

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN  
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY BUILDINGS, WICKLOW ON MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup>  
APRIL 2015, COMMENCING 2.00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:**

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

**APOLOGIES:**

**CLLR. P. VANCE**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**MR. B. DOYLE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
MR. D. O'BRIEN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MR. S. QUIRKE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MR. T. MURPHY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MS. L. LYNCH, HEAD OF FINANCE  
MR. L. FITZPATRICK, HEAD OF IS  
MS. L. GALLAGHER, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR  
MS. C. FLOOD, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
MR. M. GEANEY, A/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
MS. T. O'BRIEN, A/SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
MS. S. WALSH, A/SENIOR PLANNER  
MS. D. WHITFIELD, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

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**Votes of sympathy**

Elected members passed a vote of sympathy to the families of the late Mr Jimmy Cleary, Ms. Miriam Barton, Mr. Joe Doyle, Mr. John Malcolm and Ms. Jacqueline Lewis. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

**ITEM NO. 12**

**To note the Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2014**

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Casey, seconded by Cllr. J. Ryan and agreed to defer Item no. 12 for discussion by the Local Community Development Committee, prior to being considered by full Council.

**Request for Suspension of Standing Orders:**

Cllr. J. Brady requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss the potential closure of the health clinic in Roundwood which he said he understood to be closing at the end of the month. This was seconded by Cllr. N. Lawless.

Cllr. P. Casey advised that he understood the HSE had made a statement to the effect that there was no proposed closure which was concurred by Cllr. D. Nolan and Cllr. S. Cullen. The proposal was put to a vote and was defeated by a margin of 15 votes for, 15 votes against and 2 not present viz:-

**FOR:** CLLRS. J. BRADY, T. CULLEN, P. FITZGERALD, T. FORTUNE, P. KAVANAGH, N. LAWLESS, S. MATTHEWS, M. MCDONALD, M. MURPHY, D. NOLAN, O. O BRIEN, G. O NEILL, J. SNELL, B. THORNHILL AND J. WHITMORE (15)

**AGAINST:** CLLRS. T. ANNESLEY, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, P. CASEY, S. CULLEN, P. DORAN, C. FOX, P. KENNEDY, G. MCLOUGHLIN, D. MITCHELL, J. RUTTLE, J. RYAN, E. TIMMINS, G. WALSH AND I. WINTERS (15)

**NOT PRESENT:** CLLRS. J. BEHAN AND P. VANCE. (2)

Cllr. G. O'Neill requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss the number of evictions in County Wicklow which he described as a crisis. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. J. Brady and it was agreed to have a discussion at the end of the meeting.

#### **ITEM NO. 1**

**To confirm and sign minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015.**

Ms. L. Gallagher advised of an amendment to the minutes circulated in that the line "*as there was an annual cost for maintenance of €10,000 per annum*" bullet point 7, on page 7 should be deleted as this was incorrect.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Ryan seconded by Cllr. P. Casey and agreed to confirm and sign minutes of Ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2014 with amendment.

#### **ITEM NO. 2**

**To consider the disposal of 2.85 acres or thereabouts of land at Whitegates, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow to Wicklow Rovers Association Football Club by way of extension of the terms of the current lease for a further period of 15 years from June 2030 to June 2045.**

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. P. Casey and agreed to dispose of 2.85 acres or thereabouts of land at Whitegates, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow to Wicklow Rovers Association Football Club by way of extension of the terms of the current lease for a further period of 15 years from June 2030 to June 2045.

#### **ITEM NO. 3**

**To consider the disposal of 0.0837 acres or thereabouts of land in the townland of Drummin, Annamoe, Co. Wicklow to Stephen Mooney, Four Winds, Drummin, Annamoe, Co. Wicklow.**

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Casey, seconded by Cllr. S. Cullen and agreed to dispose of 0.0837 acres or thereabouts of land in the townland of Drummin, Annamoe, Co. Wicklow to Stephen Mooney, Four Winds, Drummin, Annamoe, Co. Wicklow.

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

**To consider entering into a Section 85 agreement (Local Government Act 2001) with Kildare County Council for the expansion joint replacement at Dargle Road Interchange Bridge and Wingfield Interchange Bridge under the Leinster Bridge Expansion Joint Replacement Contract 2015.**

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Ruttle, seconded by Cllr. C. Fox and agreed to enter into a Section 85 agreement (Local Government Act 2001) with Kildare County Council for the expansion joint replacement at Dargle Road Interchange Bridge and Wingfield Interchange Bridge under the

Leinster Bridge Expansion Joint Replacement Contract 2015. Cllr. P. Kavanagh asked to be abstained from the proposal.

#### **ITEM NO. 5**

#### **To receive annual report from the Wicklow County Council Audit Committee for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014**

Mr. T. Gregan, Chairman and Mr. Noel Geraghty, Vice Chairman attended the meeting to present the annual report of the Wicklow County Council Audit Committee for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2014 as follows and which was circulated to the elected members.

