

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL



Wicklow County Council
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTAIN

Transcript of the County Council Meeting Held on 13 April 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. Welcome, we are at the dawn of a new era,
8 Mr Doyle here beside me. I would like to wish him all the best in the job, he knows the brief
9 very well, so I am sure we would all like to wish him well. I have a few votes of sympathy to
10 start with.

11 MS GALLAGHER: For the repose of the soul of Jimmy Cleary, father of Marion Doyle
12 Wicklow County Council. Miriam Barton, and Joe Doyle, former security caretaker Blessington
13 and Baltinglass.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Lawless.

15 Cllr LAWLESS: I just want to send my votes of sympathy to Kevin Lewis on the death of his
16 daughter Jacqueline, which is last month and I believe she would have been 21 tomorrow. So
17 just a vote of sympathy from often Sinn Fein members. Thanks Cathaoirleach.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Walsh.

19 Cllr WALSH: Condolences to the family of John Malcolm, John is a former chairperson of the
20 St Laurence's National School board, he was also chairperson of the Delgany horticultural
21 society as well as the national horticultural society. He did some great work with the local
22 Greystones cancer support group, we would like to pass on condolence to John's wife Mary
23 and extended family.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, we will stand for a moment.

25
26 (Minute's silence was held)

27
28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, we have a full agenda, so I am asking for your assistance in
29 moving the agenda along quite speedily if we can. Okay. Cllr Casey.

30 Cllr CASEY: Chairman, just to maybe give you a hand here, item number 12, to, I believe that
31 has to come before the LCDC before it comes before the full chamber and that hasn't yet so, I
32 would be proposing we defer that item.

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, that is agreed? Seconded? By Councillor Ryan. Cllr Brady.

34 Cllr BRADY: Thanks Cathaoirleach, I would like to request a suspension of standing orders just

1 to discuss the potential closure of the health clinic in Roundwood. I have been speaking to a
2 number of staff who work in the health clinic in Roundwood who inform me that it is going to
3 close -- to different I suppose stories that have been put out there recently, that they have been
4 informed it is going to close, they're equipment has been moved down and is in the process of
5 being moved down to the Port Access Road, to the new facility there. And it will close at the
6 end of the month, contrary to the line that the management are putting out who are saying there
7 is going to be a review of services in the clinic in Roundwood and unfortunately this follows in
8 line with other closures of facilities by the HSE, who always have the same line that there is a
9 review. So I think it's important we discuss the matter.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Have I a seconder?

11 Cllr LAWLESS: Seconded.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Is that agreed.

13 Cllr CASEY: I think I have alternative views in relation to that and I believe the HSE have
14 made a statement that they're not closing. There is no intention from the press release that the
15 HSE...

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Shay Cullen, I am not having a discussion on it.

17 Cllr Shay CULLEN: We have made through Andrew Doyle's office representation and to the
18 HSE and they've categorically said that the health centre is not closing, so that's the information
19 we have to date. So I mean, I don't see what a discussion will do when we haven't -- that's the
20 up-to-date information we have.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Nolan?

22 Cllr NOLAN: Again, sorry Cathaoirleach, I just wish to concur with Councillors Casey and
23 Cullen, the information I have received, I made -- I was in contact with Deputies Harris, Doyle,
24 Donnelly, Ferris, I was in contact with all of them, Deputy Timmins as well and they all said to
25 me no, categorically, this is not closing, the HSE have said the facility in Roundwood is not
26 closing, and that's the information I have received as well.

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Brady's request has been seconded.

28 Cllr BRADY: Could I speak on the proposal?

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: We are not speaking on the issue, we are not having a discussion now.
30 Do we want a discussion at ten to five?

31 Cllr CASEY: We don't have the fact to discuss, so we are going to waffle...

32 CATHAOIRLEACH: Roll call. Roll call.

33 Cllr BRADY: I am proposing we discuss it and send a letter from this Council to...

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: That's been seconded. Roll call now.

1 Cllr BRADY: I don't see why anyone would not want to discuss an important matter, I think it's
2 unbelievable.

3
4 (Vote taken)

5
6 Cllr ANNESLEY: No, I am happy enough with the other Councillors, thank you.

