go
16 along with it, and it was deemed to be necessary at that stage, and get the figures and reports
17 produced now, or trying to convince us otherwise.

18
19 The important thing there, in your report you kept referring to door to door, and that's when the
20 fire crews leave the fire station and arrive at a fire scene. We know a lot of effort has been made
21 over the last number of years to reduce the door to door time, and in your report here you say it's
22 averaging now at 6 and a half minutes, and it's reduced by approximately 2 minutes over the last
23 2 years or so, now interestingly enough I got a copy of the last feasibility study that was carried
24 out in 2007 that refers to a door to door time, as you talk about of 7 minutes, that was in 2007.
25 So are you saying the figures actually went up and then started reducing back down again? If
26 that is the case I'd like to know that, because back in 2007 they were talking about a turn out
27 time of 7 minutes, so it's 6 and a half minutes, that's the critical time.

28
29 What you're talking about, actually from the fire station to the scene of a fire, but we have to
30 remember that it's the 6 and a half minutes and I question that, because a lot of the emergency
31 calls are at nighttime, where there would be little or no traffic on the road, which would mean
32 that the fire fighters are able to get to the station a hell of a lot quicker than during the daytime,
33 and I'd say that the call outs during the day at peak times are substantially higher than 6 and a
34 half minutes, I'd like to get some statistics or figures around that, because we have to find out

1 where the real problems are.

2
3 Having spoken to some of the retained fire fighters, trying to get through traffic up through the
4 main street in Bray, we also have to take into consideration not just from 2007 but over recent
5 past there's been an awful lot of additional traffic lights put in, in different parts of Bray, adding
6 to the difficulties that the retained fire fighters have to experience, to try get through traffic and
7 up to the fire station, so when you talk about a turnout or response time of five minutes getting to
8 the scene of the fire, it's those critical minutes before that, actually getting to the fire station is
9 where time is lost, I think that's why it is so important to have a full-time fire service, to cut
10 down on those response times.

11
12 Some of the figures here, we have a crew turn out to Enniskerry after I suppose getting to the fire
13 station in five minutes or so, now again I'd question how you arrived at that, because those
14 appliances are 16 tonne, trying to get them down the 21 bends out to Enniskerry in five minutes
15 and having spoken to an awful lot of firemen, they would question those figures. So I would just
16 like to know how you arrived at those figures.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Ten minutes now, come on.

18 Cllr BRADY: It's very important. There's a few different questions here.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: I'll give you one more minute.

20 Cllr BRADY: That's unfair. I've waited patiently.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: There's a timer. This system now has a timer, you are speaking ten
22 minutes, under standing orders you have five minutes, I've given you ten. One more minute.

23 Cllr BRADY: It's a very important subject.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: It's important, you've a minute.

25 Cllr BRADY: I don't think to censor anyone...

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: I'm not censoring you.

27 Cllr BRADY: Give a little bit of leeway...

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor you're taking ten minutes to say something you can say in
29 five. Wrap it up, come on. There are other members want to speak.

30 Cllr BRADY: I'm going through the document and asking relevant questions.

31
32 In relation to the population you are working on the assumption that Dun Laoghaire will not
33 allow us into Old Conna or in your communication with the Chief Fire Officer there, and you're
34 taking that as granted, now the reverse would be the case if we did get a full-time fire service in

1 Bray there would be a reverse argument that we'd be able to respond to those areas a lot quicker,
2 but you haven't taken that into your consideration, I think it should be the case.

3
4 Just in relation to the table on page 8 where we're categorised in category C1, which would be a
5 medium risk. Can I ask as to how that was arrived at? Because Bray has an awful lot, a large
6 abundance of nursing homes that doesn't seem to be taken in, that to me would add to the risk
7 factors within the Bray area, but it doesn't seem to feed in there.

8
9 Just one other question there, just in relation to your costings and the full-time fire fighter's
10 wages how those figures were actually arrived at? You have a figure here on page 23 of over 3
11 and a half million euro for wages. Now I'm working that out on two crews, which you said of
12 roughly 12 guys that would work out, correct me if I'm wrong here that would work out the
13 wages of 294,000 a man, even if you were to double that to 24 lads, that's still about 150,000, so
14 I'm not sure how you are arriving at those figures, or whether I have got something wrong here,
15 but maybe you might be able to clarify that.

16
17 Just the final point Cathaoirleach, back in 2007 again, at that debate within Leinster House
18 another Minister stood up and I just quote this because I think it's important. After speaking
19 about it she says, "however the essential point must be made now that it is simply impossible for
20 a local authority to take on the additional funding requirement to make the change towards a
21 full-time service from within its own resources and called on the Minister, Noel Dempsey at the
22 time, to make additional funding available to Wicklow County Council to provide a full-time fire
23 service." And that was Liz McManus, a Labour Party TD for Wicklow, calling on the Minister
24 then to make available additional funding to provide a full-time fire service. I think the same
25 applies now, Labour are in government, we have a Labour Minister with responsibility for the
26 fire service, and I think we as a local authority now must use this document, because I think
27 there are grounds there that -- I would have a preference as to what formula we use, I know the
28 fire fighters would have a preference there as well, I think this document should be sent to the
29 Minister with those costings asking for additional funding, they called for it back in 2007,
30 nothing has changed bar the population here has got bigger, and they are in government and in a
31 prime position to do it.

32
33 Just a final point Cathaoirleach, can I ask whether this document has been actually future
34 proofed? Because it's talking about a population, it hasn't taken into account planning

1 permission granted on the old golf club lands in Bray, there's also huge development planned for
2 Old Fassaroe with a population in excess of 7,500 proposed there.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: I'll get you answered.

4 Cllr BRADY: That will push those populations up big time. But sorry we need to engage with
5 the Department.

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: I have to say if all 32 councillors speak for 13 minutes each, you do the
7 maths, how long we'll be here for? You have been unfair.

8 Cllr BRADY: Not many would have the same interest I would have in it.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: You are being unfair, we'll get you answers but you have to keep it
10 snappier than that councillor. Cllr Kavanagh.

11 Cllr KAVANAGH: Just one of the things I would like to clarify because I think this is what it's
12 saying here on page 16, the incident about travel time, are we talking about 80% call out within
13 five minutes and with a full-time service that would change to 90% call out within five minutes?
14 And just a second point is the rough estimate for the full-time crews, can our own accountancy
15 office here get clearer figures on those, the rough estimate seems pretty rough, that we can get
16 more accurate figures on those costings.

17 Cllr VANCE: Thank you Chairman. One would get the impression listening to Cllr Brady that
18 he was the only one interested in a full-time fire service for Bray, in actual fact the first motion
19 that came before Wicklow County Council and Bray Town Council at the time was in the mid
20 90s from Cllr Joe Behan and I seconded that to get that debate going. One would certainly think
21 that Sinn Fein were the only party that were actually looking for this, but the fact of the matter is
22 -- I did not say anything when you were speaking for 13 minutes, I don't intend to speak for 13
23 minutes, I'll make a few valid points, I think are valid in regard to this as well.

24
25 Can I compliment the fire officer on the report, that's as good a report as any report I've heard in
26 this Council, very thorough and precise and gave people all the information that was necessary.

27
28 In regard to, just like what Cllr Brady said, there are further developments in Bray and they have
29 not obviously been taken into consideration, that in my mind would indicate that if they all came
30 together that it would make a case for a full-time fire service in the town much more viable than
31 the figures we have at present.

32
33 In regard to -- I was listening to Cllr Brady saying this is a national issue and money should
34 come from national government, they haven't said that in any Council I have been talking about

1 in the last few years, this is the latest because he hasn't been able, as Cathaoirleach -- as
2 Cathaoirleach of the municipal authority in Bray, in our last budget in Bray there was no
3 mention of any full-time fire service in Bray. We had the budget here last week and there was
4 no mention of the full-time fire service in Bray.

5
6 Wicklow County Council have taken 3 and a half million this year out of the budget in property
7 tax, 2.6 million and another million at the budget time and there was no mention from Sinn Fein
8 or Cllr Brady about putting a million towards that and asking central government to add to it to
9 provide a full-time fire service for Bray. So what annoys me about this whole thing is the
10 politicisation of the whole thing by Cllr Brady in this regard, and not being backed up. There's a
11 lot of people in Bray who actually believe that he was sincere about trying to provide a full-time
12 service in Bray and when the opportunity came when there was millions going a begging here in
13 the last few weeks, not one person in this Council, or in Bray municipal authority put forward a
14 proposal to put aside a certain amount of money for, in order to encourage the government to put
15 additional money for a full-time fire service in Bray.

16
17 I would be taking anyone's position much more seriously if they backed it up like that thank you
18 Chairman.

19 Cllr BRADY: Cathaoirleach that's blatant -- for the record that's blatant lies, I'm surprised at you
20 allowing lies like that.

21 Cllr VANCE: Why didn't you put a proposal before anyone?

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Blake. Thank you Chief Fire Officer for the presentation, certainly
23 while the Bray people are fighting over a full-time fire service can I wish them the best of luck in
24 the Bray/Greystones area to providing that, my main concern is on page 23 where we're talking
25 about curtailment of current training activity, it's my understanding that the vast majority of good
26 services we have in the county, we have a lot of fire services and we do appreciate the service we
27 get, but the training they get in Bray Fire Station that results in the good service we have
28 throughout the county, my question would be what level of curtailment we might have
29 throughout the rest of the county and the cost factor it might have implications for us in
30 providing the service in the smaller stations?

31
32 I do appreciate there are a lot of them small call outs, but they are appreciated and the training
33 activities they get in Bray certainly stand to them when they are dealing with any fire in the rural
34 parts of the county. Thank you Chairman.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you councillor, that's an important point that there are ten stations,
2 in Bray -- sometimes in the north we tend to focus on Bray and Greystones, but there are
3 certainly other stations that have to be remembered.