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I would like to thank you for the opportunity to address the Council on the activities of the Wicklow County Council Audit Committee for the 12 month period up to 31st December 2014.

The Wicklow County Council Audit Committee was initially established in 2007 under the Local Government (Business Improvements Districts) Act 2005. Following the May 2014 local elections, the Audit Committee was re-established. The membership of this committee comprises:

- Mr. Tom Gregan, Chairman
- Mr. Noel Geraghty, Vice Chairman
- Councillor Pat Casey
- Ms. Mary Savage
- Councillor Edward Timmins

The Committee is supported and assisted by Ms. Loraine Lynch, Mr. Derek Keyes, Ms. Margaret Connolly, Ms. Máire Halvey and Mr. Thomas Murphy.

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

The functions of the Audit Committee are as prescribed by Section 59 of the Local Government Act 2014 and include:

- To review the financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the Local Authority
- To foster the development of best practice in the performance by the Local Authority of its internal audit function
- To review any audited financial statement, Auditor's Report or Auditor's Special Report in relation to the Local Authority and assess any actions taken within that Authority by its Chief Executive in response to such a statement or report, and report its findings to the Authority.
- To assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the Local Authority's performance of its functions

- To review systems that are operated by the Local Authority for the management of risks
- To review the findings and recommendations of the national oversight and audit commission (NOAC) and the response of the Chief Executive to these and take further action as appropriate.

Each year, we meet between 5 and 6 times and indications are that our workload is likely to increase, having regard to the Departments increased focus on oversight matters.

### **Assignments completed by the Internal Audit Team over the last 12 months**

The Audit Committee welcomed the completion of the following assignments over the last year:

- **Debt Management Procedures**  
The objective of this review was to assess the debt collection procedures in Wicklow County Council and to report on the operation of the Debt Collection Unit. The review was focussed on the major revenue streams of the Council, which are detailed in Appendix 7 to the Annual Financial Statement each year. These are Commercial Rates, Rents & Annuities, Commercial Water and Housing Loans. The review included analysis of data obtained from the financial management system and discussions with the relevant staff involved in the various processes in each category of income.

#### **Summary of findings**

The process of change in evolving the Revenue Section into a fully resourced and functioning Debt Collection Unit has commenced. It is recommended that a series of targets be drafted setting out the strategic direction in which it is intended to develop the section. In tandem with this exercise realistic timelines should be estimated. This “roadmap” could then be used as an objective measure of progress and indeed a mechanism to identify specific impediments where they arise. In this way issues which arise can be addressed in a timely manner.

- **Payroll**  
The aim of the audit is to review the in-house policies, practices and procedures surrounding payroll operations and report the findings.

The review included

- Discussions with management and staff
- Review of documentation
- Sample testing of payroll files, operations, inputs and outputs.

A central objective of the audit was to provide assurance to management on the accuracy and integrity of the payroll function.

The report summarises the payroll process and reports briefly on each of the main generic headings i.e.

Wages  
Salaries  
Pensions  
Retained Firefighters  
Councillors

### **Summary of findings**

The Payroll Section operates in a very strong control environment. The staff are well trained and have a great deal of proprietary technical knowledge. The section is well managed and individual files are maintained to a high standard. There is a good working relationship with Corporate Affairs and staff queries are attended to promptly and courteously. Based on the review and the tests carried out it is our opinion that the internal controls are operating effectively and risks are being effectively managed and it is possible to give a positive assurance on the operation of the Payroll Section..

### **Procedural Compliance – Cash Receipting**

The aim of this audit was to review the in-house policies, procedures and day-to-day practices surrounding cash receipting in various locations and report the findings.

The review included,

Discussions with local management and relevant staff  
Review of policy and procedural documentation  
Inspection of practices at a number of selected locations as follows  
Revenue Section  
Housing Section  
Post Room (Cash/Cheque handling)  
Various Branch Libraries  
Arklow Municipal District  
Bray Municipal District Office  
Baltinglass Municipal District Office

### **Summary of findings**

In general it was found that procedures were being followed however similar issues arose across locations. A common fault was the use the same login details among cashiers. It must be recorded that there were little or no reported difficulties with lodgements in the areas reviewed.

The report as circulated contains a number of recommendations, the majority of which we would consider to be low risk.

- **Business Continuity - Data Recovery**

The aim of this review was to assess the Data Recovery and Business Continuity procedures in Wicklow County Council and to report the findings. The review was focused on the in-house policies and procedures of the I.T. Department. The purpose was to assess the preparedness of the organisation in the event of a catastrophic failure of the IT systems and the consequent effects on the various departments within the organisation. IT is a complex and specialised area and in the absence of any inherent insight or understanding this report can only attempt to assess some superficial questions regarding Business Continuity – Disaster Recovery. It does not purport to any expertise, insight or technical knowledge of the IT systems or their management.