7
8 (Vote continued)

9
10 Cllr SNELL: Cllr Nolan missed it.

11 Cllr NOLAN: I spoke up against, so I wouldn't - but I wouldn't mind a discussion, so I would be
12 for.

13 MS GALLAGHER: 15 for, 15 against and two not present. So you need two thirds.

14 Cllr BRADY: Can I just say I am really disappointed with that. We have absolutely nothing to
15 lose by discussing this and establishing the exact facts of this and let the record show that this
16 Council ran a mile when it's the potential of health clinic closing down...

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Three of the local Councillors have spoken on it.

18 Cllr BRADY: I don't think there is anything wrong with establishing...

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number one, Cllr O'Neill.

20 Cllr BRADY: Fine Gael say contrary, I know who I believe, it's disappointing, let the record
21 show that.

22 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: Chairman, just as a member of Councillor Gordon and myself and that
23 have been on to the HSE about having this discussed at the next health forum and they're looking
24 for a meeting of it, about this, so just to let you know that.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Walsh.

26 Cllr WALSH: Could I suggest through the Chair that we make contact and write to the HSE...

27 Cllr BRADY: Hold on, you are trying to wriggle out now. You are trying to wriggle out of it.

28 Cllr WALSH: There is no point in having a debate...

29 Cllr BRADY: I proposed that.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: It's not on the agenda. We are moving on. Item number one.

31 MS GALLAGHER: If we could just have your indulgence...

32 SPEAKER: I do allow for suspension of standing orders. Okay Gerry, Cllr O'Neill.

33 Cllr O'NEILL: That we discuss the crisis in the county, in the country and in the county as
34 regards the evictions. We have another 88 people in court here this morning in Wicklow alone,

1 where they're losing their homes. We have had 33 evictions in the last couple of months. There
2 is over 500 people in the county awaiting their fate as regards whether they're out on the road.
3 This in turn again is putting huge pressure on us as a Local Authority, that we just don't have the
4 housing. It's a huge crisis, so I would ask for a suspension of orders to discuss that.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH:

6 Cllr BRADY: Second that Cathaoirleach.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Cullen, do you want to speak. I just want to turn off this thing here.
8 Is that agreed?

9 Cllr BRADY: Agreed. Maybe put it to a roll call there again Cathaoirleach. I suppose we can't
10 discuss that either.

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Ten minutes to discuss it? It's agreed?

12 Cllr TIMMINS: Why do we waste time having a roll call.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number one, ten to five Gerry.

14 MS GALLAGHER: It's on page 7, the sentence as there was an annual cost maintenance of
15 10,000. It there is a joining fee of 10,000. If we can delete that line. It's an amendment to the
16 minutes.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Instead of an annual cost.

18 MS GALLAGHER: On page seven, bullet point number seven.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: That should have been an initial cost.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: An amendment to the minutes.

21 MS GALLAGHER: It's page 7, bullet point 7, just to delete the line "as there was an annual cost
22 for maintenance of 10,000," that's incorrect. It was an introductory cost, a joining fee, which is
23 in the first bullet point.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Is that agreed? Is that agreed? Have I a proposal for the minutes with the
25 amendment? Councillor Ryan. Seconded by Cllr Casey. Agreed? Okay Item number two, the
26 disposal of land at Whitegates Wicklow. Proposed by Cllr Snell, seconded by Cllr Casey.
27 Agreed?

28 Cllr CASEY: Just a point of clarification, that's running on top of the current lease they have in
29 place, 15 years in addition --

30 MS GALLAGHER: A further period of 15 years from June 2030. They have a current lease.

31 Cllr CASEY: I propose that.

32 CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number three. Proposed by Cllr Casey, seconded by Councillor
33 Shay Cullen. Is that agreed? Item four, to consider entering into a Section 85 agreement with
34 Kildare County Council for the expansion of a replacement interchange Bridge at Wingfield.

1 Proposed? Councillor Ruttle. Seconded?

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Second it myself. Is that agreed? Is that agreed members?

