

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL



Wicklow County Council
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTAIN

Transcript of the County Council Meeting Held on 5 October 2015 In the County Council Chamber, Wicklow



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



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6
7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Good afternoon members, it's just gone 2 o'clock, so we will start the
8 meeting. Let's just start with any sympathies.

9 MS GALLAGHER: One from Sine Byrne, mother-in-law of Teresa Byrne, corporate affairs.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Any other sympathies from the members.

11 Cllr BOURKE: On behalf of the Arklow Municipal District I would like to extend the
12 sympathies to the Kiloran family in Killahurler on the passing of Kitty Kiloran, they're a very
13 well known farming family near Woodenbridge, very sadly she passed away.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Shay Cullen?

15 Cllr Shay CULLEN: I would like to pass on condolences to the family of the late Jimmy Walker
16 who died tragically last week in Ashford. He worked most of his working life with Wicklow
17 County Council from the mid 60s to when he retired and just like to pass on condolences to his
18 family on his tragic passing.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: None others? No. Okay, can we stand.

20
21 (A minutes silence was held)

22
23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Vance.

24 Cllr VANCE: Chairman, could I propose a vote of congratulations to Bray Emmets on their
25 wonderful victory yesterday in the county hurling championship. I want to commiserate with
26 Cllr Doran as well, while we are here Chairman, but it's two in a row now at this stage, so it will
27 be a historic moment for Bray Emmets if we send a note of congratulations to them.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Cllr Fortune?

29 Cllr FORTUNE: Thanks Cathaoirleach.

30 Cllr DORAN: Can I get in there? If they're short of medals they can come down and get some
31 of us! (LAUGHTER)

32 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Fortune.

33 Cllr FORTUNE: That match is over, Cathaoirleach! I would just like to pass on congratulations
34 to Kilcoole on winning the junior A championship yesterday in Aughrim, beating St Patrick's.

1 Kilcoole, like Carnew and others for many, many decades was a bastion of hurling in the county
2 and in recent years has obviously been struggling to recover. Hopefully we are on the way back.
3 It was a great start yesterday by winning the junior A championship in Aughrim.

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Snell.

5 Cllr SNELL: Thanks Cathaoirleach, again I join with my colleagues there in congratulating
6 Bray Emmets and Kilcoole. I am sure the people in Bray, they didn't forget the late Tom Walsh
7 who was President of the national handball association, but more so he was a Bray Emmets man
8 through and through and unfortunately Tom passed away during the year there. I am sure he was
9 remembered yesterday in certain - and certainly last night in the celebrations. I would also if I
10 could like to put on record in regards to my own club, Rathnew, on an historic occasion on
11 Saturday, when they won the intermediate football championship, which a lot of members
12 around the Chamber who are from Gaelic clubs and involved in clubs a lifetime will understand
13 how difficult it is to win the intermediate championship with what was Rathnew's second team.
14 A competition filled with a lot of traditionally very strong clubs, such as on Togher, Ballymanus,
15 Carnew, Dunlavin and indeed the team that we beat in the final Ballymanus. If I could just put
16 on record and I don't normally like to single out individuals, when it's a team sport, but just to
17 put on record here today that there is an individual there in Rathnew that holds a very unique
18 record, an absolute legend in regards to GAA games. His name is Trevor Doyle and I know
19 Councillor Shay Cullen and Councillor Christopher Fox would have played against him on the
20 playing fields. But if I could just remind the members that Trevor would have played from six
21 years to 16 without any real significant silverware at juvenile level. He won his first minor
22 championship, two under 21 championships, of which I was lucky enough to be captain of one
23 of them. Trevor went on then to win eleven senior football championships, a Leinster club
24 championship, he then hung up his senior jersey, went back and won another Junior B
25 championship, that was two Junior B championships. He won two Junior A championships and
26 on Saturday won an Intermediate Championship. No doubt he will still be around for years to
27 come. But I would also like to, if I could, on a more serious note in regards to all the members,
28 to keep a significant eye on some individuals within the Wicklow GAA scene who are actively
29 trying to disband some small clubs and asking them to amalgamate with other clubs. I think the
30 success of any GAA club as we all know cannot be measured in silverware but more what they
31 bring to a local community. I have no problem with clubs amalgamating for competitions but it
32 seems that there is clubs out there now are being asked to amalgamate and forget about their
33 history and tradition, which I feel is unjust and unwarranted and if I look to my colleague on my
34 right hand side and I am sure he is going to speak about his own club, but a club like Lacken,

1 Fergal Ógs, Kilmacanogue, Enniskerry, Barndarrig, all great proud traditional clubs and I would
2 ask the members to support them and certainly not support the one or two individuals in
3 Wicklow county board who are trying to disband some clubs.

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: It's like a Christmas tree in front of me, very festive, if I could ask people
5 to keep their contributions as tight as possible. Cllr Thornhill, is it on the congratulations or is it
6 something else? Okay.

7 Cllr THORNHILL: Cathaoirleach, (SPEAKS IN IRISH). I would like to congratulate the Bray
8 Emmets team on their great victory yesterday, two years in a row, and I also must congratulate
9 the Carnew team for putting up a very good sporting game. It was a great occasion, both teams
10 giving their best. And I must say to the Bray Emmets team, and I spoke last night where we met
11 at the band stand, that it was indicative of the support of the Bray team and the community spirit
12 amongst the Bray Emmets team and players and supporters. And that's all I have to say.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Bourke.

14 Cllr BOURKE: Thank you Cathaoirleach, now this is a double edged one Cathaoirleach. First
15 of all, it's congratulations, a sporting congratulations to first of all to the ladies, the under 12s
16 girls football team, Arklow Geraldines Ballymoney won the county championship yesterday,
17 they won the shield cup and so the under 16 girls did as well from Arklow. There is great
18 sporting tradition in Arklow and I am delighted to see that along with the under 14 Arklow
19 Rocks hurling championship, the county championship was won by the Arklow Rocks.

20
21 With that said, I would like to ask for a suspension of standing orders today because I believe
22 this Council should have a very strong opinion on the ongoing incarceration of that young
23 Irishman in Cairo in the Egyptian prison there who is now almost two years in captivity without
24 trial.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you mind if I just come back to you on that?

26 Cllr BOURKE: I think the Council should have a position on it and should right to the
27 Ambassador seeking his release.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: I think the normal thing Councillor is that you actually do tell the
29 Cathaoirleach that you want to raise a suspension of standing orders.

30 Cllr BOURKE: I am just throwing it at you there now Cathaoirleach.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: You certainly are, it would be great if you could do it in the normal way.

32 Cllr BOURKE: To listen to it on morning Ireland on the radio, the up-to-date report, I believe
33 everybody should take a stand on it.

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: We will come back to it, I am not questioning the validity of what you are

1 raising. Cllr Brady.

2 Cllr BRADY: Firstly like the other members, I would like to congratulate Bray Emmets for their
3 fantastic victory yesterday in Aughrim, to do the double after waiting for so long to win the title
4 last year and then to do it two years in a row, it's a fantastic achievement. And to see Bray kitted
5 out with the flags and I know there was a home coming last night on the seafront down at the
6 band stand and that. Just I commend everyone I know in Bray last year after they won the title,
7 we gave them a civic reception and because they won the double, the senior and the juniors won
8 it last year, so just to commend each and every one of the players and the management and
9 everyone else that's involved. I also want to congratulate Lacken GAA club, our own party
10 colleague here very much heavily involved in Lacken. They won the Junior C title there over the
11 weekend as well and I know Cllr O'Neill is still the Chairman of the club there, so a tremendous
12 achievement and just to endorse what Cllr Snell said there about the frontal attack on smaller
13 clubs, Lacken is very much one of those smaller clubs and the pride and the sense of community
14 being involved in Gaelic games, it's not all about winning titles as Cllr Snell said, but you know
15 it helps and lifts the momentum and builds communities as well.

16
17 Lastly, just from a non native sporting perspective, can I pass condolences to Bray Wanderers
18 yesterday who unfortunately lost out against Cork City in the Carlisle Grounds in the semi-final
19 of the FAI cup. It was a great game, and after the turbulent year that Bray Wanderers have had
20 with managers, etcetera, I think to get to that level is a massive, massive achievement to all the
21 players, management, etcetera. So just fair play to each and every one of them there, they played
22 brilliantly yesterday, unfortunately they were pipped one nothing, 1-0, they did do Bray and
23 Wicklow proud. Just to acknowledge that there as well Cathaoirleach.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Casey.

25 Cllr CASEY: Just on a different sporting topic, I would like to - wonder if the Chamber would
26 pass on congratulations to Slieve Chulainn, who is a countywide organisation of six athletics
27 club here in the county representing both Bray, Greystones, Wicklow Town, Roundwood,
28 Rathdrum and Arklow. They attended a championship in Portugal as recently as two weeks ago,
29 and the junior ladies team came home with a European bronze medal, and in fairness to the
30 athletics, I suppose they don't often get recognition for what they've achieved. We have
31 proposed in the past here recognition of the All Ireland B championship. I think we should
32 honour these young ladies for their achievement of winning a European bronze medal at
33 European level in athletics, and maybe if we could, the day that we are honouring the All Ireland
34 hurlers, under 21st, maybe we could honour these ladies as well Chairman.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr O'Neill.

2 Cllr O'NEILL: Just as Chairman of Lacken football club, I want to congratulate myself really on
3 winning the Johnny Price Junior B cup on Saturday in defeating the lard. If I could just add my
4 congratulations to Bray for their hurling success, and I don't know what to say about Rathnew,
5 but there they go again now with an intermediate and maybe next week they'll have that senior as
6 well. They're unreal. It's an unreal club. I witnessed the game the other day as well following
7 our game, and I don't know where they're producing them from, but anyway the best of luck to
8 them.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Walsh.

10 Cllr WALSH: Just to join in with the congratulations there to Bray senior hurlers and Kilcoole
11 junior hurlers on their victory yesterday. Being in Aughrim yesterday to watch the Bray
12 performance, it's really down to the culmination of a number of years hard work by coaches John
13 Henderson and Pat Lee there. They have a young team, they've raised the bar and put it up to the
14 other clubs to match the high standards that have been set if they're to be stopped going for their
15 three in a row next year and to remark my good friend Tom Walsh would have been proud there,
16 he passed away back in January of this year, he would have been so proud to be part of that
17 success yesterday.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Shay Cullen.

19 Cllr Shay CULLEN: I would just like to add my congratulations as mentioned earlier,
20 particularly to Bray Emmets and Kilcoole in the hurling and Rathnew and Lacken in the football
21 over the weekend. I fully endorse what Cllr Snell has said there with regards to Trevor Doyle,
22 he has been an absolute sporting legend in Wicklow over the last 20 years and has a remarkable
23 achievement in GAA winning - as Cllr Snell says, lots of medals over the years and he certainly
24 was a thorn in my side for a long, long time. But a thorough professional and deserves all the
25 credit he gets. So well done to all.

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Timmins.

27 Cllr TIMMINS: Just briefly Chairman, I would just like to second Cllr Casey's proposal on the
28 reception for the junior athletics girls who had a fantastic achievement in Europe recently and I
29 would like to also mention, a special mention to Lisa Cullen, daughter of my colleague here
30 beside me here, Shay Cullen, who partook in that event and congratulate her on a fantastic
31 achievement.

32 CATHAOIRLEACH: Great, okay, that's it. Also my congratulations to Bray Emmets, I didn't
33 realise there was a celebratory event down on the seafront last night, if there was I would have
34 gone along to it but I was at the Bray Wanderers match yesterday and if they'd played the way

1 they did in the last 25 minutes for the rest of the match, I think they would have hammered them
2 but still it was good to get to the semi-final of the FAI cup. Congratulations to them. Item
3 number one is to confirm and sign the minutes of the Special Meeting of Wicklow County
4 Council held on the 27th of July. Could I have a proposer and seconder please. Proposed by
5 Brendan Thornhill and seconded by John Snell.

6
7 Item number two, to confirm and sign the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wicklow County
8 Council held on the 7th of September, 2015.

9 MS GALLAGHER: Just a quick amendment on that, we left out Councillor Lawless' name on
10 item seven page three, could I have a proposer and seconder for that amendment.

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr McDonald is going to propose it and seconded by Cllr Brady. Do we
12 have to propose and second...

13 MS GALLAGHER: No, it's with amendment.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Thornhill do you want to come in there.

15 Cllr THORNHILL: Just to point -- a point of order, it's in relation to an item that's on the clár,
16 number 16, it's about the Barracuda. This morning at Bray Municipal District Council, a special
17 resolution was passed in relation to it and I think that considering that we had a meeting here last
18 Monday and that we ran out of time, and it wasn't discussed properly, is there any chance with
19 the Cathaoirleach's permission that it could be moved up the clár to maybe number four, because
20 I think this is a very important item and I think there is a lot of public disquiet about the whole
21 matter. Just for transparency, that it should be seen that it's debated in a proper manner.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Winters.

23 Cllr WINTERS: Thanks Cathaoirleach. Can I just say, it is nearly 20 past two. We all have
24 very busy agendas, we come in here and we have spent 20 minutes, very rightly congratulating
25 people, but if people spoke briefly and quickly we would get through the order of business and I
26 think we should just take the agenda as it is and move our way through it. If there is stuff people
27 want to discuss, don't talk so long on the stuff you don't want to discuss.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Vance.

29 Cllr VANCE: Chairman, just to clarify a matter, I was at the meeting for Bray Municipal this
30 morning, it was passed unanimously, the agreement. I don't think it needs any discussion
31 Chairman. It's just if we get it agreed here as far as I am concerned, it's just if the proposal was
32 read out and I think most Councillors will agree to it, because it means that there is going to be a
33 further discussion then when all the relevant information is out there with all the members. So
34 effectively there is no need for a discussion today because effectively the motion calls for

1 clarification and information for all the members and then a decision would be made.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Just obviously as you know anything to do with the Barracuda, I have
3 said that I'll step out of the Chamber for it. But my preference anyway is that we stick to the
4 agenda because the agenda had has a lot of statutory business on it and business passed over
5 from last month's meeting to this month. I am very concerned that we do actually go through
6 that. So if it's okay...

7 Cllr VANCE: Chairman, Chairman, just, just an effort to be -- in an effort to be helpful to you,
8 if it was agreeable of the other members that were at that meeting that the Cathaoirleach would
9 read out what was agreed and we agree on it without discussion. Without discussion.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Vance, what I am asking the members is that we just stick to the
11 agenda and move through it fast, and then get to that item and it can come up under that. Is that
12 agreed?

13 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: Chairman, before we agree, we passed a resolution, Cllr Brady
14 proposed it last week that the files would have been made available to us and can we have some
15 indication when the files would be available for examination, Chairman.

16 MS GALLAGHER: Cathaoirleach, I have requested the files as requested by Council and I am
17 awaiting the files. I have given a time of Wednesday, this Wednesday. But in tandem with that,
18 the law agent is dealing with Senior Counsel in terms of viewing the files, so obviously to get
19 answers to the questions that the elected members raise, we have to give precedence to Senior
20 Counsel in viewing the files, but I hope to get...