4
5 Can I just briefly ask, obviously I would like to be associated with the tributes paid to the fire
6 fighters and the great work they are doing, and you have said Aidan that they are reducing the
7 turnout times purely from their own endeavour and hard work, but what are the constraints now
8 stopping that turn out going down further? Is there times of the day for example, and there are
9 fire fighters who are concerned that at certain times of the day it's difficult to get to the station
10 and I would like to know are there measures that perhaps you can introduce that can allow fire
11 fighters to get to the stations quicker and what are the options along those lines?

12 Cllr BOURKE: I'd just like to thank Aidan for an excellent presentation, I think it's very
13 informative and I think it's ironic that considering the manager was suggesting that we leave the
14 property tax rate alone only last September, why did we rush to the bottom to reduce by 15%
15 when this extra 2 and a half million that would have been retained in the county could possibly
16 have gone towards provision of a full-time fire service for Bray, I know it was alluded to by the
17 County Manager in the report, it's possibly regretful now we didn't take that opportunity to set
18 aside some of the budget, perhaps rather than rushing to give the full 15% reduction, if we had
19 reduced it to maybe a 5% reduction and put the rest into a full-time fire service the county might
20 be better served.

21
22 Because asking central government all the time for money is not going to be on in the future, we
23 want, taxpayers want tax bills reduced and if we are going to keep dipping into the national
24 exchequer for every time we have a crisis locally, there will be very little scope for tax reduction,
25 and as a taxpayer I believe that we should be looking for more tax reductions rather than at least
26 maintaining or increasing taxes, because money has to come from somewhere, it doesn't just fall
27 out of the sky.

28
29 I'd just like to ask Aidan has he benchmarked some of the, any of the details here against other
30 counties in terms of fatalities within the fire service, how many have we had in the last year and
31 how do we compare to other fire services in other parts of the country? Thank you
32 Cathaoirleach.

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, we'll let back in Mr Dempsey.

34 FIRE OFFICER AIDAN DEMPSEY: Thank you Chairman. Firstly to Cllr Mitchell, the issue

1 of Keeping Communities Safe and the section 26 plan is at a national level now and the content
2 will have to be addressed in order to get -- that issue will have to be addressed between the
3 national directorate and the fire fighters unions.

4
5 I'd like to echo Cllr Cullen's tribute to station officer Noel Doody, we have repeatedly sent up as
6 recently as November, verbally, discussed the Baltinglass fire station with the national
7 directorate. They have received swinging cuts in their capital allocation over the last five years,
8 and as it stands currently the allocation isn't sufficient to upgrade stations or to maintain the
9 current fire station fleet nationally, it's a national issue, I believe that the national directorate are
10 working to get a greater allocation, but Baltinglass fire station would in my opinion be the
11 number one priority in terms of infrastructure for Wicklow Fire Service.

12
13 Cllr Ryan in relation to a National Fire Authority, the decision of government has been to have a
14 national directorate in the department and there's no -- I have no information on whether a
15 National Fire Authority would or is likely, other than that when, if it were to happen the
16 advantages are as have been outlined by a number of the councillors.

17
18 Causes of fire are, in relation to what's causing fires within the county, is a garda matter, they
19 have the forensic science people at the scenes of crimes people to investigate what's causing
20 fires, 30% of the incidents we attend are of a serious nature, house fires, building fires and road
21 traffic collisions, the other 66% would be of a less serious nature involving outdoor individual
22 fires, just to update.

23
24 In relation to the smoke alarms, yes we would be ahead of the national trend were we to instigate
25 a pilot project to invest in high risk people and come up with a means of installing, what I would
26 recommend as a slightly more expensive expedient than the standard smoke alarm, there are 10
27 to 15 year smoke alarms that would be a better option in the longer term, and that will happen
28 from within the fire service budget in 2015 and we would look to the future then to see if
29 additional funding is required to roll that out across the county.

30
31 The national figure most recently quoted to me is about 75% of domestic houses have smoke
32 alarms and that the majority of fatalities occurs in the other 25% of houses.

33
34 The response time of Bray Fire Station versus Kill Avenue, it takes over five minutes to get to

1 the Wicklow/Dublin border from Bray Fire Station, for a fire service vehicle, and it is my
2 understanding that the combination of the six and a half minute turn out, average turn out time
3 plus the six and a half minutes or thereabouts to get to the border, that 13 minutes is what Dublin
4 are saying they can make it to the Old Conna area in, but I haven't been provided with any of
5 their baseline data, but that would appear to be what they are saying, and based on a travel time
6 from Kill Avenue via slightly better roads than are available on this side of the border given
7 congestion in the town of Bray.

8
9 The issue in relation to Keeping Communities Safe, I would like to assure Cllr Brady that I
10 reproduced that table as it was in Keeping Communities Safe rather than to delete the figures in
11 the right-hand column that show nine as being two crews. I wanted to be as transparent as
12 possible. That's the table taken directly from Keeping Communities Safe. We operate as we
13 have historically operated in all of our fire stations, and as recently as August of this year the
14 Health and Safety Authority, two inspectors from Health and Safety Authority came to Bray on
15 that issue and they asked me a series of questions and looked for a series of documents.

16
17 It doesn't affect the nine other stations, it's a specific issue relating to Bray and when I explained
18 the current situation the training provided to staff, the instructions provided to staff, in relation to
19 attending incidents and process of dynamic risk assessment prior to committing of personnel,
20 Health and Safety Authority indicated that they are happy with what's going on in Bray at the
21 moment.

22
23 They say they told me it's a national issue, they are raising it at a national level, so there is a
24 number of bodies addressing this issue and it would be my hope before we get to the stage of
25 developing our own draft section 26 plan that that matter would be resolved as a national issue
26 and we would simply implement the national policy.

27
28 It would appear from statistics that the response times did increase between 2007 and 2010/11
29 and have decreased thereafter, that there was a spike and it's back down to less than it was in
30 2007. That's the time it takes fire fighters from time of alert to roll-out of the station, offer
31 average of 6 and a half minutes, in my experience that will vary somewhere around 10 minutes
32 to as low, it can be very, very low if fire fighters are still in the station after a previous call or
33 training, but they will hit five minutes at low peak times, but there have been occasions when the
34 time it's taken the first engine to roll-out of the station has been ten minutes.

1
2 The figure of five minutes to Enniskerry, I've followed a fire engine to Enniskerry to a hoax call
3 and it made the outskirts of Enniskerry in five minutes. It is true if we had a full-time fire
4 service that we would have to recalculate the boundary between ourselves and Kill Avenue, we
5 would -- that boundary would automatically move and that population would then -- but only
6 with the agreement of Dublin Fire Brigade it is within their remit or Dublin City Council, to
7 decide whether or not they wish to do so, but it would indeed strengthen that case.

8
9 I specifically pointed out to the inspection team that I would consider Bray to be a hub of
10 nursing homes on a national level and that they represent a particular fire risk and explained that
11 we are currently going into a scheme in 2015 to prioritise those nursing homes from the point of
12 view of gathering pre-incident data, but they were, having pointed this out to them and given
13 them a list of the nursing homes, they were content that the category still fell in medium C1. I
14 was in fact delighted that they came on the 21st November, they offered to come later, I knew I
15 had this meeting coming up and I wanted them to stand over my application of their
16 methodology, and they were happy to analyse those details of population, of risk category and of
17 types of building, and they quoted me those figures in agreement with what I interpreted from
18 their documentation.

19
20 The figure for the fire fighters wages, it would take 55 fire fighters to man two crews, that's
21 what's currently provided in Louth. They have 27 or 28 fire fighters in Dundalk, 27 or 28 in
22 Drogheda, a total of 55 and that 55 then represents when you divide it into wages comes in at
23 around the 50 to 60,000 per fire fighter per year, with additional costs associated with personal
24 protective clothing, heating, lighting and others, so it may have been that I didn't present the
25 figures as clearly as I should, but the total number of fire fighters to man two crews would be in
26 the region, would be 55 based on the Louth model, it would be closer to 65 based on the current
27 Dublin model, which is a six shift system and the cost of a fire fighter would be in that region.

28
29 Future increases in population would increase and improve the argument for a full-time fire
30 service based on the parameters outlined in the table in Keeping Communities Safe. In
31 clarification to Cllr Kavanagh the -- currently from time of leaving the fire station to time in
32 attendance at an incident; Bray Fire Station is achieving 80% of its incidents in less than 10
33 minutes, if it were the full-time equivalent in Bray that would improve to 90% of the incidents
34 within the ten minute time from leaving the station to in attendance.