3 Cllr KAVANAGH: I don't know, so can I abstain on that.

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: We will note Cllr Kavanagh's abstention okay. Okay item five, to
5 receive -- delighted to see Tom and Noel back, the audit, you haven't got Mary Savage with you
6 today. I would ask you maybe to join us gentlemen. This is to receive an Annual Report from
7 the County Council Audit Committee for the year ended 31st December 2014. Hi Tom. Hi
8 Noel. Okay. Let you in gentlemen, if you want to kick off. Tom.

9 MR O'GREGAN: Thank you Cathaoirleach and good evening elected representatives.

10 Cathaoirleach, it's that time of the year again when the Audit Committee and the internal audit
11 makes the report to the Council here, and it covers the period of 12 months up to 31st December.
12 And we would like to take this opportunity in thanking your Cathaoirleach for allowing us to
13 make that presentation. Wicklow County Council Audit Committee was initially established in
14 2007 under the Local Government business improvement districts act 2005. The following -
15 following the May 2014 local election, the Audit Committee was re-established and the
16 membership of this committee comprises of: Mr Noel Geraghty on my right here is Vice-Chair,
17 Councillor Pat Casey, Ms Mary Savage, as you say is in absentia, but sends her apologies.
18 Councillor Edward Timmins and myself Thomas O'Gregan, Cathaoirleach. The Committee is
19 supported and assisted by Lorraine Lynch, Derek Keys, Margaret Connolly, Marie hall day and
20 Mr Thomas Murphy and I would like to take this opportunity to thank those group of fine people
21 to work very closely with us over the years for their professionalism, their commitment and their
22 hard work and it's absolutely a great help to us.

23

24 The role of the Audit Committee is to advise the Council on financial reporting processes,
25 internal controls, risk management, and audit matters. The function of the audit committees are
26 as prescribed by section 59 of the Local Government Act 2014 and include: To review the
27 financial and budgetary reporting practices, and procedures within the Local Authority; to foster
28 the development of best practices in the performance of the Local Authority, of its internal audit
29 function of; to review any audit, financial states, auditors reports or auditors special report in
30 relation to local authorities, and access any actions taken within the authority by its Chief
31 Executive in response to such a statement of report and report its findings to the authority. To
32 access, to promote efficiencies and value for money with respect of the Local Authority
33 performance, of its functions. To review systems that are operated by the Local Authority for
34 the management of risk. To review the findings and recommendations of the national oversight

1 and audit commission, and the response of the Chief Executive to these, and take further action
2 as appropriate.

3
4 Each year, Cathaoirleach, we meet five or six times. And the indications are that our workload is
5 likely to increase having regard to the department's increased focus on oversight matters.
6 Cathaoirleach, we are only halfway through, or almost halfway through April and I think this
7 year already we have met six times, so I think we have a busy year ahead.

8
9 So the assignments completed by the internal audit team over the last 12 months: The Audit
10 Committee welcomed the completion of the following assignments over the last year: Under the
11 first heading, debt management procedures. The objective of this review was to assess the debt
12 collection procedures in Wicklow County Council and to report on the operation of the debt
13 collection unit. The review was focussed on the main revenue streams of the Council, which are
14 detailed in appendix seven to the Annual Financial Statement each year. These are commercial
15 rates, rents, annuities, commercial water and housing loans. The review includes analysis of data
16 obtained from the financial management system, and discussions with the relevant staff involved
17 in the various processes in each category of income. So, summary of findings, the process of
18 changes involving the revenue section into a fully resourced and functioning debt collection unit
19 has commenced. It's recommended that a series of targets be drafted setting out the strategic
20 direction in which it is intended to develop the section. In tandem with this exercise, realistic
21 timelines should be estimated. This road map could then be used as an objective measure of
22 progress and indeed a mechanism to identify specific impediments where they arise. In this way,
23 issues which arise can be addressed in a timely manner.