21 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: I don't think that's an acceptable answer, there is no legal requirement
22 for a Senior Counsel and an...

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Just, hopefully you will -- I am in a bit of an awkward position here, if we
24 continue talking about the Barracuda, I would actually have to vacate the Chair. So just in terms
25 of that, I hope you all respect this, can I just ask that we stick to the agenda and come to the
26 Barracuda when it comes. Can I have an agreement on that?

27 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: I am not -- I am just asking there was a resolution passed unanimously
28 here at last Monday's meeting that the files would be made available. I am asking that the files
29 will be made available for every Councillor if they so wish to examine them and it's a week
30 today since that was passed.

31 MS GALLAGHER: I would expect that they would be available no later than this Friday at the
32 latest.

33 Cllr BRADY: As the proposer of that that we have access to files, I am happy to allow that be
34 brought up as part of the overall discussion later on in an effort to move things on.

1 Cllr KAVANAGH: I would like to support Cllr Thornhill's proposal that we move it up the
2 agenda. I know you said can you have everybody's agreement. I don't agree to it, I would rather
3 support T last week it was put on the agenda and I had things I wanted to discuss they never got
4 to discuss. It's being kicked down the road every month and some of us are not getting the
5 opportunity to raise things and we have a very short meeting today, we can't extend or suspend,
6 so that's why I second Cllr Thornhill's.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: We are going to have to take a vote then on it. My proposal is we stick to
8 the agenda as is, could I have a seconder for that please.

9 Cllr WINTERS: Yeah.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Snell was the first one I saw. And a counter proposal, or we will
11 take that one first and if that goes through.

12 MS GALLAGHER: We are remaining with the agenda.

13 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: Are we voting on Cllr Thornhill's proposal.

14 MS GALLAGHER: No that we remain with the agenda.

15 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: Cllr Thornhill's motion has precedence.

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: I don't mind if you view that as an amendment.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Are you okay if you go ahead with the proposal about sticking to the
18 agenda.

19 Cllr VANCE: I would have agreed with Cllr Thornhill, if this has been accepted by the
20 members of the municipal without discussion. If you put that without discussion, where if
21 people want a discussion on it, then it has to go on the agenda as it is.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: If I could just ask you to - the vote then is to stick with the agenda as is
23 proposed by myself and seconded by Cllr Snell. We will go for a vote on that.

24
25 (A vote was taken)

26
27 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: I prefer Cllr Thornhill's resolution.

28 MS GALLAGHER: Against.

29
30 (The vote continued).

31
32 MS GALLAGHER: Motion carried, remain with agenda. That's seven against, one not present,
33 that's eight and the 24 for.

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, great, thank you members. Item number three...

1 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: I wanted to vote against, Chairman, I am very concerned.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Cullen, we have to move on and please respect that. Item number
3 three is to consider the disposal of 5.7 hectares or thereabouts in Greystones. So if I could ask
4 Sean, please will you talk into that.

5 DIRECTOR QUIRKE: Thanks Chairman.

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Cullen, please.

7 DIRECTOR QUIRKE: This item was deferred, the members will recall from the meeting of the
8 7th of September. Since that time, I have submitted a report to the Municipal District members
9 on the 17th of September, and met with them on the 28th of September. At that meeting, a
10 resolution was passed to recommend proceeding with the disposal. I have also circulated to the
11 members of the Municipal District and I think it has been circulated to all the membership here,
12 our legal advice that we don't have the discretion as to whether or not to grant the leases, in other
13 words to proceed with the disposal, and that failure to do so would result in a compensation
14 event which would be a very serious matter for the Council.

15

16 So I think Chairman, I really don't have much more to say on the matter, only to recommend that
17 the disposal proceed.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Cllr McLoughlin.

19 Cllr McLOUGHLIN: Thank you Chairman, I would like to just urge everyone to please vote for
20 this disposal notice. A special vehicle company has been set up, holy owned by Wicklow
21 County Council, as per the agreement of Wicklow County Council Councillors back in 2005.
22 This at the time was to ensure the land was not handed over in bulk to developer but rather to
23 add a safeguard by having it handed over to the purchasers when and when houses were sold. It
24 ensures we don't have on a monthly basis, the section 181s each time a house is sold. It's
25 important to know none of the public land is included in 24 disposal, the park, open plaza or the
26 new clubhouses and at the moment the old sailing club and angling club is not included as
27 they've not been vacated yet because their new premises are still being built. As per the last
28 meeting, I called a Special Meeting. We had a vote. There are some Councillors who are
29 against but the majority was for this disposal notice. This is really important for Greystones.
30 We want to get on with this development. We could end ourselves with a huge litigation if we
31 don't and I firmly believe it's completely contract compliant and it ensures the Wicklow County
32 Council does not go down the line of another protractive expensive legal case. I propose that we
33 would vote for this and I would urge my fellow Councillors to vote with me, thank you.

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Do we have a seconder for that proposal? Cllr Walsh?

1 Cllr WALSH: I would like to second the proposal, can I come in with a comment there. Just in
2 relation to the special purpose vehicle company that was set up, that was set up and agreed by
3 the members here back in 2004. The directors were nominated back in 2005, so the mechanism
4 was included into the contract that was signed back in 2007. So really I think at this stage we are
5 contractually bound by what took place there, to incorporate it into the Local Area Plan and
6 improved by -- approved by An Bord Pleanala, the contract back in 2007. At this stage going
7 back to revisit that situation would result in further delays to the project, which is something
8 nobody, no resident in Greystones wants to see at this point. It's been under construction now
9 since 2007. We have seen it closed to the public for over two years there with hoardings,
10 etcetera, and at last we have seen some progress in the last 12 to 15 months in particular. We
11 have seen progress, it's been opened up, the foot fall in the harbour area has increased
12 significantly, the usage of the marina. There is still a lot of development to be done, there is
13 still -- part of it looks like a building site but it's gradual process and I think we need to be patient
14 and I think everybody just wants to see this project concluded and no further delays at this point.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Cllr Fortune.

16 Cllr FORTUNE: Thanks Cathaoirleach. As Cllr McLoughlin says, we did have our meeting on
17 it and the vote was three/three and it went through on a casting vote. There was a number issues
18 that I and I think others may have wanted raised on the day but we weren't allowed ask the
19 various questions. I have put in two suggestions to the meeting today, one is that what I am
20 proposing is that -- and to be fair to the members from the other districts, they couldn't be
21 properly informed on this at this stage I believe. I propose that the parkland area in the harbour
22 development be you re-instated back to its original size and the proposal to pass land be from the
23 park to the housing section not proceed. We discussed that at the last Meeting. I think the
24 circumstances of the market has changed for the reasons it was done originally, I think that
25 should be done before anything proceeds.

26
27 Also in inner discussions at the Special Meeting it transpires also that there are some changes
28 that need to be made to the contract in relation to some things and I am saying in light of the
29 changes or proposed changes to the contract, how can we proceed with item three on our agenda
30 today and I propose that we don't do that, because - and again the question I asked at the Special
31 Meeting, my understanding is that a third party has now been agreed. I understand that company
32 to be a company called Bridgedale who are going to be working on behalf of Sisk. And again I
33 am saying this because I don't know the facts because we haven't been given contracts, or proper
34 paperwork. And my understanding is that they are on the ground they are part of an American

1 vulture company as they're referred to, investment company and I just would like to know all of
2 that because if there is changes being made to a contract and there is other things like this going
3 on in the background, I would like to have a clear picture of what's going on before I agree to
4 anything, because there has been a lot of change for all kinds of reasons.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Are they two separate proposals?

6 Cllr FORTUNE: Basically two separate proposals, yeah, but I am trying to give you a bit of
7 background.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: I just want to make sure I get it right. Is the first one an amendment to
9 the disposal notice or is it a separate proposal?

10 Cllr FORTUNE: The first one is, what I am saying is before the proposal that's on the agenda be
11 taken, that we agree to put, re-instate the parkland back to its original size. I think that should be
12 done as a first step. And then I am asking -- the second one is more of a question, in light of
13 information that was given to us at the Special Meeting, I am expressing a concern here as well
14 how can we proceed with item three if there are changes going on to a contract that most of us
15 don't have any familiarity with because we can't see it. we are allowed look at sections of it and
16 things like that, but at this stage that contract is at least seven or eight years old. It should be
17 available to us as public representatives, as public servants as we were referred to here by SIPO a
18 couple of weeks ago in a meeting. We should know this stuff. I don't feel as a public
19 representative to be properly informed just to come into the Council chamber and say yeah I am
20 okay with that, because I don't think I am okay with that based on what I think I know.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: You are asking a question there of Sean or putting a proposal that we
22 don't go ahead with it?

23 Cllr FORTUNE: Because of my question I am saying we don't go ahead with it. It's very clear.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: That's a proposal too.

25 Cllr FORTUNE: Yeah.

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: Could I see if there is a seconder for the first proposal? Okay, Cllr
27 Whitmore, and is there a seconder for the second proposal that you made? Cllr Whitmore again.
28 Okay. Okay, thank you, Cllr Whitmore.

29 Cllr WHITMORE: I am not sure if you can hear me, if I can get close enough, thanks Chris, my
30 helper will assist. No, it's not moving. At the last meeting, I raised some concerns about this
31 disposal notice, and as Cllr McLoughlin said we had a meeting and where we had an opportunity
32 to have a talk with Sean about the various aspects of it, and I have also had sight of the contract
33 so that has helped me, has helped explain some of the issues. But it has also raised some further
34 concerns and gaps in the process that I think that really us as Councillors need to be aware of,

1 and concerned about.

2
3 When the additional land or when the planning permission, additional planning permission was
4 sought for the project, in 2010/2011, it was done on the basis that the developer partners wanted
5 to mitigate their losses as a result of the economic downturn, and the Council itself wanted to
6 make sure that the public benefits could be realised from the project. An Bord Pleanala granted
7 part of that request, so they granted 1.2 acres of that, of what had originally been public park,
8 they allowed that to be, they granted planning permission for it. which has resulted in a reduction
9 of 1.2 acres of public park. That reduction has meant that there has been speculation that this
10 isn't a large amount of land, in the context of the project. But actually the value of that land and
11 I have had it independently valued, it's approximately two or three million which was essentially
12 what we as Councillors voted on reducing or increasing for the LPT last week. So it is a
13 significant amount of land. Or has significant value. And as a Council we don't have a lot of
14 money, we tend to scrape and look behind the sofas for cash at times to get stuff done. My
15 concern -- and I think because An Bord Pleanala have actually given that planning, that it is now
16 written into the contract. Okay. But I can't identify where the public benefit was to that
17 additional planning being granted. And I think this is -- for me this is the crux: I think as a
18 Council we need to make sure that when we are disposing of land that there is public benefit to it
19 and that we are not doing it -- I mean my impression is that the developer would not have walked
20 away at that stage and not continue the project if they hadn't been given this land. They were
21 contractually obliged to do it. So I have also put up a proposal and essentially I think as a
22 Council we need to review the processes that are in place when we are actually disposing of land
23 to ensure that they are done properly and that there is public benefit attached with it, and I think
24 those recommendations need to come forward to the Council for approval.

25
26 The disposal notice that we are voting on today, it's essentially academic. It's been written into
27 the contract that we have to do it. So this is actually undermining our role as Councillors. We
28 don't have a huge amount of functions as Councillors. This is one of them. And by signing a
29 contract that hadn't already ensured that the disposal notice was taken into account, it is
30 undermining our role and I think that's something that we need to review and look at, because I
31 really don't think it's good enough.

32
33 In addition to all this, I have also asked for additional legal advice on aspects of this contract,
34 and I haven't yet received them Sean, so if you could let me know where they are up to, I don't

1 think they're key to this, but I would have liked them before this discussion, because I think it
2 will actually impact on any future development down at the harbour. I do have a concern that
3 the County Development Plan that would appear to be in the contract as what's allowed, it's for
4 375 units. I just -- my understanding is that the developers or the Council can go back and ask
5 for additional planning for the land down there under the County Development Plan, and I would
6 like clarification on that. I would also like legal advice as to whether or not Wicklow County
7 Council is obliged to request that planning permission for the additional houses if that's part of
8 the contract.

9
10 So I have -- I have looked into this as much as I can, I mean we are limited as Councillors, and it
11 is a large contract. But when I did look into it, there are some things that are really quite
12 disconcerting and that I would be concerned about, particularly for any contracts and work that
13 would happen in the future. So the proposal is that we review this and it comes back to us. We
14 have an opportunity now to make sure that whatever processes are in place are more robust and
15 are strengthened. For example, we could make sure all contracts written have a clause saying
16 that it's subject to section 183 being conducted. We don't have this instance of a contract being
17 signed and sealed and then four or five years later, the Council being asked to vote on it. There
18 is opportunities I know with any company, the board of directors have an opportunity to sign off
19 on contracts over a certain size, perhaps that's something we could look into. And I think it's
20 also important that all disposals that, when disposals are coming to us, that the public benefit be
21 outlined, so that we know what we are signing off on and why we are signing off on it and that
22 in a few years time, we are not accused of doing things without putting proper thought and due
23 diligence into it.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Your proposal is to review the processes in place, re disposal of lands?

25 Cllr WHITMORE: Yes.

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: Do I have a seconder for that?

27 Cllr FORTUNE: Yes.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: I saw Tom Fortune first, so -- Cllr Matthews.

29 Cllr MATTHEWS: Thanks Chairman. I am just looking for clarification on something that was
30 said there. Have we drawn up a contract that's subject to disposal or have we entered a contract
31 that's agreed and now we have to dispose of the land, or else we are open to a claim on that
32 contract? I would have thought that's a little bit backwards and -- especially when half the
33 Councillors of the district have reservations about this and the community gains to be gotten out
34 of it. I would just like clarification on that.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Mitchell.

2 Cllr MITCHELL: Thank you Cathaoirleach. Well in 2003, I suppose as outlined, the Council
3 agreed a deal. That's rebuild a long wrecked harbour and build 375 homes. Now the harbour
4 has been rebuilt. And the land is now needed for the homes. The number of houses has been
5 reduced by approximately 17 during the very involved and long and complicated process, which
6 we have been through. So -- but nobody would have investigated 80 million rebuilding the
7 harbour in Greystones unless they had the guarantee they were going to get hold of the land. So
8 unless the taxpayer was willing to stump up the 80 million which it wasn't, we couldn't -- we had
9 to give a binding contract that they could get hold of the land. Businessmen don't invest money
10 in a project unless they're guaranteed of getting the land to pursue the risk. And the taxpayer
11 contributed almost nothing to this.

12

13 Now -- and they've done the thing to our specification. And this now needs to proceed.

14

15 But just going slightly more broadly, there is also a housing shortage at the moment. I
16 understand the developer wants to move ahead and is certainly building the five clubhouses for
17 the sea scouts, rowers, anglers, divers, sailors and whatever other one it is. Five of them
18 anyway. Who are getting free clubhouses. And so that's -- they're busy moving ahead on that
19 and we are told that the public square will be completed by next summer. Now we need to keep
20 this moving. We need to get more houses into Co Wicklow. We have all talked about the
21 housing shortage. We are also legally obliged to hand over this land and most of all, I think, the
22 people of Greystones want this project finished, even if they did or didn't agree with it in the first
23 place. If we start renegeing on contracts which we have signed, first of all it would result in the
24 project stopping, it will result in a long, I presume, court case, which we have been advised we
25 will lose. And the site will remain a mess. It's still going to take three to four years to finish it,
26 even if it goes ahead at full speed. We need these clubhouses, these houses and just there is a 14
27 and a half acre public park. We need all these things finished and I think it's very important that
28 we give the go ahead for this and conform to the contract which we did sign earlier and which
29 the other side has investigated very substantial money in building facilities. Thank you.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Kavanagh.