1
2 And to echo the point to Cllr Vance if we had a larger population, if any of the figures in the
3 table from Keeping Communities Safe increased it would increase the risk category and
4 therefore increase the justification for a full-time fire service.
5

6 Cllr Blake, the training in Bray Fire Station would be affected, it would be an administrative
7 difficulty that would be overcome, it would come with some cost, it would mean that courses
8 currently being undertaken in Bray which has one of the finest drill yards and training buildings
9 in the country, would be curtailed and we would have to then take our fire fighters to other
10 training areas, the training would be done. It would never affect the outcome of our annual
11 training programme, it would simply make it slightly more difficult, more administratively
12 heavy and more expensive, but I don't have any particular costings on that, but it would be done.
13

14 In relation to constraints on turn out time Chairman, it does relate to time of day as Cllr Brady
15 outlined, there's peaks and troughs during the day, we're on a road with a number of schools, and
16 traffic can be heavy there. We're constantly liaising with the fire fighters and with others. As
17 recently as last week we instigated talks with the crossing guards or traffic wardens on schools
18 road, so if there is an alert that, or they become aware of an alert that they will give priority to
19 incoming traffic, but there is a limit to what can be done, you have infrastructural issues like
20 traffic lights.
21

22 In the long-term we're going to have to give greater priority to people who live close to Bray Fire
23 Station and work close to Bray Fire Station in the induction process, that we'll have older fire
24 fighters who are living relatively longer distances away from the fire station than I'd prefer, but
25 they have been there a long time, they are valuable members of staff, I'd never consider changing
26 that, but the newer fire fighters when they are coming on stream, we'll have to take that into
27 account as an important parameter.
28

29 I haven't benchmarked the Wicklow County Fire Service, the fatalities in Wicklow County with
30 those in other counties, I am not aware, it is very difficult to do an accurate statistical analysis of
31 a county for fatalities because the number is so low, but there can be peaks and troughs, you can
32 go a couple of years without one and then have multiple fatalities in a subsequent year, they
33 would seem to be equivalent to other counties, but it would not -- I don't have -- I would have to
34 go away and check that in detail. And I wouldn't put my hand on my heart here and speak to the

1 councillors and reassure them without having done that, but I'm not aware of an issue in the
2 recent number of years' statistics, I have only been in Wicklow two and a half years, I tend to
3 look back maybe five years in terms of analysis when I'm doing it, so I need to look over a
4 longer period, look at trends nationally and locally.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay thank you very much. And as Cllr Behan said this is probably the
6 start of a process where we examine all the detail, we have a lot of information there to reflect
7 on, and I know that Keeping Communities Safe document will come before us next year, so
8 thank you very much.

9 Cllr BRADY: I made a proposal there.

10 Cllr BEHAN: I proposed, you might remember, that this would go on public display, is that an
11 option to consider?

12 Cllr BRADY: I made a proposal there just based on the figures and the population increased and
13 possibility of taking in Old Conna that we actually write to the Department and ask about the
14 possibility of getting additional funding from them as the Labour Party had put forward in their
15 motion in 2007 to fund a full-time fire service, because there is a compelling argument there that
16 we need to plan for the future here and there will be an additional, at least 10,000, people living
17 in the Bray area with Old Fassaroe lands, golf club lands and then the possibility of taking in the
18 Old Conna Avenue. Just one other thing, just in relation, there is a lot of emphasis being put on
19 Louth and Drogheda and that, would it be possible to get a copy of the PDA for Louth versus for
20 Bray, because I don't think we're comparing like with like. I know in Louth they are able to
21 respond to all different types of emergencies, ambulance assists in terms of people out mountain
22 rescues, they are able to go out, dispatch for that, whereas operatives in Wicklow aren't. So I
23 don't think we're dealing with a like for like and that would probably go some way as to explain
24 why there is a 26% reduction in call outs for the fire service, it ties in with the new PDAs that
25 have been implemented here in Wicklow, so can we get a copy of both so we can compare them.

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, if you want to put something together for a letter...

27 Cllr BRADY: I've outlined it there based on future populations.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: To be fair to the meeting administrator can you put something together.
29 Now Cllr Behan you propose that this go out on public display.

30 Cllr BEHAN: For comments from the public generally in the county, to be put on the website,
31 copies put in the library that happened with the last feasibility study in 2007, as far as I can
32 recall.

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: Have I a seconder for that? I'll second that myself actually, I think that's
34 a good proposal. Cllr Brady might put something together to circulate.

1 Cllr BRADY: I'll write something down here Cathaoirleach, yeah.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay thank you. We'll move on. We'll have further discussion on this.
3 We're going to come back to item number 9 because we have other business that we have to get
4 through before the end of the meeting, hopefully we can get to this before the end of the meeting,
5 we'll go to item 10 to note progress and preparation of corporate plan, report enclosed. I know
6 the legislation stated we were supposed to have corporate plan done within six months of the
7 election, however I don't think there is a local authority in the country that could have done it in
8 that timeframe, but I'll let in the chief executive.

9 CHIEF EXECUTIVE: We've circulated a short report, as the Chairman said, the legislation
10 provides that it be done within six months, but in the event that it's not, a joint report would be
11 made by the Chairman and myself. The guidelines from the Department in relation to the
12 preparation of corporate plans has just come down, we have a lot of work to do on the
13 preparation of the plan, we'll engage in public consultation and so on, we were also working on
14 an economic development plan, on a community plan, so there is a lot of planning work to be
15 done over the next few months, so we're set out on the last page of the report a timescale for it
16 and the intention now would be to work on it over the first quarter of 2015 with a view to
17 adopting a plan in March 2015, commencing a review of the plan in December 2015 and then the
18 first annual review of the corporate plan would be in 2016.

19
20 Obviously we welcome input from any of the elected members or from anyone else who might
21 have issues that they would like us to address in the plan. So if the members are agreeable to
22 that we'll proceed on that basis Chairman?

23 DIRECTOR: It would be the intention to go to each of the SPCs to explain and ask them for
24 their core strategies and how they are going to support their strategies, we'll also look at the
25 benchmarking of where we are currently and how we might progress, so we'll be engaging with,
26 as mentioned in the document, going out for further consultation, but immediately we'll be going
27 to the SPCs.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Thank you. Item number 11 to note annual report 2013, just for
29 note.

30 MS GALLAGHER: Circulated by CD.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay we're noting that. Item number 12 again to note the monthly
32 management report of Wicklow County Council, copy of that was enclosed as well. Will we
33 move on to taking in charge the following estates? We'll need proposers for each of these do
34 you want to make comments?

1 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: Not really, we sent a supplementary e-mail to the members about how
2 the various estates were taken in charge, I suppose I'd like to pay tribute to the team, I did before,
3 but on Coolattin Gardens this went through multiple court cases and at one stage where the judge
4 advised the developer to bring his toothbrush along at the next meeting if he didn't get things
5 done, that didn't actually happen, we then secured funding from the Department of the
6 Environment as well to get it completed, there was a huge amount of work especially from
7 Louise Casey and Conor and Davin Maguire as the rest of teams as well, because this was a huge
8 achievement. We actually got through it in the end. I'd like to commend all of those for the
9 members to adopt.

10
11 There is also a couple there at the end in Baltinglass and also in Bramble Glade where more than
12 7 years have elapsed since it's been expired and therefore residents are entitled to a plebiscite and
13 ask us to take them in charge. Both Bramble Glade in any case the estate is complete to a very
14 good standard. Baltinglass East to a lesser extent but that has a 30 year history at this stage, but I
15 commend all of these to the members.

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay we'll start at the top. Proposer for Malton Park, Carnew.

17 Cllr BLAKE: Can I ask a question on it? There was an issue with lighting, I presume that's been
18 resolved?

19 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: My understanding is all issues will be resolved there yes.

20 Cllr BLAKE: Fine I'll propose it.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald. Agreed? Baltinglass East, proposer? Cllr
22 Ruttle. Seconded Cllr Blake. Agreed? Bramble Glade, Ashford.

23 Cllr SNELL: Proposed.

24 Cllr NOLAN: Could I say something on that? It was brought to my attention by a resident of
25 that estate that, and it is, it's a wonderful estate, beautifully maintained, there are no signs at the
26 entrance to the estate to indicate that it is Bramble Glade or anything, a friend of mine lives up
27 there, I have overshot the runway several times driving past, because it blends in, there is no
28 indication that it's Bramble Glade, would it be possible to get a sign, just a small sign to say
29 Bramble Glade outside the estate or is that an issue for municipal district?

30 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: There is some very small amount of bond left there, we'll give this to
31 the district engineer who, small works might be required, he can use that money. So that's a way
32 around that.

33 Cllr NOLAN: Thank you director.

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Seconded by Cllr Kavanagh. Is that agreed? Okay, Chapel Lane

1 Heights, Aughrim. Proposed by Cllr Bourke. Seconded by Cllr Annesley. Agreed? Coolattin
2 Gardens, Shillelagh.

3 Cllr BLAKE: Can I echo the words of the Director of Services, it certainly was one that came up
4 on the radar for quite some number of years, they were expensive houses, wasn't too many locals
5 bought houses in it, they were expensive, but certainly I would commend Louise Casey on the
6 work she has done and the number of times she appeared in court on behalf of the number of the
7 residents, it's appreciated and to see it finished and in the completed form with the lights on the
8 road, certainly is appreciated and the work was done by Director of Services and Louise Casey,
9 very much appreciated, I'll propose that.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, seconder? Cllr Fitzgerald. Agreed? Dragoon Hill, Hollywood.
11 Proposed by Cllr Ruttle. Seconded by Cllr O'Neill, agreed? The Four Courts, Arklow,
12 proposed? By Cllr Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr Murphy. Agreed? Glenkeen, Redcross,
13 proposed by Cllr Bourke, seconded by Cllr Annesley. Agreed? Red Gap, Barndarrig proposed
14 by Cllr Bourke seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald, agreed? Thank you very much. We'll just take Cllr
15 Brady's proposal.

16 MS GALLAGHER: "Wicklow County Council are asking the government to look at the issue of
17 the provision of a full-time fire service for the Bray area, additional funding would be required to
18 provide the service, which according to ... this would mean a full-time service is required and are
19 calling on the Department to give grant assistance to provide it." (Quoted) Proposed, Cllr Brady.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Seconder for that? Cllr Lawless.

21 MS GALLAGHER: Agreed?

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Is that agreed? Agreed. Okay. Okay, item 15 to approve members to the
23 local community development committee.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: I'll let Joe in. There is an attached proposal by Cllr Casey. Cllr
25 Kavanagh?