24
25 Moving on to payroll, the aim of the audit is to review the in-house policies, practices and
26 procedures surrounding the payroll operations and report of the findings. The review included
27 discussions with management staff, review of documentation, sample testing of payroll files,
28 operations, inputs and outputs. The central objective of the audit was to provide assurance to
29 management on the accuracy and integrity of the payroll function. Report summarises the
30 payroll process and reports briefly on each of the main generic headings and, for example,
31 wages, salaries, pensions, retained fire fighters and Councillors. And again the summary of
32 findings to payroll section operates in a very strong controlled environment. The staff are well
33 trained and have a great deal of prior technical knowledge. The section is well managed and the
34 individual files are maintained to a high standard. There is a good working relationship with

1 corporate affairs and staff queries, attended to promptly and courteously. Based on the review of
2 the tests carried out, it is our opinion that the internal controls are operating effectively and risk
3 of being effectively managed and it is possible to give a possible assurance on the operation of
4 the payroll section. And the next heading is procedure and compliance and cash receipting.

5
6 The aim of this audit was to review the in-house policies, procedures and day to day practices
7 surrounding cash, receipting, in various locations and report to findings. The review included
8 discussions with local management and relevant staff, review of policy and procedural
9 documents; inspection of practices at a number of selected locations as follows: Revenue
10 section, housing section, post room, cash/cheque handling, various branch libraries, Arklow,
11 Bray and Baltinglass municipal district offices.

12
13 And the summary again: In general it was found that the procedures were being followed.
14 However similar issues arose across locations. A common fault was the use of the same log-in
15 details among cashiers. It must be recorded that there were little or no reported difficulties with
16 lodgements in the areas reviewed. The report as circulated contains a number of
17 recommendations, the majority of which we would consider to be low risk. Business continuity,
18 data recovery. The aim of this review was to assess the data recovery and business continuity
19 procedures in Wicklow County Council. And to report the findings, the review was focussed on
20 the in-house policies and procedures of the IT department. It was to assess the preparedness of
21 the organisation in the event of a catastrophic failure of the IT system and the consequence
22 effects on the various departments within the organisation.

23
24 IT is a complex and specialised area, and in the absence of any inherent insight or understanding,
25 this report can only attempt to assess some superficial questions regarding business continuity.
26 Disaster recovery. It does not purport to any expertise inside or technical knowledge of IT
27 systems or their management.

28
29 And the summary of findings, the catalogue of services in the Government Cloud Initiative will
30 facilitate a housing service which will be used as a disaster recovery location. Back up tapes are
31 regularly tested as part of the file, restoration recovery procedures. A formal business continuity
32 disaster recovery plan is evolving from Government cloud and cross-sectoral initiative. The IT
33 staff are very experienced and they have an impressive array of proprietary knowledge. The
34 organisation is heavily dependent on this expertise.

1
2 Moving on to another very important heading, procurement, the Audit Committee has
3 continually highlighted the importance of good procurement practice. Management is
4 committed to this very important role, and it was underpinned by the appointment of Miss Fiona
5 Flynn to the position of procurement officer approximately two years ago. The Audit
6 Committee certainly recommends this development, Councillors, and we thank the former CEO
7 for accepting our recommendations and I must say Miss Flynn is doing a fine job. She made a
8 comprehensive presentation to our committee in February 2015 and alludes to this in greater
9 detail in next year's Annual Report to the Council.

10
11 In the meantime, I am pleased to report that a significant amount of work is being carried out in
12 this area, which is becoming increasingly more specialised. Next heading is the annual audit
13 plan.

14
15 The annual audit plan is in the process of being finalised. The plan is being prepared in
16 consultation with the Chief Executive. Directors of services and the forthcoming assignments
17 will reflect the doesn't focus on the need to achieve further efficiencies and savings, etcetera.
18 The list of assignments completed will be included in future reports to the Council. Meeting
19 with the Local Government Auditor, and it was with great sadness that we learned of the
20 untimely passing of our colleague Mr Conal Cummins, Local Government Auditor. He had
21 previously attended a number of our meetings and the Audit Committee had on many occasions
22 provided support and advice to us, and I must say here that he was an honourable, decent,
23 honourable man.

24
25 Mr Cummins' interim placement is Mr Eamon Daly, who kindly agreed to attend our December
26 meeting. This was a useful opportunity for the Committee to exchange views with the Local
27 Government Auditor on a number of cases.

28
29 Training, following the recent legislative changes in relation to audit committees, a series of
30 information meetings were arranged by the IPA. These meetings were well attended by a
31 number of the Committee members and found to be very informative in relation to the new
32 regulations. I attended my day, Councillors, in Wexford and I must say it was very worthwhile
33 and we have found -- I got a lot of information from that meeting.