31 Cllr KAVANAGH: Thanks Cathaoirleach. I suppose my concern was already raised by Cllr
32 Matthews there, and Cllr Whitmore, and that's in regard to I suppose what I would maybe
33 question are putting the cart before the horse. Was the contract signed before the Notice of
34 Disposal, which has been put forward today? And in which case, is that the proper procedure? I

1 am very reluctant to put my name to anything which is not proper procedure. It seems that this
2 arose with the Barracuda as well, that a Notice of Disposal wasn't found and I think we, as
3 Councillors, need to also protect ourselves in that we have a statutory obligation to protect the
4 interests of the public and public property, and are we doing that to proper effect? I know Cllr
5 McLoughlin said that it was completely contract compliant. That may be in the contract with the
6 developers, but are we compliant in our contract with the public in how we administer this --
7 these processes? So I would just like to know is it a case of the cart coming after the horse that
8 the Notice of Disposal has been put after contracts signed, and is that the way of doing things or
9 is it not the way of doing things? I would like clarification please.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Winters.

11 Cllr WINTERS: Thanks Cathaoirleach. Two things. First just I don't know whether -- I know I
12 have a cold, so my hearing -- but I really can't hear what most people are saying. The only
13 screen we can see it written is behind us, so can we up the volume or is there something that can
14 be done? Aside from that, just in relation to the disposals, for the last couple of months, every
15 time we have come into a meeting there has been various questions on disposals. The ones that
16 are within my own Municipal District I would be aware of the ins and outs. It's others I am
17 listening to the various points of view. I am thinking gosh I don't know if I am fully informed
18 enough to make a decision in relation to this and it is public money and public interest. I am just
19 wondering if there could be a better procedure that we can use in relation to disposals so that we
20 all get them sent out in the post. If you have a question, maybe that you could send it in in
21 writing so that all the members could be aware 1, of the question, and 2 of the response. Maybe
22 you could get protocol to look at it and come up with a plan rather than just sitting here listening
23 to bits and then we are meant to make a vote on it. I don't think it's a satisfactory way for us to
24 be doing something that involves so much of the taxpayers' money.

25 Cllr FOX: I'll second that Chairman. I think that's a very good suggestion.

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: So to take to protocol and relook at how we do disposals and see if there
27 is a new and better way that we can do it. Okay. And actually you were fine, I could hear you
28 perfectly, I thought it was me earlier not being able to hear people and I said it to Lorraine but
29 we are going to check out and see if it's possible to get it. In the meantime please speak closer to
30 the microphones. Good luck with your cold, I have the same myself. Councillor Lawless.

31 Cllr LAWLESS: Thank you Cathaoirleach. I'll be fairly brief. Just in regard to the disposal
32 notice, I actually made it my business like Cllr Whitmore, went in and had a look at the contract
33 and spoke to Sean Quirke about the situation. Legally it does look like we don't have a choice
34 with a disposal, and which I did mention at the Special Meeting, it is taking our powers as a

1 Council away. We are asked to vote yes or no on a disposal, but in this situation it's a case of we
2 are told we have to vote yes. Because of this, I am actually going to be abstaining from this
3 today. Thank you.

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Vance.

5 Cllr VANCE: Chairman this has got an airing over the years, as you are well aware. It's been
6 discussed time and time again in regard to this. And to my knowledge, like contracts have been
7 signed and I was a member of the previous Council that approved this, and one of the main
8 reasons they approved it was that all the public facilities would be built before any housing.
9 Now the Councillors at the time got no credit for that whatsoever. For the simple reason now
10 you have got 70 to 80 million euro worth of public facility there -- an awful lot better than a
11 derelict harbour and I remember quite well a dump that was on the beach in Greystones as well.
12 A lot of people tend to forget these things. And the fact of the matter was that that was all done
13 and previously that would have been done where the housing would have went in first and then
14 we would have been faced with a situation that the harbour wouldn't be there, but in actual fact it
15 was done the other way to protect the public -- the facility there, and to increase it as well. So I
16 mean there is 70 million euro worth of a facility there, and there is all sorts of other facilities,
17 five other facilities as Cllr Mitchell has said that are coming on for the community as well. So
18 anyone that says there is no public gain, there is huge public gain in this. Having said that, to
19 offset that, you have to come into a situation where the people have to make some money back
20 on it, and that was always agreed in regard of the apartments that were going there as well, and I
21 understood it that contracts had been signed. Now to come at this stage and say listen no this
22 shouldn't go ahead, effectively what we are saying is that there is a huge legal - well I would
23 imagine huge legal and financial considerations in regard to this, if people decided that they
24 didn't want this to go ahead now at this stage so I mean as far as I am concerned now, this --
25 contracts have been signed. I think it's an absolutely wonderful facility up there, way better than
26 what was in there that existed at the particular time. It's time contracts are there. We are legally
27 obliged whether people like it or not to go ahead with this, and anybody who says no we should
28 renegotiate this, effectively they're saying that the Council will be up for legal and financial fines
29 in regard to this as far as I am concerned, so I think we have absolutely no option. I think it's a
30 very good development anyway and I supported it from the beginning and I still support it and I
31 think we should move ahead with it, thank you Chairman.

32 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Cullen.

33 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: Chairman, yeah, I haven't heard anyone saying they're against the
34 development, but when I heard people are -- what I can gather from it is that people are

1 concerned that three acres that was originally designated for parkland is now being taken out and
2 transferred to the developer for housing and that's going to cut the parkland available to the
3 residents of the area. I think that was one of the big concerns that I heard.

4
5 And the other thing is that a -- the contracts were signed without a Notice of Disposal first
6 having been approved by the elected Council. That's a very serious situation and to my view,
7 that may very well invalidate the whole contract. Because it's very easy to say well it doesn't
8 really matter. Well the Oireachtas put in section 180 in the previous Local Government Act, and
9 then the Oireachtas again in 2001 put section 183 in the 2001 Local Government Act. So the
10 Oireachtas were very clear that it does matter. And it's in statute law. Now we can proceed and
11 say well the Oireachtas doesn't matter, the 2001 Local Government Act doesn't matter and we
12 can carry on regardless and vote through what we like and there is going to be no consequences.
13 Then if you look at section 112 of the Local Government Act, and it says if you carry on and
14 vote contrary to this Act, to the section 183, then the elected members who vote for that,
15 knowing, as every Councillor here now knows, that there was no Notice of Disposal signed prior
16 to the contracts -- or voted through prior to the contracts being signed, then the Councillors who
17 voted for this names have to be taken by the secretary of the meeting, and every Councillor --
18 how every Councillor votes has to be recorded. That's a very serious -- section 112, that's called
19 a surcharge section. And that directly relates to section 183.

20
21 Now, I don't know, I mean it's -- if houses have to be built they have to be built and I don't really
22 think there is an issue about three acres. But what seems to me is the procedure, the procedural
23 way this was carried out, that the contract was signed without the required Notice of Disposal
24 first being approved by the elected members. That seems to me to the officials acting outside
25 their statutory authorities to do so. And that's then therefore in blatant conflict with section 183.
26 Now we have a situation here where Cllr Whitmore has said she looked for legal advice and she
27 hasn't got it. We have Cllr Fortune then saying this matter should be adjourned. We are now in
28 a situation here today that each and every Councillor in this Chamber now know, now knows
29 that the contract was signed prior to a section, a Notice of Disposal being voted through or voted
30 through on the Council. And where -- what validity does that give the contract? Well everyone
31 can say well sure it's a technical matter. Well it's not a technical matter, it's a very serious matter
32 because if you marry it with section 112, it's a very serious matter because you are dealing here
33 with maybe 100 million pounds worth of public property in total. And that's not an insignificant
34 matter. And we either have due regard for the proper procedures and practice or we set them

1 aside and we simply go into cowboys and Indians land where virtually the Wild West, anything
2 goes. Now either you have laws or you don't have laws. Either you have regulations or you
3 don't have regulations. Either the officials can dispose of Council property without regard to the
4 elected members' vote, or the reserve function of the elected members or they don't. Let's be
5 absolutely clear, the mess that's in the Barracuda and as I understand several more properties
6 now that's coming up in the Bray area, came about exactly because of this type of antics that the
7 elected reserve function as set out in section 183 doesn't really matter, that I am an official, I can
8 sign the contract.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: You have gone five minutes now, you are over time.

10 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: Chairman, I don't know, there has been a lot of good work done there in
11 Greystones, I think everyone accepts that. But there is proper procedures and practices to follow
12 and either we are a lawful body, or we are an unlawful body. Either we adhere to the laws of
13 local governments or we have the SIPO people here a couple of weeks ago basically telling us
14 what we can or can't do. One thing we are certain is we can't simply give two fingers to the law
15 and say inside this Chamber we can completely ignore rules and regulations. We can't do what
16 we like.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going to hand back over to Sean, thank you.

18 DIRECTOR QUIRKE: Okay, I think in order that everyone has a full picture, and what I am
19 going to say now is included in my report to the Municipal District members, but you have to go
20 back to when the Development Plan included a variation to provide for the scheme, and the
21 reason for the variation is stated in the variation, and it says to bring it forward as a
22 public/private partnership project. Before it went, before the contract was signed and while it
23 was out to tender, the bidders and their funders were uneasy about the section 183 that our part
24 of the deal was dependant on a Section 183 resolution. And at that time we came back before
25 the members in December 2004, and had the mechanism, which is before the members at the
26 moment, which was to set up a special purpose vehicle company, approved by the members. So
27 prior to going to contract, there were two approval mechanisms that the members voted on. One
28 the variation to the Development Plan, which said it will be brought forward as a PPP, and two,
29 the mechanism to form a special purpose vehicle company which is what, which to dispose, to
30 which is before you today. Those two processes were there.

31
32 The next question is why wasn't the section 183 resolution brought forward when the contract
33 was signed? That's very straightforward. The land didn't exist because it was in the sea. The
34 land that's being -- part of the land that's being disposed off under this resolution today was

1 reclaimed from the sea, so it was physically not possible to map land that didn't exist.

2
3 The membership of the SPV company was approved by the members in January 2005 and two
4 members were nominated at that time, George Jones and Kathleen Kelleher and a third member
5 Tom Fortune as the substitute Director. The company wasn't formed at that time. But the
6 members had been nominated because the development stalled and there wasn't any necessity to
7 form, to dispose of land because it wasn't being built on. This is not something that's being
8 produced today or this year, this goes back to 2003, 2004, and 2005. And I fully realise that
9 some of the newer members wouldn't be aware of that. But that is the history of the project.

10
11 To deal with the specific issues that were raised, Cllr Fortune's suggestion that the land on which
12 the - that was formally designated as part of the park be retained. That isn't an option because
13 the development, as it's approved by Bord Pleanala includes that land and we are legally required
14 to transfer the land on which the residential properties are to be constructed. We are legally
15 required to dispose of that. The contract changes as Cllr Fortune correctly stated. It's been seven
16 years since the contract was originally signed. The make-up of the joint venture is currently
17 being changed, and the contract is being brought up-to-date in order to deal with the situation as
18 it exists at the moment, for instance part of the development is already constructed, the break
19 waters, the marina, the harbour is already constructed and all that needs to be brought up-to-date.

20
21 The area of land that was extended into the previously designated for the park is 1.2 acres. The
22 value of the land at two to 3 million, I am not sure where that figure came from. If you have to
23 go back as Cllr Vance referred to, to what was the use of the land prior to the development. And
24 that was -- there was a landfill there which was disused, it was a derelict site, I am not sure how
25 that could be valued at two to three million. It just doesn't make sense.

26
27 With regard to the additional legal advice, my understanding is that whether it was in order for
28 us to enter into the contract without the section 183. As I advised at the meeting, I didn't propose
29 to engage external legal advice for something that was pretty straightforward but I did consult
30 with our own law agent who has confirmed it was in order to enter into the legal agreement at
31 that time. I can ask the law agent to do that if necessary. Look at, I can ask the law agent to
32 confirms what was asked to be confirmed. I have legal advice from Philip Lee solicitors which
33 has confirmed that we are required to dispose of the lands upon which the houses are to be
34 constructed.

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Just in relation to the size of, it's one point -- this is a small part of the development, the area that extends into the former designated parkland, it's 1.2 acres, but it leaves an area of 14.6 acres of parkland which is the biggest area of parkland, will be the biggest area of parkland in the county to my knowledge anyway. That's owned by Wicklow County Council, it's bigger the People's Park, three times the size of Croke Park. I think it will be a fine facility when it's completed. There is an amount of work to be done on it yet, it needs to be levelled, graded, seeded, set out, planted, etcetera. So there is a cost in providing that.

Cllr Kavanagh referred to the contract with the public, I think the contract with the public is your Local Area Plan. And it's included in the Local Area Plan. So it's set out there that that's being voted on the Council, by the Council.

Cllr KAVANAGH: My question is was the process followed to the letter of the law properly, was the process followed. My duty as a public rep is to ensure that the process is followed?

DIRECTOR QUIRKE: Okay the process for the Local Area Plan, I am quite sure was...

Cllr KAVANAGH: Putting the cart before the horse.

DIRECTOR QUIRKE: I think I have probably dealt with that. It did come before the elected members before the contract was signed, in December 2004. The contract wasn't signed until December 2007.

Cllr KAVANAGH: Is this not a Notice of Disposal today then?

DIRECTOR QUIRKE: Sorry, I couldn't hear your question, it is a Notice of Disposal today?

Cllr KAVANAGH: It's come long after the contract was signed.

DIRECTOR QUIRKE: Yes.

Cllr KAVANAGH: Is it not a case that it should come before the contract was signed?

DIRECTOR QUIRKE: The land didn't exist.

CATHAOIRLEACH: That's the point that's being made. Sean, if you could complete your piece.

DIRECTOR QUIRKE: There was reference by Cllr Cullen to section 112, which could be quite relevant, because if we don't dispose of the land, and if there is a court case, then the people who voted not to dispose of the land might well be open to the consideration under section 112.

Cllr Tommy CULLEN: Don't try and start intimidating me here. Was this land registered in the Land Registry when you...

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am chairing this meeting.

Cllr Tommy CULLEN: I am not going to be threatened here, Chairman. You have a duty to

1 protect the Councillors. Don't start threatening me.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: You raised section 112.

3 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: I never have raised section 112 until you mentioned it.

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sean, are you finished?

5 DIRECTOR QUIRKE: I am finished.

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: You are absolutely finished yeah, Cllr Kavanagh, you have a final
7 question very quickly.