26 Cllr KAVANAGH: Yeah just one question, that is about the list of -- the proposed list of people
27 to go on to it, just can maybe Joe verify how all the people were selected, were they each
28 selected through their own groups that they've come from? Just one I have a query about at the
29 end.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, I'll hand to Joe. Cllr Lawless?

31 Cllr LAWLESS: Just for the list of representatives that maybe it should be noted that Cllr Pat
32 Kavanagh and myself are sharing the position, thank you.

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Okay Joe?

34 DIRECTOR LANE: Is it the last name?

1 Cllr KAVANAGH: Yeah, sorry Joe, the reason I'm just asking is I believe that the other people
2 on the list here were proposed or sent by the groups that they represent, I'm just not sure about
3 the last one.

4 DIRECTOR LANE: Remember at the last meeting we had something else in mind, we had
5 somebody who specialised in possibly an academic, somebody that had expertise or knowledge
6 of education, social enterprise, social inclusion and say a bigger, looking at things from more
7 academic focus rather than locally, just local interest group. At the time we had somebody else
8 in mind, it was actually yourself that suggested it should be locally sourced then because of
9 Clermont and the links it has with education. We went to Clermont through IT Carlow, that's
10 what was recommended, it was IT Carlow from the last LCDC we went down that road.

11 Cllr KAVANAGH: Just to clarify IT Carlow.

12 DIRECTOR LANE: Through Clermont.

13 Cllr KAVANAGH: What I'm concerned about is I suppose the openness and transparency in
14 how people are put on to committees and boards. That they will come from the agency or
15 organisation that it's that agency and organisation that proposes them rather than they be
16 headhunted or cherry picked.

17 DIRECTOR LANE: No it was IT Carlow we went through as Clermont being an outreach
18 college.

19 Cllr KAVANAGH: And IT Carlow proposed him? That's great, I wanted to clarify that.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, proposed by Cllr Casey.

21 Cllr SNELL: I'll second that.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Snell, agreed? Well done Joe! We'll take item 9 and if we have to
23 extend the meeting for the suspension -- if -- will we take the option of extending the meeting
24 now?

25 Cllr BEHAN: I propose it.

26 Cllr LAWLESS: I'll second it.

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay we'll take this on so.

28 DIRECTOR: Just for the benefit of the new members around the chamber, Wicklow County
29 Council was a single standalone authority for waste management, we had our own plan from
30 2006 to 2011, we did a review of our plan in 2012 because things at national level were slow in
31 coming into being and with the Putting People First document we had a situation whereby the
32 changes that were happening on a regional basis were being talked about for the waste
33 management area as well. So we're now joined for our further work in eastern regional -- eastern
34 midlands waste region, which is 12 counties, for the preparation of it, our own plan is deficient

1 on the basis where national policy driven by EU policy was heading.

2
3 The national policy resource opportunity, they remind us of waste can be a problem right across
4 the country and in line with the reduction of the waste, like Kildare was a separate unit as well,
5 we had quite a number of policy driven entities, now we'll have three in accordance with the new
6 proposals for local government. That's us, you can see eastern and midlands region there. So we
7 are Longford, Louth, Meath, -- you can see there is the region, we have three regions now and all
8 plans for the region were launched on the 18th of November and we're now in a process of
9 looking for submissions with regard to the plan. Unfortunately it's a substantive document, they
10 are the three plans, it can be sourced on websites, just to give you an idea, as to the amount of
11 work that's gone into it already.

12
13 This region's motto, or new region new vision, so we're talking about 12 counties working
14 together, Dublin City Council will be the lead authority.

15
16 So we're looking at a population of 2.2 million, lead authority is Dublin City Council, we have
17 12 authorities constituent to that.

18
19 The document is divided into three chapters, three parts, introduction a new plan for the region,
20 structure and layout, strategic environmental assessment has been carried out. The regional
21 waste planning framework, purpose of the plan, planning framework, other plans, planning
22 procedures, again just that there will be a regional focus on policy. Policy and legislation, again
23 waste framework, waste treatment, movement, I think the members will be fairly familiar with
24 the hierarchy of waste and the whole drive for recycling. Again emerging policy, Wicklow
25 being to the forefront of this, refuse collection has been privatised for a long time now, waste
26 exports Wicklow Town we'll have seen the RDF that is transported from the Wicklow port.
27 Then I suppose the requirement that we would fit into a region and that the strategy and targets
28 and targets for infrastructure in that region will reflect the needs of the region. Again there is a
29 regional profile, it goes through all the specific characteristics, right across the region.

30
31 This is the major, one of the major targets in the plan. 1% reduction per annum in the quantity
32 of household waste generated per capita over the period of the plan.

33
34 Second target is to recycle more. Preparing for reuse and recycling rate of 50% of municipal

1 waste by 2020. Just as the figure for ourselves in Wicklow in 2006 that figure was 12%,
2 currently it's 38%. So we're moving in the right direction.

3
4 Less to landfill. Reduce to 0% the direct disposal of unprocessed residual municipal waste to
5 landfill from 2016 onwards, in favour of higher value pretreatment process and indigenous
6 recovery. Just on that, it reflects the introduction of brown bins and then continuing on that, the
7 three bin process and also we all will be required to pay by weight, which is the next phase of
8 that. So automatically we as end users will have our ordinary black bin, we'll have our green bin
9 and a brown bin. So even at the moment our brown bin takes an amalgam of stuff that will
10 change.

11
12 Just on the last point, the major issue for the users is how they are going to weigh the refuse,
13 what type of trucks, when the trucks will come, so it's a question of cost, I see in yesterday's
14 newspapers there was talk of the cost of supplier providing that service.

15
16 In the document you will see and be able to draw comparisons for the waste quantities across all
17 streams in each of the counties. Again in relation to prevention and reuse, the progress in each
18 of the counties, number of bring sites, you will be able to compare them, how we compare with
19 others in regard to the number of bring banks, number of bottle facilities, all the numbers of
20 schools we visit for waste prevention programmes. Then we'll deal with household waste and
21 how we'll collect it, the whole issue of household waste, quite a high number of housing unit that
22 is do not avail or appear to avail of a service. How the household waste will be presented in the
23 future, a bag of waste that contains all three types of waste will have to change, so I think the
24 SPC will be looking at bye laws with regards to presentation of waste. Just on the latter end of it
25 there is one that concerns ourselves, the disposal of litter and street sweepings, which is you'll
26 remember members would have seen in the budget there is a considerable amount of money
27 being spent on collecting our bins and the more bins and waste we collect which is a good thing,
28 at the end of the day the cost of disposing of that to a permanent site who segregates the waste
29 into recyclables and ones that are fit for disposal is a cost to us.

30
31 Our recycling centres are the hub of this particular area, driven by Maire and Robert here the
32 recycling centres are a major success story for Wicklow County Council, it's an asset that we
33 have that will have a future as far as the Council is concerned, they continue to provide funding
34 for them. The staff continue to drive for more efficiencies and also to drive for more goods to

1 pass in the door. That's really how we deal day-to-day with service providers on the ground, we
2 authorise, we work with the EPA and I suppose in market capacity is an issue for the planning
3 section, one of the items that will arise out of the plan is hopefully the various infrastructure that
4 is will be identified in the region to provide for waste recovery and waste prevention, for
5 instance at the moment it's unlikely that there will be a landfill granted planning permission in
6 the region, but we are -- whether this region or another will vie for the infrastructure to deal with
7 hazardous waste, which is entirely exported out of the country -- the waste that will be needed
8 for the facility in Dublin, Poolbeg, where will that come from?
9

10 As part of this discussion on the region as to who will be the lead authority, it is quite obvious
11 that Dublin had the better staff and when you take in the four Dublin authorities it takes up a
12 substantial amount of the population, and they had the capacity to do that kind of work. Within
13 the local authority -- within Wicklow County Council we put a bid in to run the enforcement and
14 regulation for the region, now this is principally because of the expertise we have in-house, and
15 so that's a matter that still hasn't been decided but we have put a bid in to do that, to drive and
16 collate the information and use our own historical output in that regard, to present our case, so
17 that will be, we'll just wait and see what will happen in that regard.
18

19 As you can see the large population which is the largest amount of waste, I suppose one of the
20 policy issues we are looking at is breaking that link between economic development, if things
21 start to move again, breaking the link between that and the greater amount of waste being
22 produced out of that.
23

24 Just to give you a bird's-eye view of what happens in Wicklow, the black bags ordinary bins that
25 go out, 24 and a half thousand tonnes, green bin 5711 tonnes, brown bin 109, segregated class
26 250, bring banks 1,900, so bring banks and civic amenity sites are doing their job, I mentioned
27 38%, so we're looking at they are the areas, glass, we'll be encouraging the brown bins service
28 providers, hopefully it's not a race to the bottom, it's something that's quoted with regard to waste
29 management in the country, this is now bringing a focus back into regularising it in a positive
30 way.
31

32 I don't intend to, this is quite a weighty subject in the plan itself and I don't have time to waste
33 the time of the members. A lot of work goes into that, but also just the tail end of it, you will be
34 able to compare how much we spend in the Council here compared to other local authorities, but

1 with regard to our comparative, from a population point of view, the members have supplied
2 significant funding during the environment section. At the end of the day the SPC will have to
3 consider the policy actions from the plan, I think 50% of the actions will fall on local authorities,
4 so a lot of work will fall back on the local authorities, so those points of the actions when they
5 are agreed at regional level after consultation and put in place, the SPC will roll them out and
6 we'll measure them up against what we do currently.

7
8 We don't feel that there's a lot of gaps in our activities I have to say. All our results we feed into
9 the service indicators, the national composition waste management is one of those areas that has
10 a broad suite of indicators and that information is available to the members, you would have seen
11 it, some of the indicators in the budget, we'd got details in the budget of that.