1 In conclusion, Cathaoirleach, we would like to place on record our thanks to the internal audit
2 again, those group of people they mentioned from the outset for their support and assistance over
3 the last 12 months. It's a pleasure to be working with those people. It is clear that the Central
4 Government is placing an ever greater emphasis on the internal audit function in local
5 authorities. Even with limited resources. I would like to assure the Council that the Committee
6 will continue to play an active role in providing the focus on value for money throughout the
7 Council, promoting good accounting practices and ensuring better and more informed decision
8 making.

9
10 I would like to record our appreciation for the ongoing co-operation and assistance received from
11 the former Chief Executive and I wish him well in his retirement. And management and staff of
12 the Wicklow County Council. I thank you today Councillors for your support to the Audit
13 Committee, we very much appreciate it. We are working hard and a lot more work to be done. I
14 would also like to congratulate the new Chief Executive Mr Doyle, and wish him well in his role
15 as Chief Executive and I hope your tenure, Mr Doyle, is a long and fruitful one. I would also
16 like to thank the members of the Wicklow County Council for your continued support, and to
17 you Cathaoirleach for allowing us to take the time of your very busy schedule to present this
18 report. Thank you very much indeed.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Tom. Thanks Noel. Cllr Bourke.

20 Cllr BOURKE: I would just like to thank the Chairman of the Audit Committee there for
21 another excellent report this year. He is always very comprehensive every year. I was
22 wondering while he was delivering his report there at any stage in the last year say would the
23 Local Government Auditor have made contact with his committee in light of the fact say that we
24 had an issue here a couple of months ago over the procurement of bitumen and the way we did it
25 wasn't the way the Local Government Auditor would have preferred it to be done? Would issues
26 like that ever arise on the Audit Committee?

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Kavanagh.

28 Cllr KAVANAGH: Thanks Cathaoirleach, I would like to - first of all I would like to concur
29 with the report in its commendation of the procurement officer who is doing a fantastic job. My
30 question is similar. I wonder does the Audit Committee have any role to play in looking at
31 financial be it court fines or environmental fines, that would be incurred by the Council, and
32 report back to this Council about those fines? I am just wondering is that parted of your remit?

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Winters.

34 Cllr WINTERS: Again I would like to thank the Audit Committee for the work they do and I

1 suppose because we did discuss here at the last Council meeting the fine that came in the Roads
2 Department, which was roughly €39,000, I am just wondering what do the Audit Committee do
3 about that not being highlighted to them, or was it highlighted to them, or would you have been
4 aware that a fine was imposed and are there any procedures in place to make sure that if there are
5 fines in the future, that they will be highlighted to the Audit Committee?

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you. Cllr Snell.

7 Cllr SNELL: Thanks Cathaoirleach. Again just to pick up on the point, this is my sixth year
8 sitting listening to the Audit Committee and I believe they do tremendous work. And I would
9 have been like other members very surprised to find out what we heard last month in regards to
10 the Audit Committee was kept in the dark in regards to that whole procedure, and the fine that
11 come out of that, so again just like other members, I would like to know the feelings of the Audit
12 Committee, what their feelings on that is. And what sort of safeguards are in place that that will
13 never happen again, and just could they elaborate a little bit in why it happened and were they
14 not furnished with all the information? I thought as an Audit Committee they'd be given all the
15 information, the relevant information and I just felt that it took slightly from the role that they
16 do, it's an excellent role and I know they're committed to it, but I just felt it was very
17 disingenuous to the Audit Committee and there is a number of members who sit on it, public
18 representatives, and I know they were fairly hurt as well and some of them have spoken out
19 about it. I just want to know what safe guards do we have that come next year that when we get a
20 presentation that there is no, nothing hidden as such. Thanks.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you. I know a number of members expressed the
22 disappointment at the issue, the bitumen was not relayed to the Audit Committee. However it
23 was a full frank and rational explanation given to the issue in hand, so maybe...