8 Cllr KAVANAGH: Yeah, I wasn't here obviously at the time and I want to ask the CEO this
9 question please, but just for clarification and I don't expect the answer today because I know you
10 can't have everything to hand. In regard to the SPV and the setting up of it, I know there was a
11 committee set up to basically bypass the 183, section 183. But I would like to know who
12 authorised the divesting of responsibilities from the Councillors for section 183, from all 32
13 members of the Council and I want to know is that a legal -- of legal standing, because I can't
14 find it anywhere where we ourselves as Councillors can divest ourselves of our responsibilities?
15 So did you get that, yeah?

16 CE: I didn't deal in great detail with this particular project, it's been driven by Sean in full
17 co-operation of the members of the Council back in the day. As he has explained, the members
18 agreed to the Local Area Plan, and to the special vehicle.

19 Cllr KAVANAGH: I am not talking about that, I am talking about, first of all I don't know was
20 it...

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Hold on, just complete the question.

22 Cllr KAVANAGH: Who authorised the divesting of the responsibilities of section 183 by the
23 Councillors?

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: You are happy for the CEO to come back later on that?

25 Cllr KAVANAGH: Whether it's of legal standing that we can do that.

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: Just Cllr Cullen, just very quickly please.

27 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: Just briefly Chairman, the question is was the land -- I mean lakes are
28 registered in the landed registry, foreshores are registered in the Land Registry, so property land
29 does exist. Any first year law student could tell you that, to say the land didn't exist is incorrect.
30 Each and every lake and foreshore in the county, the land is registered. If you go down to parts
31 of the West of Ireland and the private foreshores, you will soon know how many acres is
32 registered. Chairman, I am just looking at this proposal here and I said -- I am not arguing, I am
33 not arguing with the developers and people have to make money, that's their business, but the
34 Council here is to ensure and protect the public interest. Now the point that I am making is this,

1 the point I am making is this: If we had waited and got the Notice of Disposal approved that's
2 been here today, then the contract was valid, but the fact that we are now looking for
3 retrospectively to get the Notice of Disposal approved after the contract, I don't think that's
4 proper. But the other - just a final point Chairman is this: In this we are divesting our powers
5 from a section 83 to two members of the -- to dispose of property. I don't see anywhere in the
6 Act that allows us to do that. We don't have the statutory authority to say the 32 Councillors -- I
7 think only the Oireachtas has that authority, to amend the section 183 to say to the Councillors
8 you can divest yourselves of the Notice of Motion, because just emergency that a County
9 Development Plan was being made, and someone here proposed that well four Councillors can
10 make the County Development Plan, we will divest our powers to four Councillors to make the
11 Development Plan and sure that will be all right. That would be laughed out of the thing. But
12 here in this particular section we are saying we can divest ourselves of the powers of section 183
13 that the Oireachtas have given us and only the Oireachtas can take it away from us and amend,
14 and we are divesting this to a small committee that's going to comprise of two Councillors and a
15 number of unelected people that have no mandate from section 183. They're now going to be
16 deciding who is disposing. We are saying this is to facilitate houses, but remember this every
17 Local Authority house in this county that a tenant is purchased to buy out, and thousand and
18 thousands have come before this Council, all have had to come before this Council for a vote
19 under section 183.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, so just finally if you could answer that Sean and then we will
21 proceed to a vote.

22 DIRECTOR QUIRKE: The two items, one somebody -- was the sea registered in the Land
23 Registry, it's not.

24 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: Foreshore I said.

25 DIRECTOR QUIRKE: Foreshore isn't registered in the Land Registry. It's not registered
26 anywhere around the coast of Wicklow I can tell you, it's not registered in the Land Registry.

27 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: I'll recheck all that.

28 DIRECTOR QUIRKE: Please do.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, that's it. I have in front of me two proposals, okay, so proposal
30 number one, just so that -- I am absolutely gone at this stage, honestly, we are way over time,
31 proposal number one is Grainne McLoughlin's proposal which is to proceed with the proposal.
32 Cllr Fortune, you made one not to proceed with the -- so that kind of is, if you want to vote no to
33 that one, it's the direct opposite to that, so just you made an amendment then to Cllr
34 McLoughlin's, so we will take that amendment first and then the third one, or the second one

1 really is the full review. So we kind of had two different people make that same proposal, so we
2 will collapse them into one if that's okay.

3 MS GALLAGHER: That was agreed.

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Is that agreed that we do a review of the disposal process. Okay, that's
5 agreed then, nobody against that. So then we just have the proposal which is as on the agenda,
6 but I just want to read in the amendment that Cllr Fortune has put forward to that.

7 Cllr FORTUNE: Can I make a comment, it's relevant to my proposal, before you proceed.

8 Because there has been a lot -- there is a lot of talk going on, the discussion around the table and
9 it's gone off in different directions away from that particular point and there has been a lot of talk
10 about the contract and the majority of us in the chamber have not seen the contract in its entirety.
11 One or two of us have seen sections of it. For example, there is a section in the contract, a parent
12 company guarantee section in the contract and that basically makes the parent company
13 responsible for the project in almost all circumstances. Now I asked the question at the Special
14 Meeting when Sean was discussing it with us, did he believe that Sisk would have walked away
15 if the extra piece of land hadn't been given and this is relevant to my point here before you, and
16 also if they had, would that not have been put them in breach of contract. And to be fair to him,
17 he considered it and said -- but eventually said to me he didn't know. All I am saying is that's
18 relevant to what I have put here before the meeting here today. That's why I am asking that the
19 piece of ground should be given back to the parkland. It's fundamental to what I am talking
20 about.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: All right, grand that's your amendment, Cllr McLoughlin has put forward
22 the proposal as on the agenda, the amendment comes first, so the amendment is, do you want to
23 read it out?

24 MS GALLAGHER: Proposed by Cllr Fortune and seconded by Cllr Whitmore, "I propose that
25 the parkland area in the harbour area be re-instated back to its original size and..."

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: I didn't have the mic on.

27 MS GALLAGHER: Proposed by Cllr Fortune and seconded by Cllr Whitmore. "I propose that
28 the parkland area in the harbour development be re-instated back to its original size and the
29 proposal to pass land from park to housing not proceed."

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, so that would be an amendment to the...

31 MS GALLAGHER: To what's on the agenda.

32 CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you want to come in?

33 Cllr LAWLESS: On that amendment, Sean if the disposal does go through, what way does that
34 affect the amendment, if the disposal goes through for the land, does the amendment fall? Just

1 so I have an understanding.

2 DIRECTOR QUIRKE: Yeah, the solicitor's opinion is that that would lead us to be in breach of
3 contract. The legal opinion that we have received and that has been circulated would be that that
4 would be a breach of contract. That's in the legal opinion.

5 Cllr LAWLESS: If we support that amendment?

6 DIRECTOR QUIRKE: Yes.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: That would be breach of contract.

8 Cllr VANCE: That's what I want to clarify Chairman, before we vote on something, I wanted to
9 know what the legal and financial complications were for the Council members here and for the
10 public out there that are paying for this. So effectively what we are saying is that that would be
11 breaking a contract and effectively would leave us high and dry, or leave us as the Council high
12 and dry.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Let's proceed to vote on that then.

14

15 (A vote was taken).

16

17 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: I want to vote for that motion, but all the noise going on there, so.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: You had said abstain.

19 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: I want to record it as for the...

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: You said against, but you want to go for?

21 MS GALLAGHER: For the amendment.

22 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: It's just the noise in here. Thank you Chairman.

23 MS GALLAGHER: That's two for, 20 against, two not present and eight abstaining.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Let's proceed to the actual -- Grainne McLoughlin's proposal that we
25 proceed.

26 MS GALLAGHER: Seconded by Councillor Gerry Walsh and that's item three on the agenda.

27

28 (A vote was taken)

29

30 MS GALLAGHER: That's 20 for, three against, two not present and seven abstaining.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you members. Item number four, to consider the disposal of the
32 freehold interest in leasehold folio, that one, 22 Beech Road Bray to Marian Bohan.

33 Cllr VANCE: I propose that.

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed by Cllr Vance, seconded by Cllr Fox. All in agreement?

1 Agreed? Okay. Item number five to consider the disposal of freehold interest in lands situated
2 on the north east side of Dunbur Road in the town of Wicklow. Proposed by Irene and seconded
3 by Shay Cullen. Everybody agreed? Item number six to consider the disposal at 25
4 Ballywaltrim Heights, Bray, proposed by Cllr Vance, seconded by Cllr Brady. Is that all agreed?
5 To consider the disposal of the freehold interest at 25 Castle Street Wicklow. Cllr Casey and
6 Councillor -- seconded by Councillor Irene Winters. Agreed?

7
8 Next is the Part 8. Item number eight to consider report in accordance of Part 8 of the planning
9 and development regulations in respect of Baltinglass Town Centre refurbishment. Hang on a
10 second now, are you going to talk into this. Do you want to talk into it first?

11 DIRECTOR QUIRKE: Very briefly just to say this is a scheme that's being -- consideration of
12 which has been going on for the last three years. The matter itself is deferred from the
13 September meeting, it has been voted on previously by the members of the Municipal District
14 who have recommended that it proceed.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, did I miss somebody, Christopher, Councillor Gerry O'Neill
16 proposed it and is there a seconder for it? Sorry, Councillor Jim Ruttle. So Cllr Matthews? Are
17 you showing here? No, you aren't, okay, sorry, Cllr Timmins.

18 Cllr TIMMINS: Thank you Chairman. As the Director of Services pointed out, this has been
19 going on for almost three years, we got a report on parking and traffic in Baltinglass back in
20 November 2012. It's been brought before the local area committee -- the Municipal District,
21 previously the local area committee on numerous occasions. It's been thrashed out back and
22 forward several times. We have had a public meeting recently in Baltinglass about it, various
23 people have expressed opinions and concerns about various aspects of it. I feel we have dealt
24 with this, and considered it at length and I think we are at a point where we have exhausted the
25 process now and it's time for us to make a decision.

26
27 Some business people in the town have concerns about the proposed proposal before us here
28 today. Some of those concerns are justified. I am proposing here today that we take on board all
29 people's opinion, and also that we take cognisance of the fact that if we don't put it through here
30 today, we are at risk, or if we make massive changes to it, we are at risk of -- that the NTA, who
31 will be the ultimate people who would fund this project, at this stage, we don't have funding, but
32 we are not going to get any funding until we put this through. We also need to put it through
33 something that is sensible, something that has a win for the NTA. The NTA are not going to
34 fund something that we make massive changes to, and they feel there is no winning for them.

1 The NTA fund projects whereby they see a benefit and a win for the town, a win in terms of
2 traffic flow, in terms of pedestrian crossing, traffic safety, and various other issues, so we have to
3 take cognisance of the fact that we need the NTA to support this.
4

5 Having said that, and having looked at it, and discussed it with many different people, I propose
6 that we adopt this plan to -- with three minor amendments. And I'll -- Chairman with your
7 permission, I'll read out those three amendments and I can perhaps the meeting co-ordinator
8 might wish to circulate them. The first amendment is, and you know people who are not familiar
9 with the town, just bare with me on this, and I'll explain them very briefly. The first amendment
10 is retain existing six spaces perpendicular to the R747, south east of the monument. Basically
11 that's six parking spots that exist on the main street of the town that the proposal before us
12 proposes to take them out. I propose that they're retained.
13

14 My second amendment is in relation to an area called Market Square, it's little triangle in the
15 middle of the town of the library and the Courthouse, the Council's proposal before us proposes
16 to exclude that totally from parking and traffic, albeit there will be perpendicular parking on to
17 the main street but no access to it. So in the interests of some small businesses that are there
18 nearby that would be affected by this change, I propose the following: That provision be made
19 at the design stage for at least a further eight spaces and access in the Market Square area to
20 facilitate businesses in this area and across the road. Okay.
21

22 And my last proposal is a more minor one, not directly to do with parking, it's to do with a
23 pelican crossing, again I make this proposal after having consulted with various people. It's to
24 move the pelican crossing at Weaver Square to a point between the church entrance and the
25 entrance to the Lawlor Centre. Overall the concerns that were expressed by the business people
26 in the town was that a lot of town centre parking was being lost by this project. Having said that,
27 there is obviously additional parking on the Chapel Hill area in Weaver Square close to the town
28 centre, but by my calculation, the Council's proposal works out at losing about 22 or 24 parking
29 spaces in the town centre. Now to mitigate this, my proposal would bring back 14 of them, so
30 there would be a loss right in the town centre I estimate of about ten spaces. But given the fact
31 that this new proposal before us here today will involve very specific marked out parking spaces,
32 that will improve the efficiency of parking in the town centre, so I expect the net result will be no
33 real loss. And currently when I am counting up the fact that there will be about ten spaces lost, a
34 lot of those ten spaces are illegal parking as well. So that's not to say there won't be illegal

1 parking in the future and that would bring back your ten anyway, but the plan before us is based
2 on full legal parking. So in a nutshell, I believe my proposal will lead to little or no town centre
3 loss of parking, an opportunity for the town to look better, have more organised traffic flow, be a
4 safer place, be much better for pedestrians. There is no pedestrian crossing in the centre of
5 Baltinglass, so take your -- you take a chance by crossing the main street. You take old people
6 or whatever, people from the Lawlor Centre, it's very, very difficult. So this is an opportunity
7 for us to improve the town, improve the appearance, improve the safety, improve the traffic
8 layout, and I would hope that this project will go through here today. Thank you.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, do you have a seconder for that?

10 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: Can I have a copy of Cllr Timmins' proposal?

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you have a copy, do you have it printed out, could you get it
12 photocopied and circulated.

13 MS GALLAGHER: We will get it copied if it's handed up here.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Timmins, if you could just bring it up here to the meeting
15 administrator and we will have it photocopied and circulated. Do we have a seconder for that?

16 Cllr BLAKE: I'll second that Chairman.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, just next in line is Cllr O'Neill.

18 Cllr O'NEILL: Yeah, again I propose this plan would go through from back in July, from the
19 Municipal District. I think we are all in agreement that Baltinglass is in dire straits for an
20 upgrading, a facelift. And I am delighted to support it. We have the Lawlor Centre in
21 Baltinglass, which means there is an extra amount of people actually use wheelchairs, and I
22 would fully support this to move on with this. It's been going on three years, a long time, but I
23 condemn the people who -- elected Councillors who scaremonger about this in suggesting there
24 is plastic trees being put in by the County Council and plastic benches and Chinese granite and
25 all this codology, you know, I think there is a serious chance to upgrade a major town in the
26 county and I support it fully.

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Cullen.

28 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: Chairman, I see some merit in the proposals of Cllr Timmins has made,
29 however, I also see serious defects because it still will remain a significant amount of centre
30 town parking will be removed. As I have said previously, Baltinglass is a market town and the
31 business of Baltinglass is business. And if you come along and you remove almost -- I suppose
32 30% of the central town parking from an area, it will have a dramatic effect on business. And
33 we don't have any public transport system in Baltinglass except CIE bus twice a day. That goes
34 to Dublin.