12
13 That's where we're at at the moment, looking to adopt the strategic vision, provide performance
14 targets, objectives policies and actions. That's our template for moving into the future of waste
15 management

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay thank you. Cllr Behan?

17 Cllr BEHAN: Well Chairman I can't pretend to say that I understood every single aspect of that,
18 but I just want to compliment Brian and his staff for the work that they do, particularly in the
19 whole area of the recycling centres around the county. And also particularly as I see Maire
20 Byrne here, in relation to the education work that is going on right across the county as a result
21 of the environment section's proactive involvement in schools, both primary and secondary, in so
22 many different ways, I think that is really the key to changing attitudes and changing practice in
23 the long-term, and I certainly would like to see as much of that work being developed and
24 encouraged into the future as absolutely possible.

25
26 I suppose I just have one suspicion about a lot of this plan and you kind of hinted at it yourself
27 director, particularly with the fact that Dublin seem to be the lead authority in this, and it is that
28 it's really a way of ensuring that there will be a waste stream for the incinerator in Poolbeg. You
29 have more or less I think let the cat out of the bag yourself director by saying you don't think
30 there will be any landfill in this entire region, the biggest and most populous region in the
31 country, that you can't see a landfill ever being permitted again. So effectively what we're going
32 to be told and I don't even think we're going to have a say in this, is that the waste of Wicklow,
33 whatever is left, will be transported into the incinerator in Poolbeg, and if I'm wrong I'd certainly
34 like to hear that I'm wrong, but I'm also slightly concerned about something else you said

1 director, which was you seemed to be advancing a case that maybe another incinerator might be
2 needed for hazardous waste in the region, maybe you can expand on that, am I getting that
3 wrong or is that what you were thinking is going to happen? And if that is the case where will
4 these decisions be made? Will they be made at regional government level rather than local level
5 or made by national government? Thank you.

6 Cllr MATTHEWS: Thank you Chairman. Cllr Behan hit the nail on the head, I want to ask a
7 similar question. If Dublin is the lead authority and they will drive this plan, it seems to point
8 towards fueling the proposed Poolbeg incinerator is that the case? Or is it heading in that
9 direction in your opinion? And then the closure of landfill, the environmental fund that comes
10 from the landfill levy how much is that worth to us annually and how much will we see in a
11 reduction if that is the case? And just, it's kind of obvious the word incinerator is mentioned not
12 once, thermal recovery and...

13 Cllr BEHAN: Added value.

14 Cllr MATTHEWS: I like this one, higher value pretreatment processes and indigenous recovery
15 practices, I think that might be reference to incinerator.

16 Cllr KAVANAGH: Just my concerns were the same, just a further question to add, just as
17 regard the user and pay by weight, would that apply to recycling and brown bins as well?

18 Cllr MITCHELL: I'd like to congratulate the environment section on the job which they're
19 doing, it does seem that figures in terms of recycling and the waste collection etcetera, hazardous
20 waste in towns and in the centres is much improved over what it is, and that's good. My greatest
21 concern about combined regional policy for this area is that I don't want to see Dublin's waste
22 coming to Wicklow.

23
24 The population I think shows the area is about 2.2 million of which by far the largest amount is
25 in County Dublin and clearly there will be huge votes in County Dublin which wouldn't be very
26 happy with any more dumps or waste facilities in County Dublin, and I do not want to see this
27 waste coming to County Wicklow. And I'd ask that the management here would be, advise the
28 councillors if there is any likelihood, as this process is ongoing, as to whether this is a likelihood
29 or not. If our waste is to be sent into Poolbeg it did seem to me the incinerator was too big, but it
30 doesn't worry me as much, if -- it would worry me far more would be Dublin's waste coming to
31 Wicklow, which I think in the past has happened and something we must guard against. Thank
32 you.

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay Mr Doyle?

34 DIRECTOR DOYLE: Dublin are the lead authority, I suppose I didn't want to go into all the

1 gory details of it, there was a lot of detail in the fire service presentation, but the briefing note
2 and outline that I sent, the summary that went out to you, some of that detail is in that. It point
3 out that only 72% of the infrastructure we need in the region over the last while. What we're
4 talking about, the only facility that is required in the country is what I said, hazard outside waste
5 facility, that will more than likely be hazard outside waste landfill, the country exports all hazard
6 outside waste at the time, it identified that's needed, it also identifies we don't need more landfill,
7 what they want to do, you remember the targets that everything has to be either recycled or
8 composted, so you are talking about compost bin, your food bin and then the black bin will be
9 the residual that will go to landfill or to the facilities, the waste energy facility that's on our
10 doorstep is one, we have a landfill that has a life expectancy up to 2020 I think, all the local
11 authority landfills will close, Wexford is closed, our one is full, so there is the facility in Kildare,
12 they are the two facilities in Leinster. So the idea is to drive recycling.

13
14 As I say that we would hope that the roll-out of the bins is essential for that. The pay by weight,
15 which is European policy Cllr Kavanagh, will I would imagine -- I would it's on average 10 euro
16 a lift now for most bins I gather, even if you use it every second, just a bag or whatever, we look
17 at for presentation of waste, because we want people to segregate their waste, ultimately the
18 permits that the operators provide that service will have to accommodate the provision of three
19 bins, and the likelihood is that if you are going to have three bins you will have to pay a charge
20 for your bin, so there is a cost involved in the management of waste.

21
22 The landfill levy, we don't see any piece of it, I think as it is ended -- it's government policy, they
23 wish to cut it out, it's prohibitive. One of the reasons why the RDF is exiting the country is
24 because it's cheaper to package it, put it on a ship and transport it for incineration, or waste
25 energy, whatever plant they go to in Europe.

26
27 The question is the members of the Council, it actually will be quite difficult to charge in our
28 recycling centres per weight and whatever, but it's something that we haven't put in estimates for
29 2015, there is no saying that some, one of the policies that might come out of this is that we pay
30 for it, if you're paying for it in blessing it tonne and you have no civic amenity site or recycling
31 site to go to and you are paying for it through the bin, it makes sense that the people in Bray,
32 Wicklow and Arklow will pay, so that's, that pressure might come on us as well.

33
34 There are facilities where you can buy coin, that you can -- these facilities can be provided by,

1 rather than go and collecting door to door, they might have a common collection point where
2 you pay five or ten euro, it opens up, you put in your bag of recyclables or brown bin bag or
3 black bin bag. They are facilities being piloted presently. I think I covered nearly everything.

4 Cllr WINTERS: Just in relation to one thing in relation to waste, at the moment I go to the
5 Beehive junction about three mornings a week going to Dublin and the smell from the landfill
6 site at the moment, we're here in the middle of the winter, the smell is absolutely disgusting, you
7 sit in traffic at that junction and I think please God let me get away from this junction, for the
8 people who live around there and work around there, it must be horrific to have that ongoing all
9 the time, there is obviously some sort of a problem. I have been out there in the summer it hasn't
10 been as bad as it is at the moment, I am wondering what are we doing about it and what are the
11 EPA doing about it?

12 DIRECTOR DOYLE: Really it is a matter, we experienced that ourselves, we report to EPA, I
13 haven't received any report from the EPA, they generally don't generate a report as to the
14 problems that are occurring, but certainly it's something that we do report to them, I think they
15 deal directly with the company involved themselves.

16 Cllr WINTERS: It's terrible for anybody that lives out there, it really is.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Thank you Mr Doyle. Okay we'll move onto the suspension of
18 standing orders. First one was Cllr Ruttle.

19 Cllr RUTTLE: Yes Cathaoirleach, thank you very much, it refers as I outlined at the beginning
20 of the meeting to the situation arisen regarding the proposed Blessington green way issue,
21 regarding funding which arose, the first part of the Blessington green way has been, built those
22 familiar with it know it's a fabulous facility, those of you who are not I'll outline. It's 6.75
23 kilometres going from An Ri by the lakeshore over to the carpark near Russborough, a fabulous
24 walkway, taking in lake, woodland and mountain views, and it's always deemed to be the first
25 part of the programme which was to put the walkway around the lake.

26
27 At the point in time that it had been done it was a operation between ESB, local authority, local
28 community, and lots of funding was brought forward, major funding from Wicklow rural
29 partnership, of which myself, Cllr Casey and Blake would have been directors, major funders of
30 that first phase of that.

31
32 We applied for funding to complete the matter to go around the full way, a study was done at the
33 time of a rating system for funding, what fulfilled criteria best, what ticked all the boxes so to
34 speak and the Blessington green way extension proposal was 2 out of 10 in Ireland in that.

1
2 Now unfortunately when funding came up we didn't come out of it as funded at all, appear to be
3 the only, only two out of the top ten were funded, yet projects in other parts of the country
4 received funding, various Westmeath, north Tipperary, various places not within that priority or
5 criteria list at all, the priority list appears to be completely abandoned.

6
7 At this point in time the allocations are made, I would be not interested particularly in getting to
8 the politics of it, but what I would be interested in is that this body was the main applicant on the
9 funding for this project, we were the main vehicle, that this body would express our extreme
10 disappointment at the lack of the funding coming forward for this project, to have a complete
11 walkway around the Blessington lake. The Blessington lake has always been considered one of
12 our premier gems, that had not been developed, had not been done, created by flooding of the
13 valley in 1940s, caused a lot of problems, my own family lost a farm on the lake, difficulties
14 were made for roads, for climate change virtually of the cold water of the lake, also for
15 disruption of traffic, difficulties for planning, a lot of things were negative to a lot of local people
16 about this lake. For many years we couldn't get access on to it.