### **Summary of findings**

- The catalogue of services under the Government cloud initiative will facilitate a hosting service which will be used as a disaster recovery location
- Back up tapes are regularly tested as part of file restoration recovery procedures
- A formal business Continuity / Disaster Recovery Plan is evolving from Government Cloud & Cross Sectoral initiatives
- The I.T. staff are very experienced and have an impressive array of proprietary knowledge. The organisation is heavily dependent on this expertise.

### **Procurement**

The Audit Committee has continually highlighted the importance of good procurement practice. Management's commitment to this very important role was underpinned by the appointment of Ms. Fiona Flynn to the position of Procurement Officer circa 2 years ago.

Ms. Flynn made a comprehensive presentation to our Committee in February 2015 and I will allude to this in greater detail in next years Annual Report to the Council.

In the meantime, I am pleased to report that a significant amount of work is being carried out in this area which is becoming increasingly more specialised.

### **Annual Audit Plan**

The Annual Audit Plan is in the process of being finalised. The plan is being prepared in consultation with the Chief Executive, Directors of Services and the forthcoming assignments will reflect the current focus on the need to achieve further efficiencies and savings etc. The list of assignments completed will be included in future reports to the Council.

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

It was with great sadness that we learned of the untimely passing of our colleague, Mr. Conor Cummins, Local Government Auditor. Mr. Cummins had previously attended a

number of meetings of the Audit Committee and had, on many occasions provided support and advice to us.

Mr. Cummins' interim placement Mr. Eamonn Daly, kindly agreed to attend our December meeting. This was a useful opportunity for the committee to exchange views with the Local Government Auditor on a number of issues.

### **Training**

Following the recent legislative changes in relation to Audit Committees, a series of information meetings were arranged by the IPA. These meetings were attended by a number of Committee Members and found to be very informative in relation to the new regulations.

### **Conclusion**

We would like to place on record our thanks to the Internal Audit Unit for their support and assistance over the last 12 months. It is clear that central government is placing an ever greater emphasis on the internal audit function in Local Authorities.

I would like to assure the Council that the Committee will continue to play an active role in improving the focus on value for money throughout the Council, promoting good accounting practices and ensuring better and more informed decision making.

I would like to record our appreciation for the ongoing co-operation and assistance received from the Chief Executive, Management and staff of Wicklow County Council.

I would also like to thank the Members of Wicklow County Council for your continuous support.

Mr. Tom Gregan, Chairman,  
Wicklow County Council Audit Committee

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The Cathaoirleach and elected members thanked the Audit Committee for their work carried out during the year. The following queries were raised/made:

- Have issues such as the recent procurement of bitumen been raised by the Local Government Auditor with the Audit Committee?
- Has the Audit committee a role in examining fines incurred by the Council and reporting back to the Council on these matters?
- Was the Audit committee aware of the fine imposed and are there any procedures in place to ensure that future fines if any are highlighted to the Audit Committee?
- What is the view of the Audit Committee in relation to the matter of the bitumen procurement and what safeguards are in place to ensure this is not repeated.

Mr. Noel Geraghty thanked the elected members for their support and advised of the Audit Committees role which meets approximately 5 – 6 times annually. He advised that the committee’s role is limited to the reports received from the internal audit function and while one cannot give assurances that something will never happen again the focus of the committee is to ensure that the procurement process is in place. He said that the committee has recommended that if there is any external audit being conducted into the affairs of Wicklow County Council that would impact on finance then this would be notified to the internal audit function at the earlier opportunity.

#### **ITEM NO. 6**

**To consider the ‘First Chief Executive’s Report on Pre-Draft Consultation’ for the Wicklow County Development Plan, 2016 – 2022 and to consider the issuing of directions regarding the preparation of the Draft Development Plan.**

Des O Brien, DOS indicated that the members had been circulated with the Wicklow County Development Plan, 2016 – 2022, first Chief Executive’s report on the Pre-Draft consultation for the Wicklow County Development Plan report. He pointed out that it was a statutory requirement to report on all submissions made.

He advised that the process was at direction stage of the plan and that the Council viewed the preparation of the Plan as a collaborative process between the elected members and the executive and that it was intended to further consult and work with the elected members. He suggested dealing with the core strategy in the first instance followed by the directions.

The Cathaoirleach advised that it was not intended to get into specifics but simply to agree the strategy. He opened the discussion to the meeting.

Cllr. V. Blake, on behalf of the Planning SPC thanked the Director of Services and staff of the planning department for the very comprehensive breakdown of the strategy at SPC level and referred to the number of meetings held to date with the public. He advised that there was a substantial amount of public consultation held and also very good outside attendance.

Proposed Member Directions under Section 11(4) of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (As amended) were circulated to the elected members as follows:-

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#### **WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 20-16 – 2022 PROPOSED MEMBER DIRECTIONS UNDER SECTION 11(4) OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000 (AS AMENDED) (Set out organised by elected member name, in alphabetical order)**

**CLLR JOE BEHAN**

**TOPIC: CORE STRATEGY & POPULATION**

**Proposed direction:** To direct the Chief Executive to increase the total projected population of the County in 2031 from the suggested 185,000 (Option 4) to 203,400 (Option 3) and to distribute the increased population/housing pro rata throughout all settlements in the County.