1
2 And the big fear of the business community in Baltinglass is that a -- the result will be is that a
3 lot of business, because of the restrictions in parking from the people in the wide hinterland of
4 Baltinglass, people like places -- Grangecon, the Glen of Imaal, Donard, Kiltegan, Rathdangan,
5 Rathvilly, who come to shop in Baltinglass will not be able to find car parking spaces and that
6 then will in turn get people, if they can't park their cars, they'll simply shop maybe in Tullow or
7 Carlow and that's going to cost a lot of employment in Baltinglass. We have many -- a large
8 amount of people work in the retail business in the town centre and because we have no, we have
9 very little car parking available at the moment, to even reduce that by over 30% is going to cause
10 a serious detrimental effect on the business of the town

11
12 Now I notice the business people of the town have commissioned their own proposed
13 amendments and I think it's a very professional job, they hired in one of the top firm of town
14 architects in the country to make their proposals and I think they're very meritorious. It's very
15 easy to get rid of car parking spaces, but it's very hard to put them back in once they're gone.
16 Chairman, I believe that what's proposed is quite draconian, and it's going to have long-term
17 detrimental effect on employment in Baltinglass and the sustainability of business in Baltinglass.
18 That's what my main concern is. We have -- these are the business people who are paying a
19 huge amount of rates to this Council. They're paying commercial water charges to this Council.
20 They're making a big contribution to the upkeep and maintenance of the town. They're the
21 people who fund the Tidy Towns. They're the people who fund all our festivals. They're the
22 people who are all the time putting their hands in their pockets to keep Baltinglass going and
23 alive and have done so for generations. And so therefore Chairman, I would be quite reluctant to
24 take away from all the small businesses here in the town who have come together and made a
25 professional proposal, so Chairman in this I would propose amendments Chairman as I would be
26 supporting the local -- propose amendments from the Baltinglass town centre business
27 community and I would propose that the changes -- I think the maps have been already
28 circulated to the Council, they sent the Council in copies of their proposal, that their proposal
29 would be taken into consideration. And Chairman, you have that -- you have their proposal
30 there?

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, we don't have the proposal.

32 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: I understood it was sent into you. I'll give you a copy of it there.

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Can we get this photocopied? We will get that photocopied
34 and circulated.

1 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: Fair enough.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, Cllr Murphy.

3 Cllr MURPHY: I would have strong connections to Baltinglass over many years, but as Cllr
4 Timmins said in his speech there about the public meeting, and the traders and whatever, and
5 that he agrees that they have some concerns, and whatever, and I mean have these concerns been
6 addressed in your proposal? I would like to ask, and if not, will they be covered if it's passed
7 today? And also while there is a revamp of a town, that sees a lot of elderly people on a weekly
8 basis and also the Lawlor Centre, is it a chance now to have a review of the access audit included
9 in that?

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you. Cllr Ruttle.

11 Cllr RUTTLE: Yes Cathaoirleach, this matter as you know came before the Baltinglass area
12 meeting and was passed there a month ago. I asked for a deferral of the decision then just to
13 allow for some further consultation. As has been said by previous speakers here, the town of
14 Baltinglass is certainly in great need of inward investment and some refurbishment and
15 organisation to it, and this was an opportunity to achieve this.

16
17 Now there were a number of issues there which have been addressed by Cllr Timmins in his
18 proposal. The following amendments: Retain existing spaces and provision of further eight
19 spaces and move the pelican crossing. Look, this has to work, it has to go through. We as
20 Councillors are there to deliver something to the people. Not to put forward proposals that will
21 not be workable, will not get past the NTA or fulfill the criteria that's required. So we have to go
22 forward on the basis, a proposal is put forward which is workable which will definitely secure
23 the funding. Because the town of Baltinglass certainly needs this kind of help. I think Cllr
24 Timmins' three amendments and certainly the first two in particular address issues over parking
25 very effectively. I think when you organise parking, you will be -- you will probably have better
26 parking at the end of the day rather than the current situation which we have which is very open
27 type parking, people parking here and there and different places, but I think this is as good a plan
28 as you get. What I would look for as guidance from the Director is that how exactly we
29 incorporate three things like this into the plan, which we want to deal with today, that we get it in
30 that it can actually be taken on board, but how is it incorporated with the proposal that's before
31 us today? Certainly I believe we have to move forward and do this. No plan in any town I have
32 ever seen fulfils or requires are will even get the support of everyone. No-one will always be
33 happy. But we have to work here on the basis of the overall good. The overall good of
34 everybody. And it doesn't -- no town belongs to one group of people or another group of people.

1 It's a collective communal responsibility for a town and its catchment and we have an
2 opportunity here to put in funding to make Baltinglass a better place, and I think we must avail
3 of that and not get bogged down with something that will not work. Certainly the proposal that
4 Cllr Timmins has put forward would appear to deal with issues and would most likely remain
5 within the criteria of acceptability by the NTA over a number of issues. I do want guidance on
6 how we work that, at what stage we get it in, the three amendments of Cllr Timmins here, to
7 make it work. Thank you Cathaoirleach.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Cllr Vance.

9 Cllr VANCE: Chairman just on a point of information, this came up here about a month ago and
10 it was sent back to municipal authorities. Now I thought it was sent back for agreement there, or
11 a decision that was made there, and that a recommendation then would come from the municipal
12 authority in that area with what to do. I mean I arrive here today and it doesn't seem like there
13 was any agreement. Could I ask was there any agreement there when it was discussed, because
14 the point is people, municipal authorities are looking for more power all the time, but they don't
15 seem to be prepared to make any decisions. Was there a decision made in regard to this? Could
16 I just ask that particular question, now while -- I'll take a decision based on what I am hearing, I
17 think it's reasonable to ask -- it was sent back there, was there a recommendation when it was
18 discussed from the municipal authority back to this Council here. That's all, I am only asking a
19 simple question.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Doran.

21 Cllr DORAN: Thank you. I think we should get on with this job. It's been going on now for
22 about three years. I have been at at least four meetings and the last meeting we had was with the
23 people of Baltinglass, and the people of Baltinglass doesn't want to defer this, they want to go
24 ahead and want to get some money in there. God knows there hasn't been money spent in
25 Baltinglass for a long time, and we all know the people are all looking for to park outside their
26 own door. You can't park outside your own door, everyone can't park outside their own door.
27 So I propose that we accept this proposal here today. Cllr Timmins has talked to the residents up
28 there and he has come up with three, that I totally agree with to try and keep a few extra spaces
29 in the centre of town, otherwise I am willing to go ahead and get this over with. Are we going to
30 keep throwing it back? Are we going to stop money coming into Baltinglass or get a bit of work
31 done? I presume we haven't got any money yet, have we? We haven't got any money yet and
32 we won't get it, and if we have no plan, we won't get going. So I think we should go and...

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: I don't want to go around the houses but just Timmins, Ruttle and Cullen
34 are all showing, very quick comments please. So Cllr Timmins.

1 Cllr TIMMINS: I just want to come back on a couple of points, Cllr Vance asked why we didn't,
2 what happened in our September meeting was it was just voted to defer it to October. It wasn't
3 decided to bring it back to the Municipal District, because understanding -- it already went
4 through the Municipal District and exited the Municipal District with a decision, so under
5 Standing Orders, you can't revisit something within six months, so we couldn't discuss it at our
6 last area meeting.

7
8 In relation to Cllr Murphy's concerns, my proposal as I said in my original talk, I reckoned the
9 Council's proposal loses about 24 spaces in the town centre, that's just the centre, there will be
10 additional spaces on the edge. My proposal recoups 14 of them, leaving a net loss of about ten.
11 That ten takes account that there is some illegal parking at the moment and also there will be
12 more organised and designated parking spots, so that will lead to more efficient parking. I don't
13 think there will be any real loss to the town centre.

14
15 In relation to the Lawlor Centre, my proposal of moving the pelican crossing puts it closer to the
16 Lawlor Centre, just at the exit out on to the R747 at the Lawlor Centre, that would benefit the
17 Lawlor Centre having a pelican crossing very near them there. People there have said where it
18 would be located would suit them better, where I am proposing to move it, as regards the claim
19 that 30% of town centre parking would be lost, that's not true as I have outlined in my figures.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Ruttle.

21 Cllr RUTTLE: I was just clarifying what Cllr Timmins did for Cllr Vance, that it was passed by
22 the Municipal District authority, the only reason it was for a bit more consultation with people of
23 the town. It wasn't going back, just to clarify for Cllr Vance.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Cullen.

25 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: Chairman, yeah, one point that keeps -- key points is that if you look at
26 the town plan, you would think -- look at this proposal, you would think that this is all fine, but if
27 you look at the proposal drawing up, these amendments that I am proposing here, the problem is
28 that they're moving key parking places up Chapel Hill. Anyone who wouldn't know Baltinglass
29 wouldn't realise Chapel Hill is exactly that, it's a hill, and if you then have some people shopping
30 in the town, they have to walk four or 500 metres up a hill before they can get to their cars. And
31 you can't really call Chapel Hill the town centre. Nor can you call there along parts of Weaver
32 Square, where a car park has been moved from the core centre town centre either. So it does
33 have -- it's very difficult for elderly on a wet -- people on a wet day, look you are going shopping
34 into Baltinglass, you will have to park your car on Chapel Hill, walk four or 500 yards to shop,

1 then four or 500 yards back up the same hill with your bags and messages hanging out of you.
2 Elderly people can't do that. Anyone who knows anything about Baltinglass and I am in it every
3 day of my life, knows that this will have a serious detrimental effect as it's been proposed,
4 detrimental effect on the town. We have been hearing figures tossed around for years, there is
5 going to be a million here or there, there has never been a penny approved for Baltinglass and it's
6 highly unlikely even if this is approved today that there will be any money for Baltinglass for the
7 foreseeable future. I hope I am wrong, but I don't think people should be given false
8 expectations. My concern is about employment in Baltinglass and to make sure that businesses
9 are viable in Baltinglass, and when you see all, virtually 80% of the business people in
10 Baltinglass supporting this plan in the town centre, then I think those business people should be
11 listened to.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you. Cllr O'Neill, you have the final word on this.

13 Cllr O'NEILL: I condemn the use of this amendments going around, this is confusing people.
14 Cllr Vance asked a straightforward question there about going back to the Municipal District. It
15 did not go back to the Municipal District. It went to a public meeting which was advertised here
16 in the Chamber with letters handed out for the Councillors at the last meeting. I would ask
17 Councillors to disregard these amendments here. Cllr Timmins has pointed out very clearly
18 there one, two and three amendments to it. If that's not acceptable to the planning, I would
19 propose now to move on the original one of accepting the refurbishment plan for Baltinglass and
20 all those there, I would ask people to disregard them, you are only muddying the waters,
21 confusing the whole issue. That's put together by -- in actual fact the public meeting that I
22 attended, it was the plea of the people, of everyone in the hall and I stayed there for the whole
23 meeting, I didn't stay there for five minutes, I stayed for the whole meeting, and it was the view
24 of the people at the meeting that if the amendments which they talked about in this little plan
25 here weren't accepted that we go ahead, no-one wants to lose that offer of the refurbishment. So
26 again, I plead for Councillors to disregard that there, that's confusing the whole issue.

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: Just before I bring the Director back in. Cllr Kavanagh.

28 Cllr KAVANAGH: I think it's a bit offensive when people have gone to the trouble of preparing
29 this plan and obviously employing somebody to draw it up, that they would be disregarded when
30 they've submitted a proposal. So I would just like to second this proposal by Cllr Cullen.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Okay. All right, so Director, do you want to come in too?

32 DIRECTOR QUIRKE: The Director for long running schemes. Chairman, this has been out on
33 public display twice already, not the one that's in front of you, but -- and it's been amended
34 several times. Cllr Murphy raised a very valid point, what is the purpose of the scheme? The

1 purpose of the scheme is to enhance the town centre and improve accessibility. So car parking
2 needs to be organised in Baltinglass. I would say there is very few people would argue with that.
3 But also facilities for pedestrians and vulnerable road users need to be improved, because it is a
4 little bit of a lottery if you are trying to get from A to B in a wheelchair or if you are -- your
5 mobility is impaired in any way. So the thrust of the scheme that was put to the NTA was to
6 improve accessibility. I would just say the proposed amendments that are in front of you,
7 unfortunately you don't have the original scheme in front of you, this is just produced today, so
8 you are looking at -- you haven't got anything to compare it with. But just to say to you there are
9 a number of things in it. There is a proposal for parallel parking which is the blue section at the
10 bottom. That's already actually in the scheme. There is also a proposal to formalise a road
11 through in front of the Courthouse, which would run completely counter to accessibility. And
12 there is a proposal to move the pedestrian crossings if you look at the point of the -- in front of
13 the McAllister monument, move it closer to the edge of the square, that really wouldn't work for
14 vulnerable road users either. Because the original scheme had it further back. So with regard to
15 Cllr Timmins' proposals, I think, look at, they're items, we are not able to redesign it right here at
16 the meeting but they're items we could look at, at the detailed design stage, but really they need
17 to be judged on whether they improve accessibility or disimprove accessibility. I know there is
18 an issue with car parking, but I would suggest to you that Baltinglass has more on street car
19 parking in its centre than any other town in the county. There is about 140 spaces around the
20 centre of that square there. And I know you talk about shopping and so on, but the major shop
21 there has its own car park, which is underused I think in most cases. It's also an issue as there is
22 in most towns that don't have paid parking where staff of business premises and so on take up
23 parking spaces all day. I have been listening to that all my life, it happened before formalised
24 parking was brought in in Bray, Wicklow, Arklow, etcetera. So that just happens.

25
26 So look at, what I would suggest to you is that we can -- we could look at the three amendments
27 in Cllr Timmins' suggestion at design stage, but subject to it not compromising the accessibility
28 which is fundamental to the scheme. With regard to the amendments that are on the layout in
29 front of you, I think that to accept those in their entirety would run counter to what the function
30 of the scheme is.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you, Margaret we never got a go. So you have covered
32 everything Sean seemingly, we have got three votes to have here. Two on the amendments and
33 one on the overall Part 8 scheme. Will we start off with the first amendment which was Cllr
34 Timmins' amendment which was seconded by Cllr Blake.

1 Cllr FOX: Is that subject to a...

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yeah.

3 Cllr MATTHEWS: Just a point of information, this is an NTA funded project I presume, most
4 of the funding coming from the NTA?

5 DIRECTOR QUIRKE: It's an NTA funded study. After that -- we haven't been able to secure
6 any funding for it on the basis that we don't have a plan approved and it's taken us almost three
7 years to get to that, so we have probably lost out over the last couple of years on some funding.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: We should have given it to the short-term director.

9 DIRECTOR QUIRKE: We should have!

10 Cllr MATTHEWS: I would be concerned where you get a plan and the NTA have approved it
11 and then you start making substantial amendments to it, it then becomes non-compliant with
12 NTA standards and they take the money elsewhere.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: We are not going to let that happen. Cllr Vance very quickly.

14 Cllr VANCE: I just want clarification on this, are we talking about Cllr Timmins' proposal
15 subject to what Sean Quirke is stating there, that it doesn't compromise the accessibility.

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: That's exactly it.

17 Cllr VANCE: That's what we are voting on now?

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.