17
18 Now with the co-operation of ESB the lake can suddenly become a good asset for the area and
19 bring a lot of people in, it's modeled to a great degree on what we saw in New Port, Westport in
20 Mayo and also the one we visited in England to have a look at that. It's a major success what
21 we've done, if this funding was achieved this circumference of the lake walk in Blessington
22 would be a major successful inputter of income and revenue to Wicklow, as it has done in other
23 parts of the world. But we're extremely disappointed what has happened, priority lists appear to
24 be abandoned, all sorts of criteria that we're not au fait with have been used to allocate other
25 funding, more funding will be down the way, I'm proposing this body should write to the
26 Minister for the Environment, Alan Kelly, who has responsibility on these grand matters
27 explaining our extreme disappointment at the lack of funding and seeking it be redressed at the
28 earliest possible opportunity to get more money in to finish off this fabulous project in west
29 Wicklow. Thank you Cathaoirleach.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you councillor. I certainly would second that. Because I spoke to
31 you previously on this matter, to go from second on the list to disappearing altogether, and let's
32 face it politics did come into this. The funding went to north Tipperary, we all know where the
33 Minister is from unfortunately. So it is very, very disappointing for everyone that has put work
34 into this, including yourself for this to happen to go through the proper channels and process, at

1 the 11th hour to have the funding taken away is very disappointing. Cllr Bourke?

2 Cllr BOURKE: I'd like to support Cllr Ruttle on this, I don't often get requests from people
3 living in Blessington for assistance, but I did have a couple of requests over the last day or so.
4 From people who were concerned, I redirected them back to the Local Area Councils, but I
5 would like to add my support to this situation, it's not good enough to see a project that was
6 number two on the national list being leapfrogged by ones not on the list at all, perhaps
7 coincidentally they happen to be in the Minister's own backyard, but that's beside the point, I
8 think we need to make sure this doesn't happen again and it's an insult to the local committee
9 who have been putting their heart and soul into this project, I think we should support them to
10 get this money back in place for them.

11 Cllr MITCHELL: Thank you. I'd like to support Cllr Ruttle on this, although I'm far from that
12 area, I think it's an excellent use of our excellent natural resources to produce a green way like
13 this, I think it would be excellent for the county as a whole to see it in action and an example to
14 other places, and I think it's a great pity it hasn't received funding.

15 Cllr O'NEILL: Yeah, I'd also echo Cllr Ruttle's concerns, I was delighted to be from a point of
16 view where we got a member our MEP for the area, brought a member to the forum to Brussels
17 recently, to search for funding for this project, but there is disgust in the area that this money
18 went to Tipperary as such, that we thought that -- we really believed that we were in line here.
19 But it's disappointing, but again what I have said a few times, I really believe that the time has
20 come now the ESB should be finished, should be out, nothing whatsoever to do with the running
21 of the lake. They did nothing for the people of west Wicklow and the old village under the lake,
22 the water was sheriff, as Tim Lennon said 70, 80 years ago, people had no choice they were run
23 out of the old village, either go or drown.

24
25 But ESB's role is finished long ago there, they don't generate electricity and again I would say
26 that I think we should seriously looking at the Council or board of works or whatever might take
27 a serious look at the lakes, because I think this type of thing will continue, till we grab a hold of
28 this by the scruff of the neck.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Ruttle, do you want to put some words to the meeting's
30 administrator? I'll let in other speakers first.

31 Cllr KAVANAGH: Thank you. I suppose I would like to add to that, first of all I would support
32 absolutely Cllr Ruttle's proposal but I would like to add that maybe we should look for an
33 explanation from the Minister as to the selection criteria for the funding and how this funding, or
34 what projects are selected the criteria used, because, for transparency reasons and if other

1 funding is to be applied for, we would need to know what the criteria is, I think they should
2 come forward with an explanation.

3 Cllr MATTHEWS: Thank you Chairman, I'd like to support Cllr Ruttle's proposal, we should
4 definitely write and try and find out why funding for Wicklow disappeared or why Blessington
5 was taken off the list, I am sure there are lovely parts of Tipperary, but Wicklow is one of the
6 most fantastic -- if we're serious about developing the economic potential of tourism in Wicklow
7 these are the kind of initiatives we need to support and stay on top of and not see them slip off
8 the list, just because the Minister happens to come from a particular area. Thank you Chairman.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: I hope Cllr O'Brien doesn't think we're being hard on Tipperary! We'll
10 circulate -- we'll get Lorraine to read out Cllr Ruttle's wording when he forwards it. In the
11 meantime...

12 Cllr RUTTLE: I'll write it out.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: We'll go onto the next suspension, we'll come back to that. Cllr Behan?

14 Cllr BEHAN: Thanks Chairman. It concerns the same Minister but a different issue,
15 nonetheless a very serious issue, it is that our homeless people not only in Dublin City and
16 county, but also in other parts of the county, particularly in our county and in the north of the
17 county. While everybody would welcome the fact that a forum was held in Dublin last week
18 which enabled the four Councils and agencies to agree what they were going to do, several times
19 the Minister used the words homeless people in Dublin will have somewhere to stay before
20 Christmas, nobody will be denied if they are in Dublin, we are 12 miles away from Dublin and
21 we in Bray have seen the effects of homelessness on a number of tragic occasions in the recent
22 past.

23
24 Now Chairman, I asked you before the meeting, but I'll ask you again publicly if you were
25 contacted as Chairman of this authority with regard to that forum, or were any of the officials of
26 this Council, I can ask the chief executive this question, were any of the officials of this county
27 invited to attend that forum or to make representations to ensure that we would get whatever
28 funding is necessary in this county to ensure that we don't have a tragic situation to deal with,
29 either up to Christmas or after Christmas.

30
31 But Chairman I just feel that it seemed to me that Dublin was all that counted on this particular
32 occasion, and with this particular Minister and I just found that hard to accept, I think many
33 people would. So I think we should certainly make our views known, if people agree with what
34 I'm saying, that we should make our views known in a strongly worded letter to the Minister

1 about this issue as well thank you.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks councillor, just to say I wasn't offered the opportunity to attend, I
3 wasn't offered an invitation.

4 Cllr SNELL: Again I was to give a brief outline to the members of how our meeting went with
5 the TDs in Dáil Eireann and it's probably an appropriate time to give a very short report.

6 Basically the meeting was attended by Cllr Fox as Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council,
7 Margaret Malone as chief executive of Wicklow County Council housing section and the TDs
8 picked the date and the time, TD Billy Timmins and Steven Donnelly were in attendance and the
9 other three TDs had personal assistants in attendance. Basically it all builds up to what the
10 motion or the suspension of standing orders here is about, it's about homelessness. It's about
11 putting roofs over people's heads.

12

13 On the agenda was the discussion on building policy, which anyone that's been following the
14 media in recent weeks there was an announcement that there will be 110,000 housing units
15 provided over the next six years, which again I felt was a little disingenuous, because 35,000
16 social housing units over six years, 18,000 up to the end of 2017, 35,000 up to the end of 2020,
17 which is of no consolation to the people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness now.

18

19 The main focus as well would have been on rent limits and we all know as public representatives
20 we went there, mandated by the members of this chamber, to make the feelings known of our
21 constituents to our TDs, who in turn would relay it to the Minister. The rent limits is a fact that
22 County Wicklow is the biggest, differential between rent supplement and the actual rents that's
23 out there is 54%, it's the highest in the country, and that's something that has to be addressed. I
24 know the Department are not moving at the moment on that, but certainly our feelings have been
25 made known, and I think the crisis is on our doorsteps and won't be averted unless rent
26 supplement is addressed by the rent caps or increase rent supplement in County Wicklow.

27

28 We all have to pull together in regards to Wicklow, it's very easy for people to sit on the
29 different, as some people would refer to them, and criticise but it's time for action. The reason I
30 say it's time for action is because we all know as public representatives that there is people
31 presenting as homeless out here on a weekly basis, and the fact is that a lot of members are not
32 actually familiar with the figures that we're talking about. In 2014 we had 128 adults present as
33 homeless to the counter of Wicklow County Council. 89 of these adults were males, 39 females.

34

1 But I think the biggest indictment and I suppose the most crucial change to this perception of
2 homeless people is that 90 families presented to Wicklow County Council as either homeless or
3 at risk of homelessness. 127 adults and 172 children. I think no child should be put up in a hotel
4 or a B&B, and unlike the Minister where they seem to be addressing it up to Christmas, they are
5 talking about there will be a room or a bed for everyone up to Christmas, and I would share the
6 concerns of the previous speaker. What happens after Christmas? What happens outside of
7 Dublin? We're representatives of County Wicklow and we have to pull together for the citizens
8 of County Wicklow.

9
10 There was a lot of contradictions of what came out in previous weeks, we have been told for
11 numerous months that the HAP payment would come in in January, it's now kicked down the
12 line. We were told people who signed up to the HAP payment would be taken off the housing
13 list, that was actually withdrawn last week by a spokesperson for the Minister. We still have no
14 clarification on whether that's going to happen. And again I'm really calling on each and every
15 one of us to show leadership. Leadership comes from within ourselves, it may not be popular to
16 do, but a situation just for example arose where a premises was looked at in the northeast of the
17 county, to provide accommodation, I assume other councillors got phone calls the same as I did,
18 that this accommodation would not be tolerated in the area, that it would be used as a wet and
19 dry hostel, and the fact was that it was never going to be a wet and dry hostel. It just didn't suit
20 the criteria that was needed, it was going to be used for families, families, emerging
21 accommodation for families.