24 MR O'GREGAN: Just hand over for comment gentlemen.

25 MR GERAGHTY: Thanks for your support. In relation to fines or otherwise, in fact in relation
26 to the whole Audit Committee's role, we meet -- this year has been exceptional, we have met
27 more often, but we meet maybe five or six times a year. Our overall role is limited to the reports
28 that get from the internal audit function, and what they come back on. We have looked over our
29 reports. There was a report that came back to us that referred to a downwards adjustment in an
30 allocation from the Department. Now call it a fine, call it a downwards adjustment, call it
31 whatever you like, the reality of the situation our focus was more -- this is going back in time so,
32 kind of the situation has changed now, one can't ever give assurance that something will never
33 happen again, I don't believe -- the only thing that's certain in life is death and taxes they say.
34 But in terms of our focus was on the whole procurement process that was in place, and the lack

1 of a procurement officer at that time didn't help in our opinion. Now there is one in place now.
2 But in terms of an external body, doing a review of the functions of any section of Wicklow
3 County Council, and finding that there is something wrong, obviously there is something to learn
4 from that, because nobody does everything perfect, I never believe that we have everything
5 perfect. You get complacent if you get to the stage of perfection. We have recommended that if
6 there is any external audit being conducted into the affairs of the Wicklow County Council that
7 would impact on the money, that that would be notified to the internal audit function at the
8 earlier opportunity. On top of that then, we have recommended that at the conclusion of that
9 audit, whatever that conclusion should be, that matter also be referred to the internal audit
10 function, so the internal audit function are aware about it at the earliest opportunity. It's our
11 opinion, given -- some of those things could be at a fairly low level and therefore you don't need
12 to be over-concerned but just to ensure it's dealt with at the correct level, we felt the
13 responsibility that that notification got passed over, be put to the Director of Services in that
14 particular area, rather than -- so the person with overall responsibility for the area was the one
15 who's charged with making sure Internal Audit know and know early and know what the end
16 result is. And it -- obviously it's a learning process and from that, hopefully better things come
17 out, but I hope that answers your questions Councillors.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Winters.

19 Cllr WINTERS: Just to say thanks very much, I appreciate it's very difficult and you can only
20 work with the material you are given. I would like to think that if I went to court and I was fined
21 that I could refer to it as a downward adjustment. A fine is a fine and I think it's unfortunate that
22 there was such a lack of transparency on the officials' part to refer to it in such a way that it
23 couldn't be seen for what it was and I would hope from an officials' point of view that that
24 wouldn't happen again. You can only work with the information you are given and I don't think
25 anybody in the country, other than that report, would call a fine a downward adjustment.

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks again gentlemen for all your time and effort. You do a great job.
27 So please pass on our best to Mary as well. Thank you.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number six, consider the first Chief Executive's report on the
29 pre-draft consultation for the Wicklow County Development Plan and consider the issuing of
30 directions regarding the preparation of the draft plan. I know you have all had an opportunity to
31 meet, pre-meeting with Sorcha and iron out any queries that you may have, but I am sure there
32 are still plenty left. Do you want to start.

33 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: Okay, you have had the Chief Executive's report for a while. I don't
34 intend going through it, I suppose I would like to apologise for the length because it's probably

1 impossible for anyone to be able to go through the entire thing. Unless they had nothing else on
2 their plate to do. Unfortunately, it's a statutory requirement to report everything that was made
3 to us even though a lot of it is repeated. I suppose it's synthesised on page 29, what all the
4 mandatory recommendations are, or the Chief Executive's recommendations are from the various
5 93 consultation documents. And I appreciate although this is a direction stage of the plan, we
6 would like to see the plan as a collaborative process between the members and the executive, and
7 certainly beyond today's meeting, we do intend consulting and working with the members,
8 hopefully through workshops, to include anything the members would like to have in the plan, in
9 the plan. And that's how we would like to go forward on that. There is obviously a lot of town
10 plans ranging from I think six in the western area down to smaller numbers in other areas, where
11 at municipal district level we will have workshops maybe to go through the maps and zonings of
12 these various town plans. And probably at the county level, there is going to be areas where
13 members are interested in and presumably rural housing will be one of them, where again we
14 will consult with the members, so we can make sure the document fits new expectations and new
15 desires.