19 MS GALLAGHER: This is a separate Part 8 process so as members you can either vote for it,
20 vote against it or vote for it with amendments, so you have two amendments, so you either vote
21 for it, so you are voting for it with amendments. So you are voting for the first amendment first,
22 we are taking them separate.

23 Cllr FOX: Subject to amendments.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Subject to not compromising the scheme.

25 MS GALLAGHER: I think that's clear, isn't it?

26

27 (A vote was taken)

28

29 MS GALLAGHER: That's 28 for, two not present and two abstaining for the amendment
30 proposed by Cllr Timmins and seconded by Cllr Blake to amend the scheme. The second vote is
31 the amendment proposed by Councillor T Cullen and seconded by...

32 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: Cllr Kavanagh.

33 MS GALLAGHER: Thank you.

34 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: What amendment are we voting for now?

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yours.

2

3 (A vote was taken).

4

5 MS GALLAGHER: That's 20 against, seven not present and five for. So we are voting now for
6 the scheme -- on the overall scheme, is that right? Are we okay with that?

7 DIRECTOR QUIRKE: I don't think you need to do anymore.

8 MS GALLAGHER: Okay.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: All right, great, thank you for that. Next item on the agenda is to receive
10 a presentation on Ireland's Ancient East from Orla Woods from Fáilte Ireland. You didn't think
11 you were going to have to wait that long, apologies for keeping you for so long, but it is an
12 important statutory business we had to get done, we are looking forward to this presentation.
13 Are you set up okay there.

14 MS WOODS: I think so, yes. I think this should be working fine. Yeah, we have got it. Yeah.
15 We are good. Okay, good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, my name is Orla Woods and I work
16 on the programme team, Ireland's Ancient East programme team at Fáilte Ireland. I would like
17 to thank you very much for this opportunity to present Ireland's Ancient East the new destination
18 brand for the East and South of Ireland, taking in 16 counties. So the context for the
19 development of this proposition of scale is very much informed by government policy to
20 increase foreign earnings and employment. Ambitious targets have been set for both. There is a
21 good awareness and interest in Ireland, but it's still on many people's not now, but some day list.
22 And the East and South of Ireland is currently underperforming on overseas business. It's
23 attracting 20% of overseas visitors and just one 1% of the revenue.

24

25 So there has been a huge amount of really good work done in lots of different parts of Ireland's
26 Ancient East, but moving forward we need to develop a proposition of scale in the East and
27 South to make it a more compelling destination for our overseas visitors.

28

29 So our objectives are getting to a point where Ireland's Ancient East is more than a stopping off
30 point at Kilkenny Castle or the Rock of Cashel on the way to somewhere else. We want visitors
31 to stop, stay and spend in this part of the country. We need to grow overseas numbers and
32 revenue, and we also need to use our blockbuster sites to spread business across the destination.

33

34 And this is the prize as such, this is the challenge that has been set for us. Very ambitious targets

1 to increase overseas visitor numbers by 22% by 2020, and revenue by 27%.

2
3 The key differentiator for this new proposition is that you can experience 5,000 years of history,
4 megalithic tombs, early Christian round towers, medieval castles, great houses, all in a very
5 accessible geographic space. And these are the customer segments we are targeting, they're
6 called culturally curious and the great escapers. So we have 16 and a half million people warm
7 to Ireland, that's to say these are people who are considering coming to Ireland in the next three
8 years. So when you contrast that with our domestic population of 4.6 million, you can see why
9 we have to focus on overseas markets to meet the ambitious targets the Government has set for
10 us.

11
12 There is just a little bit of information there around this particular segment of the culturally
13 curious. Typically they're over 45s, independent, active sightseers, they want to broaden their
14 minds by exploring new landscapes, history and culture and want to get under the skin of a place
15 and discover something new, something they didn't know before they arrived. And the other
16 segment we are looking at is the great escapers, they're generally couples in their 30s or so, with
17 small children, they're in serious need of time out from busy lives, running around and working
18 and caring for children, and these are people are specifically interested in rural holidays and
19 travel very much as a couple or a family. They're on holiday for a break, to get physical with
20 nature and to reconnect with the family.

21
22 So that's a lot of background on Ireland's Ancient East but you are probably still wondering what
23 it's all about. Hopefully this video will convey what we are trying to do, bring the stories of the
24 landscape and our cultural and heritage assets to life. Hopefully this will work. Okay, sorry
25 about that, okay, we have a video here on Ireland's Ancient East, it doesn't appear to be working,
26 but if you would like to log on to our corporate -- we may have someone to help. If you would
27 like to have a look at this video, if you go on to the Fáilte Ireland corporate page, we have a
28 series of videos there that you can actually view. So apologies about that.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: You have just broken our whole system.

30 MS WOODS: We will never be asked back again! I am sorry about that ladies and gentlemen,
31 it doesn't appear to be working, but I would certainly recommend that you go and have a look at
32 the page on our corporate website and do have a look at the videos, because they're really
33 inspiring, they're really creative, and it will give you a good flavour and a good sense of what
34 Ireland's Ancient East is all about. I am just going to move on through the presentation, I had a

1 couple of more videos in, but I think we will have to skip those and leave it up to your
2 imagination what we had there. So how do we define Ireland's Ancient East? Well Ireland's
3 Ancient East offers a personal experience of 5,000 years of Europe's history. Your journey of
4 discovery in this relaxing, off the beaten track, lush, beautiful landscape, that attracted warring
5 settlers for millennia, will be made illuminating bill stories from the best storytellers in the
6 world. And the key words here are stories and storytellers. We don't have the biggest castles or
7 the grandest houses in the world, but we do have some of the best stories and we have the most
8 wonderful and engaging and gifted storytellers in the world. These are the key words that we
9 have selected to identify the type of experience you can expect to have in Ireland's Ancient East,
10 so dramatic, stimulating, awe inspiring, magical, authentic, and all easy and safe and easily
11 navigable through this part of Ireland.

12
13 And substantiating themes or the reasons to believe in the brand are as follows: These are the
14 themes or pillars of Ireland's Ancient East. Ancient Ireland, the dawn of civilisation. Early
15 Christian Ireland, the golden age of monastic pioneers. Medieval Ireland, from raiders to
16 settlers, and Anglo Ireland, land, life and liberty.

17
18 Ancient Ireland, discover tombs older than the pyramids from pagan and Celtic Ireland. Early
19 Christian Ireland, be moved at monasteries, the master works of our Christian heritage.
20 Medieval Ireland, explore a Viking settlement, walk a medieval mile, brave a battleground. And
21 Anglo Ireland, discover the stories of a time of contrasts, the time of empire, rebellion,
22 innovation and industry.

23
24 It's easy to take it all in, to go at your own pace, to dip or delve in, to meet great people and to
25 enjoy unique places that have inspired thousands of years. This is a very useful slide to give you
26 a sense of what we are doing in Fáilte Ireland in terms of developing propositions of scale. So
27 going out into the international market place, these are the very clearly defined Ireland offerings.
28 So when we are going out to sell to tour operators or selling to customers directly, people
29 understand what sort of experience they have in different parts of Ireland. So the Wild Atlantic
30 Way, wild, raw, elemental, awaking, Gaelic. Dublin, vibrant, modern, urban, connecting and
31 cosmopolitan and Ireland's Ancient East, each with immersive stories, meandering, surprising,
32 real and characterful, illuminating, lush green river valleys.

33
34 Now I did have a video here, again this is on the Fáilte Ireland website, the corporate website,

1 FáilteIreland.ie/IrelandsAncientEast and there is a video there with some really great storytelling
2 on it, I would encourage you to have a look at that.

3
4 Oh, something's happening! Have we got volume? Okay. We will move on. Sorry folks,
5 hopefully that will whet your appetite to have a look at the site later. And this slide again, this
6 was a short video, some feedback from industry that we met at...

7 Cllr CASEY: Can you plug that out now, there is a background noise, we can't hear anything.

8 MS WOODS: Okay, sorry, this video here is industry feedback. We introduced Ireland's
9 Ancient East to about 270 international buyers at Meitheal, our international tour operator
10 workshop in April. Again this video is on our corporate website and you will get feedback from
11 them. They were really impressed with the presentation we gave them. They said many of them
12 said this is not an area of Ireland they'd ever considered before, and they were very interested in
13 going back and looking to programme this for visitors so, we got very immediate feedback from
14 these tour operators and very, very positive feedback. Again please have a look at their feedback
15 on the video.

16
17 Brand development strategy, so I suppose a little bit of information of what's actually going on
18 behind the scenes as such. We are in year zero I suppose you could say of Ireland's Ancient East
19 because we haven't done a consumer launch of Ireland's Ancient East. We are busy at the
20 moment building the foundations for the consumer launch in 2016. So far we have gone out to
21 industry and we have had a number of workshops around the destination, and this is just some of
22 the genuine feedback that came back from people. I think a lot of people felt it was worth
23 waiting for, they were very excited about the new proposition and people are very much on
24 board and want to get involved. And there is a lot of work to be done, an awful lot of work to be
25 done there, that will give you some indication, it's still very early days, and we have got a lot of
26 work around experience development, around sales, the digital area, and obviously our
27 partnerships with our key stakeholders throughout the destination.

28
29 And we are developing, we are investing in the development of the visitor experience, we need
30 to make sure that what we are saying in our overseas markets, what Tourism Ireland are saying
31 in overseas markets next year because Tourism Ireland are going to be leading out with Ireland's
32 Ancient East internationally next year. It is their big story next year. So we need, as a
33 development agency, to ensure that what we have, what is being promised by Tourism Ireland is
34 being delivered by the businesses throughout Ireland's Ancient East.

1
2 The Irish State owns 50% of the heritage attractions and we at Fáilte Ireland working on a
3 multi-million euro strategic Development Plan with the OPW. We also launched a grant scheme
4 over the summer there and we will be awarding grants, to 12 projects, totally 1.2 million euro in
5 the coming weeks, and the investment will be focused on storytelling and interpretation at sites
6 and a second round of grants is currently being processed as well at the moment. We are also
7 working on a storytelling project, identifying overarching stories for Ireland's Ancient East, this
8 whole destination and then following down at different phases then, the sub destination stories
9 and individual stories, and that work has commenced and we will be going out and holding
10 workshops with individual businesses in the next few months to help them work on developing
11 their own stories.

12
13 So what will the Ireland's Ancient East orientation signage look like? Work is underway at the
14 moment on the development and installation of orientation signage across Ireland's Ancient East.
15 Phase one will see probably 100 plus signs put in in key blockbuster site locations and the
16 function of these signs is to orientate, but also to very importantly cross sell other attractions,
17 particularly those attractions that possibly are less well known and in parallel with that, I
18 apologise, I didn't have a Wicklow sign just available to hand, we have a second signage project
19 to brand the county boundary signs in Ireland's Ancient East, so there will be approximately 300
20 signs visible on the road network.

21
22 And other work we are doing at the moment, there is a vast amount of material, vast amount of
23 really good consultant developed, expert developed material on our corporate website,
24 FáilteIreland.ie. There is lots of useful things there, how to write a blog, social media,
25 everything, business plans, how to write a business plan, a massive amount of material there on
26 our website. We have just completed a photo shoot for Ireland's Ancient East and we are putting
27 up hundreds of new photographs on Ireland's content pool, that's the repository there, the joint
28 Tourism Ireland/Fáilte Ireland repository for digital imagery there. That's all free of charge.
29 Anybody who is looking to produce positive tourism related material is free to use that. That's
30 tour operators, journalists, businesses, stakeholders, are free to use that material. We are
31 working to build up the image bank there. And of course you have got -- we have our festival
32 and events programme. We have the supports through Leader as well, and there is a lot of
33 support available out there for businesses through ourselves and also through other stakeholders
34 in the business.

1
2 And just a little bit about the brand and the logo, as I said before, Ireland's Ancient East is not
3 going to be consumer launched until 2016, so at this point in time, we are not giving out the
4 brand logo to businesses for customer facing material, because it doesn't make any sense. There
5 is no visibility this on the ground, and the consumer launch is not happening until next year, so
6 we have given it out to businesses who are promoting into 2016/2017, and tour operators
7 overseas who are running programmes for 2016/2017, they are using the logo but we will be
8 holding off giving it out to individual businesses until next year when there is actual visibility on
9 the ground of the brand. We will be asking people just to sign up to a charter for that. So that's
10 really all I have to say, I apologise that we couldn't show you the videos, but as I say they are
11 available on our website and please do have a look at them and thank you very much for your
12 attention.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Great, thank you very much Orla. Irene Winters first.

14 Cllr WINTERS: Thanks Cathaoirleach and thank you very much Orla, I had the pleasure of
15 watching the videos at a different presentation so, I know how good they are. I suppose my
16 concerns are around the storytelling aspect of it. Be it the training that will be provided for that.
17 There is no point you going out and selling to all of these tourists to come to Ireland to Ireland's
18 Ancient East to hear all of these stories if the frontline staff, the customers are meeting, are not
19 delivering that service. And you have a huge amount of money for marketing, I think you are
20 going to need to put equal resources into making sure that the stories are what people are
21 expecting. And then the road signs, we have much difficulty with the NRA in having anything
22 on this side of the country showing on a road sign off our main roads, so anything that you can
23 do to encourage them to allow us to show items of interest to the visiting public would be deeply
24 appreciated. Thank you.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Fox?

26 Cllr FOX: Thank you Chairman and thanks for the presentation Orla. I think it's a wonderful
27 idea and concept. But obviously we are very parochial in Wicklow, and the route that is being
28 designed I suppose is the biggest question that I would have, and how much of Wicklow is
29 actually included? Is there a predetermined route or are you just guiding people to attractions?
30 Like is there a starting point and a finishing point?

31 MS WOODS: No, it's completely different to the Wild Atlantic Way, which is a linear route,
32 much, much simpler to develop because it is a single linear route. This has proved more
33 challenging because it isn't going to be a linear route. What we are working on are itineraries,
34 circuitous routes and suggested locations and trying to link those together and one of the jobs, I

1 mean the signage is going to have to work really hard that's why we are spending a lot of time on
2 developing really good signage, it's about orientation, not just about saying go here and left and
3 right and that sort of thing. There will be very much an idea that if you have enjoyed an
4 experience in this particular house or garden, did you know that within this radius, there is
5 another garden, there is another castle, there is another monastic site that you can visit. So we
6 are working very much around the idea of using honey pot or blockbuster site to cross sell the
7 less well known sites. We know the visitors, culturally curious visitors are very interested in
8 those off the beaten track type places. We are trying to disperse visitors throughout the
9 destination and we know even for me starting in working in this area, I have been amazed by all
10 these little hidden gems that we have discovered and we know from talking to our visitors and
11 from the research that this is the sort of thing they're looking for, so we really feel that we are on
12 the right track. But we will be developing itineraries, suggested ones, yeah.

13 Cllr FOX: That certainly reassures me, because obviously Wicklow has a very rebellious part
14 and I know the theme of what you are suggesting, life and liberty and warring settlers, you
15 know, that is Wicklow. I mean Wicklow is integral to going back to the 1500s up to the 1798
16 and on into Wicklow Gaol and the Military Road and all of that. It is a key part of anybody that
17 would be designing a concept of that theme, Wicklow certainly, I believe, should be at the heart
18 of it. So it reassures me that there is not a specific route that you might be just hopping in and
19 out to one or two locations.