22
23 I know there would have been councillors that would have told the minority not on their watch
24 would this happen and the like, but the fact is at the moment there is six units in this county
25 being used within our own local authority housing stock, being used for temporary
26 accommodation for families that are at risk of homelessness. To date this year Wicklow County
27 Council, through their housing policy, housed 13 families and individuals who are either
28 homeless or at risk of homelessness, and I feel that we as public representatives need to step up
29 to the plate. I commend the chief executive for taking out an ad in the paper quite recently,
30 having listened to the concerns of all members here in trying to fulfil the role to fill the vacancies
31 within the Council here, where we want to get our sites to shovel ready to proceed and I believe
32 that was an important step to take, as I say I commend the senior management on that.

33
34 Anyone who has been looking or following the situation will see that an advertisement was taken

1 out also for service providers in the Bray/north Wicklow area and also in east Wicklow, the
2 warrens in Wicklow Town is to be used as a step down facility, as opposed to an emergency
3 accommodation. But we can't do this on our own, we have to have the service providers coming
4 in. Each and every case is unique, each and every case is different. And that's why in
5 September, long before Alan Kelly and his Dáil Deputies decided to have an emergency
6 meeting, Wicklow County Council put together a homeless action team, who meet quite regular,
7 we have members of Gardaí, HSE, social workers, all the voluntary housing sectors and they
8 analyse and go through each individual case personally, because we're dealing with situations
9 where not every homeless person has an addiction, let it be drugs or alcohol, not every homeless
10 person has mental health issues, there is believe it or not, there is people there who just are
11 suffering, due to economic hardship, that we find ourselves in.

12
13 I'm asking for ourselves to be realistic in what we can do and show compassion for our citizens
14 in County Wicklow. Thanks Cathaoirleach.

15 Cllr BRADY: I'll be brief, going back to the last month, Cathaoirleach, before this kicked off,
16 these things come in cycles and we have a public outcry from some of our TDs in Leinster
17 House when we have a fatality on the streets, the same was the case in Bray a few years ago. I
18 put forward a question at last month's meeting around homelessness in the county, the cost of
19 putting people up in hotels and that, I did speak to the Director of Services earlier on and he said
20 he would hope to have that answer to that question for today's meeting, I'm not sure as to
21 whether it has arrived, I think it would be very timely to get the response to that, because it will
22 show clearly putting people up in a hotel bedroom as a means of emergency accommodation,
23 whilst not dealing with their long-term housing need, is a false economy.

24
25 So I would like the answer to that read into the public record, Cathaoirleach, as soon as we get it.

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Thank you. Unfortunately we haven't received anything from the
27 director just yet. We'll follow that.

28 Cllr FITZGERALD: Much of what I want to say has been said, but I just welcome very much
29 the fact that the forum was held and I deeply regret there was no-one working with homeless in
30 our county invited to the forum. We have many people in the county seeking to retain their
31 homes and/or seeking replacement homes, but I was slightly heartened by a letter from the
32 department to state that it was not their intention to make anyone homeless, that's vis-a-vis the
33 rent allowance, the attitude has slightly changed on that in the last month, but in my opinion it's a
34 little bit late to be quite honest about it.

1
2 I wonder if the unfortunate gentleman who died last week had not died in close proximity to
3 Leinster House would the issue of homelessness have been brought to the top of the political
4 agenda? What if it happened in Wicklow, it has as the representatives from north Wicklow
5 stated, or in Wexford would a forum be held? I want to sincerely thank Archbishop Martin on
6 his call for the forum, it's amazing in three days the number of people who get together to
7 discuss the issue, it's the biggest crisis in this county and country for many years and has been
8 dealt with in the Council over the last five years we have had numerous meetings on houses, it
9 brought it home to me last week, a family I was dealing with tell me it's the sixth time they are
10 moving in nine years, either through houses, distressed homes being sold or whatever, rent
11 allowance. So it is a major issue, it has been top of the agenda in this county, but unfortunately
12 only now become top of the agenda with the government, there are many people affected by the
13 issues, I can name four families in Arklow, one who has been given a date to get out of the house
14 by the 25th of December, which obviously we all know is Christmas, last week that was
15 extended for another few weeks through the work of Wicklow County Council.

16
17 But the situation is serious, it's a much bigger issue for me than water charges, because these
18 people won't get an opportunity if they have no home to pay water charges, that's what we
19 should protest about to be honest about it, in larger measures. I welcome the fact that some
20 houses, there is an indication that some will be purchased in the next few weeks, that's a positive
21 spin, but that took from last May till a letter from the Minister in November and communication
22 from the Department that there was spare money and it was to be spent in buying social housing,
23 I find appalling they only realise in the month of November with six-weeks to go they decide to
24 tell the Council to go ahead and buy homes in some areas of the county. I'm sure they knew well
25 in advance that that money could have been spent, it's only a small amount of houses, but it's
26 welcome to give relief to some people, but certainly in the first quarter, early in January, the
27 Department will want to get serious about providing -- I'm talking about Wicklow here, we need
28 to get some schemes going, I'm sure if we get a Goodall occasion that we'll be ready, shovel
29 ready as we say, just locally in Arklow we are in a dreadful situation, because as we have stated
30 we can't build any houses because of the sewerage treatment plant, that matter will hopefully
31 come to a conclusion, but it will take another four years, we can buy some but interestingly
32 enough the last week or so house prices have spiralled for whatever reason, they are either
33 unavailable or have spiralled, I know huge increases in the last few weeks.

1 So people are worried, people are sick, if you are coming up to this time of year with no house,
2 it's a dreadful situation. I seen figures for Dublin where there was 272 people homeless, I think
3 if you take comparatively in this county the population of Dublin we are not far off that figure, it
4 is disappointing that it was called by the Archbishop of Dublin, who is our Archbishop, and the
5 fact is there was no-one from this county, that Dublin saw fit not to invite anyone from this
6 county, the neighbouring county, north Wicklow, the situation in north Wicklow, the rents are
7 huge, but certainly everyone wants to -- I take Cllr Snell's point of view that everyone needs to
8 work together, it's the biggest issue facing this Council in the next three to four months,
9 everyone wants to work together. We have five elected representatives in the Dáil, 32
10 councillors, officials here, a great department of housing and everyone should pull together to
11 bring some solace to people who are actually at this stage facing eviction, homelessness in the
12 next few months.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Shay Cullen.

14 Cllr Shay CULLEN: Thanks Chairman, first of all I'd like to concur with all the sentiments of
15 the previous speakers. A couple of questions I'd like to ask, do we have a full-time homeless
16 officer within Wicklow County Council? Because I am aware that our neighbouring counties,
17 for example Kildare, have two full-time homeless officers and it's a question I'd like answered.
18 Again we need the support network around the families who are finding themselves homeless or
19 on the verge of being homeless, it's more than just providing temporary accommodation, it's
20 about the whole support network, to support these families, because it's a really traumatic
21 experience, I have had a situation of dealing with some of these people and it's just absolutely
22 dreadful what they have to go through, and in my opinion it's so important that we put the right
23 network of support around these people.

24
25 To concur with Cllr Fitzgerald, this fund that we've got from the Department to be spent by the
26 end of the year, it really doesn't make sense that we as a County Council have to try and find
27 properties within three or four weeks and have them bought to just please the Department, this
28 funding should have been allocated long ago and to be spent over a period of time, not to be
29 rushed, those are situations we need to address. Thank you.

30 Cllr MURPHY: I want to, Cllr Cullen said what I wanted to say, we must all remember that
31 homelessness is one side and a roof over your house, but the value of someone, the services that
32 goes with that, it's so important to give that resources. It's not just having no house, it's the
33 support, it's the -- there's a whole lot of relationships with other services that need to be built up,
34 and also every case is different, people shouldn't be a statistic, they just shouldn't be.

1
2 As we know, a thing I don't like saying if people can get through the system there are people
3 who are probably "not" a statistic, but just too embarrassed or whatever of not accepting and
4 acknowledging that they are homeless, and also being shipped from one area to another is not
5 fair on families either, because these people are living in their own culture, in their own town
6 and villages, they don't need to be shipped out to another 50 mile place where they have to
7 change schools, they know nobody, those are so important, that we need to address. It is
8 disgusting to sit here as 32 councillors to think that we are on the borderline of Dublin and there
9 was no acknowledgement of that. It is disgraceful, disgraceful.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr O'Neill.

11 Cllr O'NEILL: Just getting back on the, in that envelope I have in my hand there is a local
12 builder in Blessington trying to build 300 houses at the moment, private houses, but of that lot
13 20% will be social, and the big obstacle again is the big monster, Irish Water. We're going back
14 to the same thing, the same thing.

15
16 I rang Irish Water last week, I talked to an American lady based in Cork, who asked me to spell
17 Blessington and where was it? So I will be really frustrated there. I believe out of the allocation
18 that the Minister is talking about for social housing in Wicklow we might only get 100 houses in
19 the whole of Wicklow. So even with private schemes with 20% social housing, it's a sin, the
20 same thing, it's sewerage, capacity, levies, whatever. It's just so frustrating.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Thank you. Certainly it was a worthwhile forum in Dublin, it's
22 regrettable that we didn't get an invitation, I would say not just Archbishop Martin but
23 Archbishop Jackson as well, and the mayor Christy Bourke who actually does huge work, I think
24 he goes out most nights himself in a private capacity, so certainly it was a worthwhile forum.
25 We'll extend our regret that we weren't invited to the Minister, and if there are any future forums
26 I will certainly make myself available to attend, as I'm sure any future Cathaoirleach will, okay.

27 Cllr MURPHY: Sorry, Cllr Cullen's question wasn't answered.

28 Cllr CULLEN: Do we have a full-time ...

29 Cllr SNELL: I was just going to answer that in the absence of the director.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, it's getting away from us.