**Reason:** To address the severe shortage of housing, both private and public, in the county which has caused a restricted supply of affordable and social housing and forced many families into homelessness and migration from the county.

**CLLR STEPHEN MATTHEWS**



## TOPIC 1: CORE STRATEGY

**Proposed direction (1):** To accept the Chief Executive's recommendation to extend the 2022 population target to 2028 as it is consistent with RPG and CSO figures and to designate 70% of the growth to the Metropolitan and large/moderate growth towns.

**Reason:** The recommendation is consistent with the RPG and in the interest of proper planning and sustainable development for Co Wicklow.

**Proposed direction (2):** To accept the Chief Executive's recommendation that 2/3 of population growth will be aimed at locations with access to public transport as this is reasonable but continued efforts must be made to increase pedestrian and cycleway access to public transport nodes within these locations, which can be addressed in the policy crafting stage.

**Reason:** In the interest of sustainable public transport policy and proper planning.

**Proposed direction (3):** That the Core Strategy clearly identifies the extension of the LUAS to Bray and its environs as a key component of the strategy.

**Reason:** The LUAS extension to Bray and environs is deemed a critical strategic transport project, as it is a key component in the core strategy and for addressing N11 congestion.

## TOPIC 2: PROPOSED POLICY OBJECTIVES

**Proposed direction (4):** To accept all proposed policy objectives stated in particular:

- (a) To accept the recommendation to improve public transport links to Dublin and at policy stage that there will be a concentration on improving access to public transport nodes within towns through linked walkways and cycle paths to facilitate uptake and support provided services particularly in Bray, Greystones and Wicklow.
- (b) That the recommendation to set out a development and design standard should comply with Guidelines for Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas.
- (c) That a policy is formed on the recommendation to include objectives in reference to serviced sites provision.
- (d) That a policy is formed to achieve the recommendation to promote measures to reduce energy demand, reduce GHG emissions and adapt to climate change by high energy efficiency design standards in new developments and the setting of a passive/A rated design standard.
- (e) That the recommendation to include reservation of land for schools need on land use zoning maps and that the new County Development Plan clearly articulate the zoning principles to be utilised in local plans contained within the plan and those to be adopted afterwards, which shall include the reservation of land for linked cycle ways and walkways from existing neighbourhoods and for future development

**Reason:** The stated policy objectives are consistent with national policy objectives and are in the interest of sustainable development and proper planning for Co Wicklow.

**Proposed direction (5):** That the new County Development Plan includes an objective that all new developments shall be built to a passive/high energy standard and at minimum 'A' rating. This objective shall be applied to all local authority and private residential authorised developments or as an alternative 'nearly zero energy buildings' (NZEB) may be considered'. That any house design guides should include guidance and support for achieving passive/high energy standard.

**Reason:** The objectives of this direction are consistent with national policy on Energy and Climate Change. This policy which will create a better quality of life for residents, secure personnel investment in home purchase, create a healthier habitable space for homeowners, safeguard against fuel poverty and future fuel price increases and

contribute to mitigation of CO<sup>2</sup> emissions from residential sources and is consistent with proper planning and sustainable development.

**Proposed direction (6):** That policy LA2 be maintained within the CDP and developments outside of identified areas shall also be subjected to landscape assessment where deemed necessary by WCC planning services.

**Reason:** To protect visually sensitive landscapes and in the interest of proper planning for those areas.

**Proposed direction (7):** That the 2008 ministerial order to designate the Great and Little Sugarloaf Mountains as a Special Amenity Area shall be implemented.

**Reason:** To be consistent with the ministerial order made under section 202 (2) of the Planning Act 2000 and to protect and preserve an area of outstanding natural beauty and for nature conservation.

**Proposed direction (8):** That a route for a walking trail that joins the Bray – Greystones Cliff Walk with the Wicklow Way shall be identified and a policy adopted to implement this walkway.

**Reason:** In the interest of sustainable planning for the area and to protect and preserve an area of outstanding natural beauty and for nature conservation by providing a designated walking route.

## CLLR DEREK MITCHELL

### TOPIC 1: CORE STRATEGY AND TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

**Proposed direction (1):** For East Wicklow, the shortfall of housing units (LAP Settlements Table A) shall not be built until measures have been implemented to improve the functioning of the N11/M50 area including measures such as traffic management and upgrade works, expansion of road capacity, bus priority, improved rail services and other identified options as stated in the Regional Planning Guidelines S6.3.2.

**Reason:** The N11 cannot cope with current traffic volumes, the 2010 NRA report states that the road 'is not suited to cater for current traffic volumes'. The Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022 recognise this problem and state S6.3.2:

*'It is recommended that relevant Local Authorities and transport departments undertake, as part of an overall strategy developed as part of the NTA Vision document, a range of actions to improve the functioning of the N11/M50 area including measures such as traffic management and upgrade works, expansion of road capacity, bus priority, improved rail services and other identified options'.*

This is the only specific road improvement envisaged in the Region.