20 MS WOODS: No, no.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: We will take a couple of questions and then come back to you. Cllr
22 Cullen.

23 Cllr Shay CULLEN: Thanks for the presentation or landmarks I suppose following on what Cllr
24 Fox says, for me to get the best out of Co Wicklow, our location first of all close to Dublin is
25 both a positive and a negative. From what I can see people tend to stay in Dublin and maybe day
26 visit to Wicklow and maybe not spend their money in Wicklow and obviously that's what we
27 want tourists to do is spend time and money in our county. I suppose our landscape is -- it's
28 fantastic from the point of view that we have the mountains, we have the sea, we have
29 everything that tourism needs, and a few -- if you look at the counties like Kerry, West Cork, and
30 Mayo to a point, I think we have been left way behind from a tourism point of view. Just similar
31 landscapes, just using Mayo for example, over the last probably four or five years, the
32 Greenway, Westport, that whole area has just snowballed and people tend to want to go to these
33 places. We in Wicklow have a lot of outdoor activities. You touched on it yourself about
34 discovering hidden gems, I suppose we want to get Fáilte Ireland really to uncover the hidden

1 gems in our county, because there is so much in Co Wicklow and as I said earlier, we have
2 underachieved in the whole tourism sector and I think it's something we really want to go after
3 the potential customers for our county and while I think this is a fantastic project, I want to --
4 Wicklow needs to be at the forefront of what this is all about. Because as I said earlier, we have
5 everything that's needed, and I would ask you to not only through the Ancient East project, but
6 through Fáilte Ireland, is look at Wicklow closer, because as I say our location is excellent to the
7 city of Dublin, but also we have so much more to offer, and I think it's -- I wish you well with
8 what you are doing, and as I say, just keep Wicklow to the top of the list. Thank you.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Brady.

10 Cllr BRADY: Thanks Cathaoirleach, I suppose like some of the other members here, I am a
11 member of Wicklow Tourism, and we have discussed this an awful lot at some of our recent
12 meetings. And I suppose there has been some concern and a little bit of confusion at that level,
13 and certainly I share in some of that concern. And just to echo what Cllr Cullen said there
14 around Wicklow, and our proximity to Dublin, you gave out two statistics there at the outset that
15 the Eastern region we get about 20% of the tourists, and about 11% of the revenue. I would say
16 Wicklow is probably higher in terms of the number of tourists we attract and lower on the other
17 end in terms of the revenue, the money that they spend here, and I suppose that's a difficulty for
18 us, and I suppose Wicklow Tourism, it has been outlined that this concept which I welcome and
19 I seen the benefits of the Wild Atlantic Way and I was down there over the summer and I seen
20 the tourists down there, and the enthusiasm and that, and I think the same can apply here in
21 Ireland's Ancient East, if it is marketed and sold properly. But I suppose what you are doing,
22 you are putting in place the overall plan to try and attract people into the county and then it will
23 be up to bodies like Wicklow Tourism and the County Council and that to exploit the potential
24 that stems from it. I suppose some of the concerns, and I am surprised that a map hasn't been
25 shown, because at Wicklow tourism a map, I am not sure whether it's been signed off on, but a
26 map has been shown there of the different attractions that would appear on some of the
27 promotion material that is sold to tourists and that as part of it, and I think that would have been
28 useful in the presentation, the different locations, the Glendaloughs or the Mount Usher Gardens,
29 has been identified. And I am not sure as to whether those attractions have been signed off on,
30 because my fear is that it's kind of pigeon holing Wicklow into one category, mainly around the
31 monastic sites, around the Glendaloughs and that which of course we are famous for and
32 rightfully so, but I think Wicklow has so much more to offer, not just the monastic sites. I mean
33 I know Waterford and some other areas, they're being sold on their links to the Vikings, and
34 Wicklow has -- we have a, I was going to say a proud tradition, I don't know whether proud and

1 Vikings go, but we have a lot of links to the Vikings, and indeed Wicklow itself derives from old
2 Norse, I think it means, Viking meadow or Viking lake. So Wicklow derives from the Vikings,
3 so to leave us out of that, that we are not being sold along the lines as Waterford, I think is
4 disingenuous. And even as Cllr Fox said, we have a proud rebellious past going right back to the
5 1500s, up to 1798 and 1803 when we had people like Michael Dwyer who participated in the
6 1798 rebellion, which of course Wicklow and Wexford were to the fore of. And a lot of the
7 people that participated, the leaders of the 1798, 1803 would have been deported down to
8 Australia and that so, the potential there and the interest stemming from that is massive and I
9 don't think this is actually tapping into it. Locations such as Glenmalure, Wicklow Gaol here
10 and other areas aren't appearing in the -- on the map that has been produced and I think we are
11 missing out in relation to that. And I think it should be looked at. Wicklow, we are not just
12 famous for our monastic sites, of which of course there are many and they're beautiful and well
13 worth seeing, but Wicklow has so much more to offer as well.

14
15 Just in relation to the signs and you spoke about the blockbuster signs, who are you kind of
16 working with in conjunction to identifying the locations for them? Is the County Council, is it
17 Wicklow Tourism or what? I think they're going to be crucial, tying into what I was saying
18 there, getting people into Wicklow and sending them on elsewhere, because if there is only
19 going to be one in Glendalough or elsewhere, I think it will be meaningless. So really who is the
20 consultation carried out with there?

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Walsh.

22 Cllr WALSH: As you stated, the challenge is to make the area a more compelling destination
23 and to get visitors to stop, stay and spend and it's the previous -- as the previous speakers have
24 outlined, we suffer from our close proximity to Dublin. We would like to maybe get your advice
25 on what we can do to circumvent that. I think we have so much to offer as previously stated, we
26 have a gem that would be of great attraction to our culturally curious visitor and especially our
27 great escapers. I would like to see that Fáilte Ireland promote Wicklow with the suggested
28 routes and itineraries and maybe attractions and pump resources into promoting us as a
29 destination for those type of visitors.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Great thanks, and finally Cllr Casey.

31 Cllr CASEY: Thank you Chairman and I want to thank Orla for coming here today and indeed
32 to her economic and enterprise SPC she made the same presentation to a few weeks ago. As a
33 person who has worked all his life in the industry and lives in what we call the honey pot in
34 Wicklow, in Glendalough, I sort of am, have expectations from Ireland's Ancient East, but I also

1 have reservations in the sense that and in fairness to Councillor Tom Fortune working as
2 Chairman of the Wicklow Tourism years ago, when we wanted a Kildare/Wicklow brand and it
3 went nowhere, we brought the industry so far and then we just dropped them like a hot potato
4 and it was very disappointing and I suppose the trends within the industry and the east coast at
5 the moment is we are either getting the first night or the last night as they make their way to the
6 Wild Atlantic Way, which again is disappointing and one of the targets I suppose is to address
7 the bed night situation here in Wicklow and we have very poor average stays of probably less
8 than 1.5 nights per person would be the average in Wicklow and we need to try and increase that.
9 One of the segment of the markets that's missing out for Wicklow is the outdoor recreation and
10 that young vibrant person that uses the outdoor recreation and it's been mentioned a number of
11 times. Glendalough is equally known for its vibrant outdoor recreation as it is for its monastic
12 site and it's probably more satisfying as an outdoor recreation site now than it is for its monastic
13 site. That I suppose leads on to another fundamental problem we have with tourism in Wicklow,
14 is that if you take Glendalough, we have three State bodies involved in Glendalough. And the
15 foreign visitor doesn't understand that one site is ran by the OPW and the other site is ran by the
16 National Parks and Wildlife and God forbid they'd talk to one another and share the information!
17 I think in this day and age, that's absolutely horrendous, that the story of Glendalough cannot be
18 interpreted in one spot and you have to be told to go to a different state body to find out
19 information on outdoor recreation or vice versa. One of the huge challenges for Glendalough is
20 that story is told in its entirety in one location and we no longer -- because the visitor doesn't
21 understand it, he is coming to Glendalough and wants to experience everything that Glendalough
22 has to offer.

23
24 Listen, can I wish you well, I'll be there for whatever supports you do need, I have reservations
25 in what happened in the past and we need to overcome that obstacle so the very best of luck and
26 hopefully we will have the same success that the Wild Atlantic Way has, because it surely has
27 been successful.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr Casey and as a hotelier, I think it's good to hear you have
29 reservations. So we will just finish up very quickly.

30 MS WOODS: All right, so just a couple of things there, I was out in Holland recently meeting
31 some tour operators and there is definitely a capacity issue in Dublin and a number of the tour
32 operators were saying they're going to be doing the reverse of what you have seen in the past,
33 day tripping down from Dublin to Wicklow, it will be staying in Wicklow and day tripping up to
34 Dublin because there is a big capacity issue. Hopefully that converts to real business for you.

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In terms of the map, we did produce an illustrative map for the international tour operators for Meitheal. It was only for illustrative purposes only. A full list of everything in Ireland's Ancient East does not exist, we don't have an inventory or a list or you must go here or people are in or out, that's not the case. Everything is in, we are all about inclusivity, not exclusivity. That's very much where we are going to with this. As I say our customers are very much looking for hidden gems off the beaten track. The more of those we can find and the more of those that start to come to the fore that we can work with and develop, the better for our visitors and it enriches this whole part of the country.

In terms of the signage, we are looking initially, there is just -- this is the first stage of the process of putting in signage. I mean as I say, we are in year zero, the Wild Atlantic Way is about four years old at this stage so, there is a massive amount of work to do but the initial stages, we are looking at locations where there is significant footfall. That's where we have to start with. Places with the significant footfall, those installations will be going in and starting to spread people out. That's just in the initial stages. This is very much an organic thing as well. The Wild Atlantic Way has changed and things have happened along the way, people have got involved, the industry have made it their own and I think the success of the Wild Atlantic Way is -- it's all down to the individual businesses. We at Fáilte Ireland have nothing per se to sell. All we can do is provide the supports, and the marketing and that to help people help themselves, and I think the Wild Atlantic Way has shown that when people do take this on board and run with it, how enormously successful this can be. I believe that we are going to be able to replicate this on this side of the country and address that issue of the 20% only getting 20%, attracting 20% of visitors and 11% of revenue. We have really ambitious targets and we are very determined that we are going to meet those targets.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Fantastic, great, thank you Orla. Item number ten is to consider the Chief Executive's report on the draft development contribution scheme. Des.

DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: Probably the shortest Chief Executive's report ever. It was advertised after the meeting where you proposed the proposed amendment. There were no submissions whatsoever from anyone, and the recommendation of the Chief Executive is to proceed as what was on display. Just to remind you that is to allow the extension of the 20% reduction until January 2018, 100% reduction in the rate for film studio infrastructure, and we are also consolidating the three -- sorry the four existing development levy schemes in the county, and we are taking out the water and waste water infrastructure from the scheme because it's no

1 longer relevant to us. It's back with Irish Water.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, great, Cllr Casey.

3 Cllr CASEY: Thank you Chairman. As the original proposer of these prior to it going out to
4 public consultation, I would like to propose them here today. I think these two items are positive
5 in relation to the economy and creating employment. The first one is that you have the 20%
6 reduction on the development contributions for any employment opportunities that commence
7 within the next three-year window. That -- this is a second roll out of that and hopefully will
8 have greater impact today than it did have in its first three years now that the economy is
9 beginning to take off, this might be an added incentive.

10

11 The second one is probably more critical for Wicklow and that's the one around the film industry
12 and both the Cathaoirleach and myself had several meetings with various sectors within the film
13 industry and Wicklow at the moment has a current edge above any other county in the delivery
14 of the film industry. Both in its location and proximity to Dublin. But more importantly in the
15 skillsets that it has within the county itself. But it has been identified from various sectors within
16 the film industry that there is a huge shortage of stage space. And this has come thankfully from
17 independent sources, rather than the people directly involved in it. And without doubt, it's now
18 quite clear that there probably is a need for three times the amount of stage space that's currently
19 available in Wicklow required almost immediate. I think this proposal in relation to the 100%
20 write-off in relation to film industry will be a huge deal breaker for the people providing these
21 stage facilities. It also will give Wicklow that extra edge again to get further ahead of the
22 opposition and we know that there is opposition both from Limerick and indeed Galway are now
23 looking at Galway airport as a hub for the film industry. So hopefully because our current status
24 that we are ahead of most counties, with this introduction of a reduction in the development
25 contribution scheme will hold that and hopefully we can get planning permissions in almost
26 immediate for the development of additional stage facilities. Chairman I would like to propose
27 these two amendments to the development contribution scheme today and maybe if I can get a
28 chance later...

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you want to do it now?

30 Cllr CASEY: With the Cathaoirleach and myself as I outlined we have met with the industry
31 over a number of meetings now, and they have made a submission to the Minister for Finance to
32 support the film industry further than what it is at the moment. And they've asked us to put this
33 to the members of the Council here today and that was one, is to increase the per project cap
34 from 50 million to 100 million to all qualifying expenditure. To enable Ireland to compete on a

1 level playing pitch with the UK for tent pole productions or big movie productions. Just to
2 explain that, the cap at 50 million at the moment is probably excluding the major film
3 blockbusters coming into Ireland, because they have a greater tax break in the UK than they
4 currently do in Ireland. That's why the industry itself has made that submission. They want us,
5 as a Local Authority, to support that submission and write into the Minister for Finance. The
6 second part of that is to extend the sunset date as they call it. At the moment, the date is 2020,
7 where unless the project is delivered by 2020, it doesn't qualify. And they're asking us to agree
8 to propose to put out a ten year window to 2020 giving them certainty for ten years to deliver
9 this infrastructure. There is two additional items.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: The sunset date that they gave.

11 Cllr CASEY: 2026.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: To extend to 2026.

13 Cllr CASEY: Yeah, okay.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: I'll actually second that.

15 Cllr WINTERS: What's a tent pole?

16 Cllr CASEY: We were sitting at the meeting and tent pole was being thrown around and we
17 were wondering what is a tent pole production, it's a major movie production that will almost
18 pay for the capital infrastructure in one go and England has the heads up on that because of the
19 cap of 50 million.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: So just in the conversations we have been having, I'll second that
21 obviously, it's been really, really clear that there are certain things the film industry need to have
22 a much longer view of the world and where it's going, and having something expire in 2020 is
23 just too tight for them, so I think it makes an awful lot of sense. I think it's been a hugely
24 successful tax incentive that's been put in place so asking that it goes to 2026 is reasonable and
25 the cap going from 50 to 100 million. I think in terms of the county Economic Think Tank, one
26 of the areas we identified as a Council was the film industry and the question then is what are we
27 doing to actually support it and I think today with this, if we choose to go ahead with this
28 proposal to change those development levies, and put the 100% reduction, it's going to make a
29 huge difference. Any film industry people we have talked to, capacity facilities is the major
30 problem and when you mention the 100%, the lights just shone on their eyes, which was
31 fantastic to see. I think the 20% reduction, we have had a 20% reduction for our development
32 levies for the past two years, and it's been absolutely the best kept secret. Anybody I talked to
33 who is talking about potentially opening up a business and you say so is it the 20% that's
34 attracting you and they're going sorry? They have no idea. So I would certainly say if we are

1 actually going to go ahead with this 20% over the next three years, we need to promote the hell
2 out of it, to really let everybody know it's going to happen. As a package these things are really
3 important. Next in line is Cllr Brady.