31 Cllr SNELL: It was something that was raised at the meeting with the five TDs, Wicklow, we
32 don't have a full-time homeless officer in Wicklow County Council but we do have someone
33 who stepped up and is doing it on a temporary basis and doing an excellent job. We are looking
34 for a derogation from the Minister to employ a full-time homeless officer in the position.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yeah. I concur with that councillor, the girl that is doing the job is doing
2 a fantastic job.

3 Cllr CULLEN: I'd like to propose that we do have a full-time homeless officer.

4 Cllr SNELL: We have already made representations to the Minister looking for the position
5 through the Croke Park agreement, because the previous position was vacated. So we are
6 looking to fill it.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: We have brought that up at the ministerial meeting. Okay. Cllr Lawless.

8 Cllr LAWLESS: Thanks Cathaoirleach, I'll try make it brief, I know we're running a bit late. It
9 has come to my attention on Friday we have, she's a Wicklow youth drug information officer,
10 and she's asked me to represent her here at Council level. The East Coast Drugs Task Force are
11 considering cutting funding which means cutting her job. I know she is only one person, but this
12 particular lady covers the youth services, all the way from Arklow up to Bray, she's one person
13 covering a massive area and does a massive amount of work, I have actually personally worked
14 with her myself.

15

16 She's asking us, that maybe we can make representation to actually stop her funding from being
17 cut. Just an example of work she's doing at the moment with me in Greystones, we have no
18 youth group at all in Greystones, she's come in, we've had focus groups in the schools, and out of
19 that we got ten students, which is quite a lot when you are dealing with youth, to come forward
20 and set up a youth group in Greystones.

21

22 From this we have done various different projects in Greystones, including the mural wall,
23 which some of the councillors know, these kids are also going on to do the leadership
24 programme, but the importance of her job is she is coming in doing drug awareness, drug
25 education and prevention, and the students that we're working with, are the age of 16 to 17 and
26 it's quite surprising the lack of information they have around this subject, so therefore if we don't
27 have this youth information officer within Wicklow, our children are missing out on something
28 very vital within the area, so I'm just looking here for support from my fellow councillors, if we
29 can actually just write to the East Coast Drugs Task Force and ask them to consider maybe not
30 cutting the funding, as she is one person covering Arklow right up to Bray. Thanks.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. So she's an employee of the East Coast...

32 Cllr LAWLESS: East Coast Regional Drugs Task Force. She works under the youth service as
33 well, she has done effective work in Newtown, Arklow, they are holding youth groups together,
34 our youth are very important, so it's vital we don't see any more cuts.

1 Cllr BEHAN: I'll second that.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Is it agreed to lend our support? We'll send correspondence. Finally
3 we'll read out Cllr Ruttle's wording.

4 Cllr BEHAN: Are you taking questions, I have a question?

5 Cllr FORTUNE: I have a suspension as well.

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: We're getting very close to the mark.

7 MS GALLAGHER: "That Wicklow County Council express it's extreme disappointment at the
8 lack of funding for Blessington green way extension, taking into account the high priority rating
9 the project enjoyed under independent assessment. This is a hugely important proposal for west
10 Wicklow and would provide a major boost not just the west area but the entire Kildare Dublin
11 region. Wicklow County Council is looking forward to this funding being forthcoming at the
12 earliest possible date." Proposed by Cllr Ruttle and seconded by Cllr Fox. Agreed.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: We'll send it to the Minister for Tourism as well on the recommendation
14 of the chief executive, which is not a bad recommendation. Okay. Now we're out of time
15 councillor, it's 25 to.

16 Cllr FORTUNE: Will you -- now what I was going to, to be put into the minutes, what I have
17 here..

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you want to read it out?

19 Cllr FORTUNE: It will take too long to read it out, if you want me to read it out I will.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: No it's on the suspension? We can put it on a future agenda.

21 Cllr FORTUNE: No it will be too late. Let me make a quick comment and I'll pass the letter
22 over to Susan.

23

24 Basically it's an appeal from members of the municipal district that planning application for
25 McDonald's restaurant that will be sited beside three schools would not be allowed. There is a
26 number of reasons like traffic congestion, traffic safety, the size of the development, surface
27 water drainage and proximity to schools, a brief summary of that, I'll give that to Susan for
28 minutes if you allow it rather than me going into detail. But this has the full support of the
29 Greystones municipal district and we'd like it to be considered.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: I would rather have a discussion on it rather than just reading it into the
31 minutes.

32 Cllr FORTUNE: We haven't time.

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: I know.

34 Cllr FORTUNE: In the circumstances I'm asking you let me put it in.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you want to submit this as correspondence?

2 Cllr FORTUNE: Do you want it now Chairman? I just want it noted in the minutes.

3 MS GALLAGHER: The first thing the elected members have been circulated with is a copy of
4 their insurance for 2015, it's proposed that members be covered under scheme B, they are
5 covered under scheme B for the last number of years. If I have a proposer and seconder for that.
6 If I could have a proposer and seconder for the minutes of the protocol meeting of the 3rd of
7 November?

8 Cllr LAWLESS: I'll propose.

9 Cllr SNELL: I'll second.

10 MS GALLAGHER: And also the elected members have been circulated with a copy of
11 barrister's opinion of the case to counsel in the correspondence from Irish Water in relation to the
12 release of information concerning tenants to Wicklow County Council.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, we can't have a discussion on this. We're out of time. We'll
14 circulate it.

15 Cllr WHITMORE: Just a quick question, is it the intention that we'll be releasing those details
16 before our next meeting? If not we can discuss the document at the next meeting?

17 CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Chairman the advice is we're obliged to release it, the advice is Irish
18 Water is entitled to request it and advice from our own law agent and from counsel is that we're
19 obliged to release it on request. We haven't done that yet. I can't say whether we'll do it between
20 now and the next meeting, Irish Water have indicated that we need a protocol to ensure the data
21 transfer is secure. We're waiting for that to be put in place, until that happens it won't be
22 released. But that may or may not occur before the next meeting.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Just to say as well that discussions taking place in relation to Irish Water
24 want to come and give a presentation, not necessarily through a meeting format, they are
25 proposing, now we are going to have a discussion on it at protocol, a facility for individual
26 councillors to go in on a one-to-one basis. We'll come back to the chamber on what format, I
27 would rather they came into the chamber in this format, they seem reluctant to do that. But it's
28 on the protocol agenda. Okay. That's it.

29 Cllr BEHAN: Chairman I submitted a question at 10 o'clock this morning.

30 MS GALLAGHER: I have the answer here. It's short. Question was; "Has Wicklow County
31 Council or the former Bray Town Council entered into discussion with Bray Wanderers or any
32 of the associates with regard to lease of the Carlisle Grounds?" The lease was signed in 2001 for
33 35 years from that date, there has not been discussion with Bray Wanderers or anyone else ...

34 Cllr BEHAN: Okay, can I get a copy of that?

- 1 Cllr VANCE: Just on the point of information, the lease was signed in 2001?
- 2 MS GALLAGHER: Yeah.
- 3 Cllr VANCE: That lease was agreed in 1994 when I was Chairman of the Council, I think it was
4 '95, I can't believe it took that long to sign the lease. It was for 35 years at that particular date.
5 Maybe if you check that out.
- 6 MS GALLAGHER: It's 35 years.
- 7 Cllr VANCE: From 2001?
- 8 MS GALLAGHER: No, no, from '94 it says...
- 9 Cllr VANCE: It sounded like 2001.
- 10 MS GALLAGHER: No it says from that date.
- 11 Cllr VANCE: Can you check that out?
- 12 Cllr VANCE: It was agreed in 1994.
- 13 Cllr WHITMORE: Can I ask if possible we hold this piece of correspondence over to the next
14 meeting, the policy framework and what's happening with Irish Water is changing on a daily and
15 weekly basis, really I've had a quick look at the legal advice and it essentially says Wicklow
16 County Council can be reasonably requested to do this and enable Irish Water to perform their
17 functions, however I would like to wait and see what private landlords are asked to do, and
18 because I would consider that our responsibilities would be on a par with what private landlords
19 are requested, so I think rather than start to rush, if it was possible to wait until January and have
20 a bit of further discussion on it and perhaps the climate might have changed.
- 21 Cllr SNELL: I'd also like to second that Cathaoirleach, if I bring your attention to just paragraph
22 27 on that, it refers here to Irish Water indicated it was developing a secure file transfer
23 mechanism to facilitate the transfer of data between it and local authorities, it's only developing
24 this secure file transfer, we shouldn't be transferring any data, I'm sure the Data Protection
25 Commissioner wouldn't be happy until that's up and established, so therefore while they're
26 developing it, when they have it developed come back to us.
- 27 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. I'll discuss that.
- 28 CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Chairman, it's unlikely that it will be handed over before the next
29 meeting, I want to emphasise the legal advice is unequivocal, we're obliged to hand over the
30 documentation. Submitted by Cllr Snell, in relation to the European directive on data protection
31 was given to the counsel who advised us and again the advice of the law agent and the counsel
32 who advised us is that legally we're obliged to do it. I don't expect it will be handed over before
33 the next Council meeting having regard to the fact that Christmas and the new year is
34 intervening, but I can't give an absolute guarantee on that, we have to comply with the law, we

1 are an organ of the State and ultimately we are obliged to comply with the law, but I note what
2 the councillors are asking and insofar as it's possible, I'll endeavour to facilitate that. But just to
3 emphasise I'm not guaranteeing that.

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

5 Cllr MITCHELL: When is the next meeting?

6 MS GALLAGHER: Not the first Monday in January, the second, is it the 8th or the 12th? Not
7 the first Monday, it skips because of the new year.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Protocol meeting now. Happy Christmas to everyone else.

9 CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Happy Christmas to you and to all the councillors.

10

11 Meeting concluded.

12

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