16
17 I suppose the key element of today really is to read the core strategy in and since the 2010 Act,
18 we have to agree a core strategy and everything in the plan has to be consistent with the core
19 strategy. In the previous plan, this was made a bit easier in that we had a national spatial
20 strategy, and we also had regional planning guidelines. Unfortunately it hasn't been an updated
21 national strategy, in fact I think the Government abrogated the one they had, and there has been
22 no new regional planning guidelines. What's meant to happen is at national level, they'd feed in
23 population figures for the regions and then in the regional planning guidelines, the regional
24 members of the regional authority would then divvy out the populations to the counties, and the
25 counties then would be able to have a core strategy that's consistent with regional planning
26 guidelines. Don't have that luxury. We probably would have to estimate in as rational a way as
27 possible what the population allocations would have been. Sorcha and her team have given you
28 a number of scenarios how you might go about doing that. The one we have chosen is one we
29 think is consistent with how the previous national spatial strategies and regional planning
30 guidelines were worked out. In effect what they did previously was that the Central Statistics
31 Office work out, I think they work out to 1946 or '41.

32 MS GALLAGHER: '31.

33 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: Wrong again, what they did before was that would be, if there was no
34 policy interventions, the Government obviously have policy interventions there would be more

1 growth outside Dublin and less growth in side the Dublin area and therefore the national
2 population increase in the greater Dublin area would have been kept down. We have factored
3 the same parameters in to the recommended figures we have given you there today. So I
4 suppose Cathaoirleach, I think we will leave it at that, there is directions given there, maybe we
5 should deal with the core strategy first of all and come to the directions afterwards. I am not sure
6 how you want to play it.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yeah, okay. Okay. You are happy Sorcha? Just as the Director has said,
8 this is the core strategy, so it's basically the foundation for a Development Plan that we are going
9 to agree later in the year. So we are not getting into the specifics, but we are going to agree the
10 strategy. So for example, the population targets, we are going to agree here today. We are not
11 going to agree where the population, or the zoning is going to be done. Likewise, the set meant
12 strategy, we are going to agree the levels, but we are not going to agree on the criteria associated
13 with the various levels as an example. So I'll open it up to the floor. I am sure there are queries
14 out there. And we will try and stick to the core strategy if we can. Cllr Blake.

15 Cllr BLAKE: Just on behalf of the planning SPC, I would like to thank the Director of Services
16 and the staff for giving us a pretty comprehensive breakdown of the whole strategy of the four
17 SPC meetings we have had since the whole plan was put out for -- put out to the public. We had
18 quite a number of meetings out there with the general public as well. One of the new things we
19 brought up was the fact that we actually communicate with the local schools and that was done
20 as well. There has been a huge amount of consultation, whether there was great attendance at
21 the meetings or not was open for interpretation. Nevertheless, certainly the staff have engaged
22 with the general public out there. The level of submissions made, somewhere around 80 to 90 is
23 quite substantial as well. I think that brings it home to us the level of engagement the public
24 have with the Council out there about the whole County Development Plan, and it's just one
25 more process with regards to it, it will probably take the best part of another year before it's
26 concluded but this is one of the first major steps in the implementation of the whole new County
27 Development Plan. On behalf of the SPC, I would like to thank the staff for the work they've
28 done over the last number of months and we would continue at each of the meetings, any more
29 meetings that we have, that the County Development Plan will be on the agenda as such. Thanks
30 Chairman.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Timmins.

32 Cllr TIMMINS: Chairman, is it on the issues we raised? Yeah. I brought up one issue and I
33 brought it up at the planning SPC as well and I would urge all members sitting around this table
34 to look at it. It's about who can buy houses in Co Wicklow and various villages and towns and