This Plan expands the population of the 4 towns in East Wicklow by 31,227 (+43%) and the number of houses by 19,236 (+66%) by 2025. The NTA states 'it is not currently pursuing any major Public Transport proposals in Co. Wicklow' and the NRA has not produced any plan to improve the road. The extra expansion of East Wicklow envisaged by the Wicklow Development plan must be made dependent on the above Regional Planning guidelines being implemented.

**Proposed direction (2):** For Greystones the shortfall of housing units (LAP Settlements Table A) shall not be built until the Delgany to Blacklion Road has been completed.

**Reason:** An extra 5,034 houses are required, 1,267 more than zoned in the current plan. This is on top of the town tripling over the last 30 years. With the exception of roads (and jobs) the infrastructure has largely kept up (education, water, sewerage, recreation etc.). In particular the third north-south Road is needed urgently. The Delgany-Blacklion Road has been planned for 30+ years while the town has tripled and there are now 5 schools on it. Only a small amount of the road has been built, there is no detailed plan of the route and not enough width has been allowed in places for a path and cycleway on both sides, essential if children

are to walk and cycle to school. This Plan must state that the expansion is conditional on this road being completed.

## TOPIC 2: CORE STRATEGY AND HOUSEHOLD SIZE

**Proposed direction (3):** **In the population and housing calculations, to assume household size falls to 2.3 in 2028, not 2.19 as set out in the proposed Core Strategy.**

**Reason:** The number of houses needed is based on an assumed 18% decline in the average number of people per house from 2.79 in 2011 to 2.3 in 2025 or .035 per year. This is a prediction of a massive social change (it changed .030 from 1996 to 2011 on average) and it is not considered likely that that it will decline by nearly that much.

### CLLR EDWARD TIMMINS

## TOPIC: TOWNS & VILLAGES

**Proposed direction:** To remove the restrictions on who can buy houses in various towns and villages i.e. objectives UD5, UD6, RH9, RH11 and RG12

**Reason:** These restrictions are unfairly restrictive and serve no useful purpose.

### CLLR GERRY WALSH

## TOPIC: RURAL HOUSING

**Proposed direction:** To review the existing rural housing strategy and policies.

**Reason:** To ensure that the rural housing strategy is appropriately crafted to accommodate a wider range of circumstances where rural housing can be considered, in the interest of proper and sustainable rural planning.

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Elected members in discussion the document put forward the following proposals:-

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Cllr. E. Timmins proposed that the following restrictions be reviewed. This was seconded by Cllr. C. Fox, Cathaoirleach and agreed.

**TOPIC: TOWNS & VILLAGES** - Proposed direction: *To remove the restrictions on who can buy houses in various towns and villages i.e. objectives UD5, UD6, RH9, RH11 and RG12*

**Reason:** These restrictions are unfairly restrictive and serve no useful purpose.

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Cllr. G. Walsh proposed the following direction which was seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed.

**TOPIC: RURAL HOUSING** Proposed direction: *To review the existing rural housing strategy and policies.*

Reason: To ensure that the rural housing strategy is appropriately crafted to accommodate a wider range of circumstances where rural housing can be considered, in the interest of proper and sustainable rural planning.

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Cllr. D. Mitchell put forward the following direction

**TOPIC 2: CORE STRATEGY AND HOUSEHOLD SIZE** - Proposed direction (3): *In the population and housing calculations, to assume household size falls to 2.3 in 2028, not 2.19 as set out in the proposed Core Strategy.*

Reason: The number of houses needed is based on an assumed 18% decline in the average number of people per house from 2.79 in 2011 to 2.3 in 2025 or .035 per year. This is a prediction of a massive social change (it changed .030 from 1996 to 2011 on average) and it is not considered likely that that it will decline by nearly that much.

Following a comprehensive discussion on the matter wherein elected members expressed their views Cllr. D. Mitchell adjusted his proposal to include the four large towns of East Wicklow, i.e. Bray, Greystones, Wicklow and Arklow only. This was seconded by Cllr. G. McLoughlin.

The proposal was put to a vote and following a roll call was defeated by a margin of 4 votes for, 18 against 4 not present and 6 abstaining viz;-

**FOR: CLLRS G. MCLOUGHLIN, D. MITCHELL, J. RYAN AND I. WINTERS (4)**

**AGAINST: CLLRS T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, J. BRADY, P. CASEY, P. DORAN, P. FITZGERALD, C. FOX, P. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, S. MATTHEWS, M. MURPHY, D. NOLAN, O O BRIEN, J. RUTTLE, J. SNELL AND E. TIMMINS (18)**

**ABSTAINING: CLLRS. S. CULLEN, T. FORTUNE, N. LAWLESS, M. MCDONALD, G. WALSH AND J. WHITMORE (6)**

**NOT PRESENT: CLLRS. T. CULLEN, G. O NEILL, B. THORNHILL AND P. VANCE (4)**

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Cllr. D. Mitchell put forward the following direction which was seconded by Cllr. G. McLoughlin.