4 Cllr BRADY: Thanks Cathaoirleach, I would like to second the proposal that we go ahead and
5 implement the Manager's Report into this. I think it's fantastic and certainly I have spoken to the
6 industry as well and they're very aware of the process here and they're sitting back, and I would
7 be very, very hopeful that things will get moving here in Wicklow, certainly I was one of those
8 who was very, very fearful of the future of the film industry here and TV production within
9 Wicklow when I seen the moves being made by Limerick City and County Council and I think
10 everyone was kind of fearful and fearing the worst of that, and indeed we had the CEO from
11 Ardmore Studios in and she tried to address our concerns, but I think they are aware of what is
12 going on here, very, very conscious of it, and as I said hopefully something will be coming at us
13 very, very soon. Some positive development. Now I am conscious that an expert group was
14 established by the Government to look at the whole issue of the infrastructural deficit. To my
15 knowledge, I don't think that expert group has come back with recommendations or proposals at
16 this point. But certainly if these are what the industry are saying, they'd like those changes,
17 certainly I would fully support them and I think to encourage and to promote TV and film
18 production here in Wicklow. I think we have to fully, fully support so, Cathaoirleach can I
19 second that.

20
21 And just on another point, earlier on we were discussion the Barracuda site Cathaoirleach, I
22 thought we would get to it before the end of the meeting so I think as soon as we finish this
23 issue, there is a motion there, I think we need to take it at that point.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: We said and we had a vote that we were going through the agenda, so
25 that's exactly what we had done.

26 Cllr BRADY: The understanding that we were going to get to it at this meeting Cathaoirleach.
27 Can I propose at this point that we deal with the Barracuda...

28 Cllr BOURKE: I would like to welcome this initiative and congratulate everybody involved.
29 One or two questions, I see we have rolled all the old schemes into one, there is no Arklow
30 scheme now, it's all the county scheme, just if you could clarify that.

31
32 Secondly, if in the future there is a downturn, God forbid it should ever happen in the film
33 industry, and the buildings that are built rate free or levy free, what will happen in that case if
34 alternative uses are found for them? Will there be a claw back? On the 20% you have heralded

1 there yourself, how do we compare to other counties, our sister commuter counties like Kildare
2 and Meath and Co Dublin, perhaps their rates are even lower than ours? Can you maybe clarify
3 for us are we pretty much harmonised on similar rates? Do you think it's possible that other
4 counties will follow our lead now to attract films as well and studio space might go to others that
5 will be competing with us?

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Matthews.

7 Cllr MATTHEWS: Thanks Chairman. If you look at anything that's happening in planning at
8 the moment, you can see the developers have again hypnotised the legislators into their view that
9 development contributions are the sole reason that there is no developing going on in this
10 country. That's simply not true. We don't have time to go through the reasons here, but I contest
11 that it's not development charges that are stopping development.

12
13 We had two members of the film industry in here, gave us presentations and I know they've
14 lobbied quite widely here, so did we get an indication from the film industry to the extent of
15 development that they are proposing in Wicklow? Can we assess from that how much of a loss
16 of income we will incur in terms of development contribution levies? Have we decided what
17 roles our community schemes in the area will be affected by that reduction in income? And how
18 long is it intended to retain a 100% reduction for the film industry? Is it to 2018 or is it for
19 longer? The point I make is that every reduction in development contributions means there is
20 less money to spend in the county on roads, on storm water services, and on community gain.
21 So we need to recognise that point here.

22
23 I agree with most of what's in this report that's been put before us, but I don't agree with 100%
24 reductions for a multi-million industry. I know it brings employment to the county, it's fantastic,
25 we just had a presentation on tourism and our film heritage and industry is very much part of
26 Wicklow. But I think 100% reduction, everybody needs to make their contribution, and I would
27 expect an industry of that size also to make a contribution to the county. And for that reason, I
28 would propose an amendment to this that we would grant them a 60% reduction and not a 100%
29 reduction. Thank you Chairman.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Cllr Fox?

31 Cllr FOX: Thank you Chairman. Well certainly that last speaker, Cllr Matthews, it's not a train
32 of thought I would actually agree with. I think the difficulty for the film industry is that 1, the
33 development contribution scheme is based on area and size, and their industry needs large areas
34 and large buildings. And I suppose when Cllr Matthews spoke about the loss of income by

1 potentially bringing in this exemption, the difficulty was that we don't have any buildings
2 suitable; other counties and local authority areas do have buildings in place, so they were not
3 considering building with the development levies as opposed to building without the
4 development levies. They were considering moving to a different local authority area all
5 together. So you are not losing income because you weren't going to get it in the first place.
6 What you would be losing though is the huge amount of jobs within the county and skillset that
7 is associated with the film industry here in the county. There are a host of small companies
8 associated with the film industry, and I would support 100% exemption absolutely. So I
9 certainly would not be supportive of a 60% reduction, I would be supporting the 100%
10 exemption. Thank you Chairman.

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Great, thank you Cllr Fox. Do you want to come back in Des to any of
12 those questions that were asked there? Flick your mic, would you.

13 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: Okay, I suppose the first question came from Sylvester Bourke about
14 the Arklow scheme being consolidated into this proposed scheme. All the infrastructure projects
15 that were in the Wicklow Town, Bray town and Arklow Town schemes have been brought into
16 the list of projects that would be carried out in this overall consolidated scheme. We didn't
17 adjust the county rates, we did some -- not in-depth calculations like previous, but we did some
18 indicative calculations, and we figured that the difference in rates and the amount of money for
19 the infrastructure wouldn't be significantly affected. I suppose since our estimates are fairly
20 broad estimates in the first place, I think we would be happy enough to say it doesn't affect it.

21
22 What would happen to the levy if there is a downturn and the studio becomes something else? I
23 think what we do was put a restrictive condition on any buildings that notwithstanding any
24 exemplary development provisions or use classes, that it was only for the film industry and we
25 haven't actually checked this out fully legally, but that's the sort of line we would probably go
26 along. I think the use classes in the regs aren't as clear on that. Steven Matthews asked how
27 long it's for, I think it's for the length of the scheme itself. How will it affect community
28 schemes? Again we didn't actually factor in very much for the film business. We have had very,
29 very little development in it up to now and again when we were doing this, we were wondering
30 should we adjust all the rates up and we didn't think it was worthwhile. We thought it was
31 within the statistical scatter of the estimated prices of schemes. I think that's all the questions, if
32 I missed any, someone can maybe come back to me.

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you for that. I think we have to go with the amendment first, do
34 you have a seconder for your amendment Steven? No, okay, so we will just go straight to the

1 proposed...

2 Cllr MATTHEWS: Just one question there, did we assess, is it we get an indication from the
3 extent of the development that they were proposing and therefore can we work out how much we
4 would have incurred in development charges as to what we will now get?

5 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: Cathaoirleach, the call we made was based on what we would have
6 thought when we did the original scheme. We would have done a lot of scenarios at the time,
7 because that was a scheme that was looked at the first principles and we didn't actually factor in
8 a huge amount. There has been an awful lot of talk about how much would be done but not an
9 awful lot has happened on the ground. So we actually haven't done the exercise at this stage
10 because we are amending the scheme and we are more interested in how the rates, how it will
11 affect the rates that we computed previously so, I honestly don't know how big this will be.
12 Everyone is talking it up. Every county seems to want to have its own film industry. My own
13 personal bias would be that Wicklow is the best place to do it, but apart from that I can't really
14 look into the ball.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: We will have a vote.

16

17 (A vote was taken)

18

19 MS GALLAGHER: That's 25 for, one against and six not present.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you very much for that. We will move to item number
21 eleven to consider the taking in charge of the following estates. The woods in Rathdrum,
22 Coolattin View, Coolboy and Rocky Valley Crescent. Do we do all these individually? For the
23 first one, the woods in Rathdrum, can I have a proposer. Proposed Irene Winters, seconded Pat
24 Kennedy. Coolattin view in Coolboy, proposer for that, Pat Doran, and Vincent Blake. And
25 Rocky Valley Crescent Kilmacanogue.

26 Cllr FOX: Can I make a point. First of all I notice the planning staff have done a lot of work on
27 Rocky Valley Crescent and I thank them for that. Especially in relation to the sewage
28 infrastructure. Just one point that the residents brought up, there is no actual sign. It's a very
29 hidden development, it comes down to the R755, there is no sign for emergency services so to
30 speak. I don't know if it was even on the original within but if it wasn't, would the goodwill be
31 there to put a sign in place, because there is another sign which says the Ford way at the entrance
32 to the estate, which is very confusing, especially for emergency services. Could we get a sign at
33 the entrance for Rocky Valley crescent. It was even on the original...

34 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: It will be at the mercy of the area engineer, is there money left over?

1 Cllr FOX: I am happy to propose.

2 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: Connor says yes.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: I'll second that myself. Are we all agreed with all of those three? On to
4 item number 12 to receive an update...

5 Cllr KENNEDY: Sorry Cathaoirleach. Just a couple of points on the Woods in Rathdrum, first
6 of all there is over 850 metres of roadway running in the woods in Rathdrum with over 350
7 metres of through road running from Union Lane to join the R755 Rathdrum to Laragh Road. I
8 would like if this could be included in the winter maintenance programme of grit and salt. It's
9 being used as a through road, it's also being used as a road to feed the community college and it's
10 on a very steep hill. I would like if that point could be made because it is very, very steep there.

11 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: We can pass it on to the roads, unfortunately Connor can't approve that.

12 Cllr KENNEDY: It is something that needs to be pointed out.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Update for the SPC.

14 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: We have so little time left, myself and the Cathaoirleach of the SPC
15 talked this morning, I have a very few short slides about it, but could I just go on instead because
16 we were going to hand out I was going to talk about most of the work we have been doing is on
17 the County Development Plan. Maybe we can give this again another day, but the proposed
18 draft plan is now available to be handed out to the members, so I thought I might just go really
19 quickly through this because we have got so little time. As - I won't say what I threatened to say,
20 but the lovely women to hand out. But the operatives from planning will hand out.

21 Cllr BRADY: I have written questions in there as well.

22 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: The members are getting this planned to, you will have up to eight
23 weeks to consider it, and hopefully we will have this on in the meeting in December, I suppose
24 that will depend on how you get on with your budgets, etcetera. You can -- obviously at the
25 meeting in December, you will be able to make amendments, the draft plan will hopefully be
26 published before Christmas and be on public display for a minimum of ten weeks. Workshops to
27 be arranged probably at the end of this month, but the planning team are available at any time to
28 discuss or clarify matters with either individual members or groups with common interest. Just
29 on the plan that's being done now, the plans have become terribly bloated by requirements under
30 both court cases, European directives, and our own legislation. But volume one is what we are
31 giving you in a printed form here today, has basically what would have been in the Development
32 Plan say 20 years ago. Volume 2 is we have taken a lot of local area plans and put them into the
33 County Plan now. So volume 2 gives town plans for the likes of Ashford, Aughrim, Baltinglass,
34 Carnew, Dunlavin, Enniskerry, Tinahely and settlement plans for the smaller settlements, what

1 you call grade 6 set numbers the previous and current plans.

2
3 These have become much smaller in size but I'll get to them later on. Volume 3, these are the
4 stuff that's come out, the first two development and design standards, and the rural house design
5 guide have been - you are getting copies of those now as well. The rest of it are very, very much
6 things that we have to do, statutorily, they're very, very dry, someone might want to dip into
7 them but I don't think you would want to dip into them as a matter of course. That will be in
8 appendix three, volume 3, we are not printing these. Everyone is getting a very expensive high
9 capacity memory stick, compliments of those good people in planning. Which you can add on to
10 when we get the Manager's reports and things in the future. I won't go through all these, you can
11 see what they are. But a lot of them will be very, very dry.

12
13 Just the main changes, before we didn't have housing separately, we had urban and rural ones but
14 now we have a new housing chapter. The main changes of villages and rural areas, the
15 restrictive conditions that stopped non Wicklow people coming in have been stripped right
16 down. This would have been agreed with workshops with the Councillors earlier on. But they
17 have been incorporated into the proposed draft plan. Economic and community development,
18 there has been an emphasis on the role of the plan to underpin the new LECPs, and in fact the
19 plan has been delayed a bit because the LECP has been a bit behind the schedule as well. There
20 is retail strategy being looked at from scratch, surveys done of all the floor areas of the shops of
21 the county and we have incorporated the retail guidelines. There is improved tourism objectives.
22 Irish Water has been taken down a lot. There is an emphasis on flooding and climate, that's in
23 appendices in volume three. We have modified the wind energy strategy. That's as a result of a
24 review of landscape categories. Members if you recall when we did the amendment on the wind
25 wanted it tied in more to the landscape categories and they've been looked at from scratch again
26 by Steven Willoughby in particular. The town plans, we can go through these again, we are
27 running out of time, but a lot of them have very, very little changes A lot of them have actually
28 had a bit of down zoning, as a result of department directives on these matters. I don't think any
29 of them are going to be catastrophic to anyone concerned.

30
31 And finally the settlement plans, there is a new format, and these are going to be basically down
32 to about two pages each, there is a common bit in the beginning about six pages, they'll be down
33 to two pages and a map and they're in a line, the first one we did was Avoca or Kilmacanogue,
34 where you have basic zonings of the town centre, a development zone and a buffer zone after

1 that. We thought they worked out better because I think having specific zoning on a place where
2 so little development is happening is very, very difficult. I think it inhibits development rather
3 than promotes it. So that is 100 mile an hour race through the proposed draft plan. As I said, the
4 team are available, and I just have to pay tribute to the team because the amount of work and
5 plan compared to 20 years ago I would say is about five times the amount. The only bit gone to
6 consultants is a strategic environmental assessment and the appropriate assessment. Everything
7 else is done in-house. I think it's a tremendous achievement by a small group of people. I
8 suppose I would just like to pay tribute as well to Paul Conlon who is just an intern with us, but
9 if you look at the design guides, the graphics on that was all done by him. He is a very talented
10 individual and I think he should be acknowledged for the work he has done. That's as far as I
11 can get.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, no problem at all, we will have you back.

13 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: Don't clap, you will give him a big head.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: To fix a date and time for the annual budget meeting, the proposal is
15 Monday the 23rd of November kicking off at ten o'clock, John we will get you a written
16 response to the question you were going to ask and under correspondence, two things to make
17 you aware of.

18 MS GALLAGHER: Flu injections will be available for the November meeting and also the JPC,
19 the Joint Policing Committee have a public meeting in Blessington next Monday evening at 8
20 o'clock in the Avonree Hotel. And also could I have a proposer and seconder for the July and
21 September protocol minutes of meetings please.

22 Cllr LAWLESS: I'll propose.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: And Cllr Casey for the seconder. We have the civic reception for Special
24 Olympics, but first we will have protocol right now in the Furzonburg room. Thank you very
25 much.

26
27 The meeting concluded at 5pm
28

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