**Proposed direction (2): For Greystones the shortfall of housing units (LAP Settlements Table A) shall not be built until the Delgany to Blacklion Road has been completed.**

Reason: An extra 5,034 houses are required, 1,267 more than zoned in the current plan. This is on top of the town tripling over the last 30 years. With the exception of roads (and jobs) the infrastructure has largely kept up (education, water, sewerage, recreation etc.). In particular the third north-south Road is needed urgently. The Delgany-Blacklion Road has been planned for 30+ years while the town has tripled and there are now 5 schools on it. Only a small amount of the road has been built, there is no detailed plan of the route and not enough width has been allowed in places for a path and cycleway on both sides, essential if children are to walk and cycle to school. This Plan must state that the expansion is conditional on this road being completed.

The proposal was put to a vote and following a roll call was defeated by a margin of 8 votes for, 14 against 4 not present and 6 abstaining viz;-

**FOR:** CLLRS. V. BLAKE, T. FORTUNE, CLLRS G. MCLOUGHLIN, D. MITCHELL, J. RYAN, G. WALSH, J. WHITMORE AND I. WINTERS (8)

**AGAINST;** CLLRS. T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, P. CASEY, P. DORAN, P. FITZGERALD, C. FOX, P. KENNEDY, S. MATTHEWS, M. MURPHY, D. NOLAN, J. RUTTLE, J. SNELL, AND E. TIMMINS (14)

**ABSTAINING:** CLLRS. J. BRADY, S. CULLEN, P. KAVANAGH, N. LAWLESS, M. MCDONALD AND O OBRIEN (6)

**NOT PRESENT:** CLLRS. T. CULLEN, G. O NEILL, B. THORNHILL AND P. VANCE (4)

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Cllr. D. Mitchell put forward the following direction which was seconded by Cllr. G. McLoughlin

## **TOPIC 2: CORE STRATEGY AND HOUSEHOLD SIZE**

**Proposed direction (3):** In the population and housing calculations, to assume household size falls to 2.3 in 2028, not 2.19 as set out in the proposed Core Strategy.

**Reason:** The number of houses needed is based on an assumed 18% decline in the average number of people per house from 2.79 in 2011 to 2.3 in 2025 or .035 per year. This is a prediction of a massive social change (it changed .030 from 1996 to 2011 on average) and it is not considered likely that that it will decline by nearly that much.

The proposal was put to a vote and following a roll call was defeated by a margin of 8 votes for, 16 against, 7 not present and 1 abstaining viz

**FOR:** CLLRS. V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, P. CASEY, G. MCLOUGHLIN, D. MITCHELL, J. RYAN, G. WALSH AND I. WINTERS (8)

**AGAINST;** CLLRS. T. ANNELSEY, J. BEHAN, P. DORAN, P. FITZGERALD, C. FOX, P. KANVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, S. MATTHEWS, M. MCDONALD, M. MURPHY, D. NOLAN, O O BRIEN, G. O NEILL, J. RUTTLE, J. SNELL AND J. WHITMORE (16)

**ABSTAINING:** CLLR T. FORTUNE (1)

**NOT PRESENT:** CLLRS. J. BRADY, S. CULLEN, T. CULLEN, N. LAWLESS, B. THORNHILL, E. TIMMINS AND P. VANCE (7)

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Cllr. J. Behan put forward the following direction which was seconded by Cllr. P. Kavanagh

## **TOPIC: CORE STRATEGY & POPULATION**

**Proposed direction:** To direct the Chief Executive to increase the total projected population of the County in 2031 from the suggested 185,000 (Option 4) to 203,400 (Option 3) and to distribute the increased population/housing pro rata throughout all settlements in the County.

**Reason:** To address the severe shortage of housing, both private and public, in the county which has caused a restricted supply of affordable and social housing and forced many families into homelessness and migration from the county.

The proposal was put to a vote and following a roll call was defeated by a margin of 10 votes for, 16 against, 5 not present and 1 abstaining viz:-

**FOR:** CLLR. T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, P. FITZGERALD, P. KAVANAGH, N. LAWLESS, M. MCDONALD, O O BRIEN, G. O NEILL, J. SNELL AND E TIMMINS (10)

**AGAINST:** CLLRS. V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, P. CASEY, S. CULLEN, P. DORAN, C. FOX, S. MATTHEWS, G. MCLOUGHLIN, D. MITCHELL, M. MURPHY, D. NOLAN, J. RUTTLE, J. RYAN, G. WALSH, J. WHITMORE AND I. WINTERS (16)

**NOT PRESENT:** CLLRS. J. BRADY, T. CULLEN, P. KENNEDY, B. THORNHILL AND P. VANCE(5)

**ABSTAINING:** CLLR. T. FORTUNE (1)

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Councillor S. Matthews put forward the following directions.

## **TOPIC 1: CORE STRATEGY**

**Proposed direction (1):** To accept the Chief Executive's recommendation to extend the 2022 population target to 2028 as it is consistent with RPG and CSO figures and to designate 70% of the growth to the Metropolitan and large/moderate growth towns.

**Reason:** The recommendation is consistent with the RPG and in the interest of proper planning and sustainable development for Co Wicklow.

It was agreed that this was not considered a direction.

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**Proposed direction (2):** To accept the Chief Executive's recommendation that 2/3 of population growth will be aimed at locations with access to public transport as this is reasonable but continued efforts must be made to increase pedestrian and cycleway access to public transport nodes within these locations, which can be addressed in the policy crafting stage.

**Reason:** In the interest of sustainable public transport policy and proper planning.

Des O'Brien, DOS advised that there was an objective in the transport section plan which will carry forward and that he was happy to craft the proposal into the plan from the transport section, therefore there was no requirement for a direction.

**Proposed direction (3):** That the Core Strategy clearly identifies the extension of the LUAS to Bray and its environs as a key component of the strategy.

**Reason:** The LUAS extension to Bray and environs is deemed a critical strategic transport project, as it is a key component in the core strategy and for addressing N11 congestion.

Ms. S. Walsh advised that this was a priority for local transport and can be fleshed out either in that objective or in the next stage.

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## **TOPIC 2: PROPOSED POLICY OBJECTIVES**

**Proposed direction (4):** To accept all proposed policy objectives stated in particular:

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- a) To accept the recommendation to improve public transport links to Dublin and at policy stage that there will be a concentration on improving access to public transport nodes within towns through linked walkways and cycle paths to facilitate uptake and support provided services particularly in Bray, Greystones and Wicklow.
- b) That the recommendation to set out a development and design standard should comply with Guidelines for Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas.
- c) That a policy is formed on the recommendation to include objectives in reference to serviced sites provision.
- d) That a policy is formed to achieve the recommendation to promote measures to reduce energy demand, reduce GHG emissions and adapt to climate change by high energy efficiency design standards in new developments and the setting of a passive/A rated design standard.
- e) That the recommendation to include reservation of land for schools need on land use zoning maps and that the new County Development Plan clearly articulate the zoning principles to be utilised in local plans contained within the plan and those to be adopted afterwards, which shall include the reservation of land for linked cycle ways and walkways from existing neighbourhoods and for future development

**Reason:** The stated policy objectives are consistent with national policy objectives and are in the interest of sustainable development and proper planning for Co Wicklow.

Des O'Brien, Director of services advised that with the exception of b) and d) which included the A rating of housing the remaining proposals could be weaved into the transport section of the Plan.

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**Proposed direction (5):** That the new County Development Plan includes an objective that all new developments shall be built to a passive/high energy standard and at minimum 'A' rating. This objective shall be applied to all local authority and private residential authorised developments or as an alternative 'nearly zero energy buildings' (NZEB) may be considered'. That any house design guides should include guidance and support for achieving passive/high energy standard.

**Reason:** The objectives of this direction are consistent with national policy on Energy and Climate Change. This policy which will create a better quality of life for residents, secure personnel investment in home purchase, create a healthier habitable space for homeowners, safeguard against fuel poverty and future fuel price increases and contribute to mitigation of CO<sup>2</sup> emissions from residential sources and is consistent with proper planning and sustainable development.

Des O'Brien, DOS, advised that the Building Regulations deal with energy efficiency of housing and that the Council may not have the power to seek higher standards than those contained within legislation.

Ms. Breege Kilkenny, Senior Engineer Housing, gave clarification advising that the Council's overall aim in its social housing programme would be for the passive house however the Department will make the final decision.

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**Proposed direction (6):** That policy LA2 be maintained within the CDP and developments outside of identified areas shall also be subjected to landscape assessment where deemed necessary by WCC planning services.

**Reason:** To protect visually sensitive landscapes and in the interest of proper planning for those areas.

Des O'Brien, DOS referred to landscaping policy and advised that this could be dealt with at workshop stage.

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**Proposed direction (7):** That the 2008 ministerial order to designate the Great and Little Sugarloaf Mountains as a Special Amenity Area shall be implemented.

**Reason:** To be consistent with the ministerial order made under section 202 (2) of the Planning Act 2000 and to protect and preserve an area of outstanding natural beauty and for nature conservation.

The Cathaoirleach advised that the Council had discussed a SAA for the Great and Little Sugarloaf and that it had been agreed not to proceed with a special area amenity order and instead bring all stakeholders together to form a management committee.

The proposal as put forward by Cllr. S. Matthews was seconded by Cllr. P. Kavanagh. Following a roll call the proposal was defeated by a margin of 2 votes for, 26 against and 4 not present viz:-

**FOR:** CLLRS P. KAVANAGH AND S. MATTHEWS (2)

**AGAINST:** CLLR. T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, J. BRADY, P. CASEY, S. CULLEN, P. DORAN, P. FITZGERALD, T. FORTUNE, C. FOX, N. LAWLESS, M. MCDONALD, G. MCLOUGHLIN, D. MITCHELL, M. MURPHY, D. NOLAN, O OBRIEN, G. O NEILL, J. RUTTLE, J. RYAN, J. SNELL, E. TIMMINS, G. WALSH, J. WHITMORE AND I. WINTERS (26)

**NOT PRESENT:** CLLRS. T. CULLEN, P. KENNEDY, B. THORNHILL AND P. VANCE (4)

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**Proposed direction (8):** That a route for a walking trail that joins the Bray – Greystones Cliff Walk with the Wicklow Way shall be identified and a policy adopted to implement this walkway.

**Reason:** In the interest of sustainable planning for the area and to protect and preserve an area of outstanding natural beauty and for nature conservation by providing a designated walking route.

The proposal as put forward by Cllr. S. Matthews was seconded by the Cathaoirleach. Cllr. P. Kavanagh asked if Cllr. Matthews would consider amending his proposal to extend to Wicklow as well as along the Murrough. Cllr. S. Matthews advised that joining Greystones, Kilmacanogue and Bray was a perfect triangle and while he was happy to work at looking at the extension to Wicklow, he would not like to see a delay in establishing the direction proposed.

Des O'Brien, DOS advised that the Council would be happy to include the proposal once the wording was set down.

Cllr. P. Casey expressed concern in listing one specific walk and that there were currently a number of trails being developed to link into the Wicklow Way.

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The proposed Core Strategy of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2016 – 2022 was put to a vote and following a roll call was passed by a margin of 21 votes for, 4 against and 7 not present viz:-



**FOR:** CLLRS. T. ANNESLEY, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, J. BRADY, P. CASEY, S. CULLEN, P. DORAN, P. FITZGERALD, C. FOX, P. KAVANAGH, N. LAWLESS, S. MATTHEWS, M. MCDONALD, M. MURPHY, D. NOLAN, O O BRIEN, G. O NEILL, J. RUTTLE, G. WALSH, J. WHITMORE AND I. WINTERS (21)

**AGAINST:** CLLRS. J. BEHAN, G. MCLOUGHLIN, D. MITCHELL AND J. RYAN (4)

**NOT PRESENT:** CLLRS. T. CULLEN, T. FORTUNE, P. KENNEDY, J. SNELL, B. THORNHILL, E. TIMMINS AND P. VANCE (7)

Special Meeting – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2015

The Cathaoirleach advised that he intended to call a special Meeting on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 to clear the remaining items on the agenda. This was agreed.

**Item 7**

**To consider the Bray Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works 2015 as per section 103 (4) of the Local Government Act, 2001 (Report enclosed)**

Ms. L. Lynch, Head of Finance advised that the Schedule of Municipal District works was considered by each municipal district in March and that the Bray Municipal District had failed to adopt the schedule as required under Section 103 of the Local Government Act, 2001. Ms. Lynch advised in relation to the funding allocated to the district and the centrally controlled expenditure in terms of libraries, waste management, recycling centre and planning functions etc. She advised that the matter now required to be determined by full Council.

Following a brief discussion on the matter it was agreed that the matter be deferred for consideration at the Special Meeting to take place on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> of April, 2015 and that the information requested at notice of motion number 7 be made available for consideration also.

Families facing eviction in County Wicklow

Cllr. G. O Neill proposed that Wicklow County Council condemn the banks for its present policy of evicting families who are in mortgage distress and call for an immediate government intervention. He referred to a figure of some 88 families in Bray area waiting to hear if they are to lose their home and that there had been some 33 evictions through the courts. This was seconded by Cllr. J. Brady and agreed that a letter issue to An Taoiseach, An Tanaiste and also the five County Wicklow TDs.

Question submitted by Cllr. J. Brady:

Ms. L. Gallagher read question submitted by Cllr. J. Brady with response:

Question:

*'Can a breakdown of the homeless figures for 2015 be given for each of the five municipal districts. How many individuals and families? How many had been in RAS accommodation, In receipt of Rent Supplement? How many have been given accommodation and what type?'*

Response:

*'70 No. Families presently have presented as either homeless or at risk of homeless since January 2015 (Majority from private rented sector – have received Notice To Quit from landlords) – nearly all from either Bray/Wicklow town/Arklow – average of 20 families a month in private rented currently at risk of homelessness. Limited accommodation options in private rented sector – many of these families currently staying with families/friends. Re. RAS - 11 No. of these families are current RAS Tenant who have been given the NTQ from their landlords. One family in hotel accommodation at the moment.'*

It was agreed that this matter would be listed as an item on the Agenda for the Special meeting of the 27<sup>th</sup> of April, 2015 and that the figures requested be included for discussion.

Correspondence

L. Gallagher advised that a public meeting of the County Wicklow Joint Policing Committee would take place on Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April, 2015 in the new community centre Kilcoole commencing at 8.00 p.m. This was noted by the elected members.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

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**CLLR. C. FOX  
CATHAOIRLEACH  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

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