1 it's not just small villages, it's small growth towns, large villages, you know from level four
2 down to level eight, it affects actually. And while we won't make a decision here today on it, I
3 would urge members to read the restrictions in place. They fall under the headings of chapter
4 five and chapter six of the current County Development Plan, the directions in particular I refer
5 to them in my proposal, there is a typo, "To remove the restrictions on who can buy houses in
6 various ... (reading) County Development Plan". And if you look at it and say pick examples of
7 a particular town you know, like I know, I am from a level five town, I couldn't buy a house five
8 miles away in a level eight small village. Some of it is really -- if you apply it to an individual
9 situation, it just seems a little bit crazy, so I would urge that we review this, there may be other
10 hidden implications of abolishing them but I think at the end of the day we probably will
11 decide. We won't decide here today to abolish them, they're unnecessary restrictions. You
12 might think, you have often heard people from outside Wicklow can't buy houses in Wicklow,
13 there are restrictions on them from Dublin or other parts of the country or abroad. This actually
14 includes restrictions for people from Co Wicklow, various towns in Wicklow, they can't buy
15 houses, especially if they haven't been living in Wicklow in the previous couple of years or even
16 in the previous year. For some of them you have to have lived in Wicklow for a previous three
17 years to buy a house in a small village in Wicklow. You could have been gone away for a few
18 years, arrive into a little village, a builder is building four houses but sorry you can't buy one of
19 them because you haven't lived here for the last couple of years. Some of it really is really hard
20 to believe if you look at applying it. I would urge all the members to review it. I am fairly
21 convinced that the restriction should be removed, but I am open to working through it in
22 workshops and see where we end up on it.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: If you are proposing a review of the restrictions, I am happy to second
24 that as opposed to the removal.

25 Cllr TIMMINS: I am interested in what other comments people have on it, because if you look
26 at it closely, you will be startled by what you see.

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: It is one of the issues that is not a core strategy issue but is something that
28 needs to be reviewed so that will be happening at the next meeting, so maybe we will hold the
29 comments until then. We won't be voting on it today.

30 Cllr TIMMINS: I accept we won't be voting on it today.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Are you proposing a review then of the restrictions

32 Cllr TIMMINS: Yeah.

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: I'll second that. Is that agreed then that that will be reviewed? Cllr
34 Mitchell.

1 Cllr MITCHELL: I do feel there is a need somewhere to try and have priority for people from
2 Wicklow, where there is a very easy number of houses being constructed, it may be that they're
3 too isolated or specific as Cllr Timmins has said, but I do think there is -- it is reasonable to have
4 a certain number of houses - otherwise I think there is a danger of people particularly in rural
5 areas will be outbid by people from Dublin, and they may not have the same jobs and the same
6 earning capacity, and somehow that needs to be dealt with in this.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: That's a valid point but look if we are committing to reviewing
8 something, I think we can hold back on the full discussion today. You know. That's for another
9 day. We have committed now to reviewing it, so the next day we will have a full discussion on
10 it, okay. Cllr Walsh.

11 Cllr WALSH: Likewise Chairman, I would like to propose a review to the existing rural housing
12 strategy and policies in place at the moment. It's felt that the rules in place are stringent or few
13 stringent when it comes to native residents looking to return to their areas to relocate. And that
14 the rules maybe require more flexibility. For example, there is no definition there for a
15 necessary dwelling, defining the need to live, demonstrating the need to live. That sort of stuff.
16 I would like to propose a total review of rules and regulations.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: A seconder for that? Cllr Snell. So we are committing to reviewing the
18 rural housing policy in the next phase, okay. Cllr Mitchell.

19 Cllr MITCHELL: I have some other points, one related to that which I would like to bring up. I
20 put down three directions to change the plan. The first one was to make the -- this plan proposes
21 a significant increase in population of a number of houses, and population, particularly in the big
22 towns. For instance in Bray, it's 68% increase to the number of houses, Greystones 75% and
23 large ones in Arklow and Wicklow. And anybody who sees the N11 in the morning will see that
24 the traffic already is very bad, so even without rezoning, we have about 19,000 houses available
25 for building on zoned land, or available with certain probably weighting things for sewage and
26 things. We have a significant amount of zoned land which has been unbuilt. I think if we
27 expand it further, as is suggested here in shortfall, an excess column, which expands Bray by
28 another 3,000, on top of the 4,000 already zoned, without dealing with the transport situation, we
29 are going to have a complete stalemate on the roads and we haven't been very successful in terms
30 of getting jobs into the county and North Wicklow in particular, is very much a commuter place,
31 and we need proper means of getting to work if we are going to expand the county by the
32 numbers we are talking about here. And I want to see that the -- this is dependent on the
33 improvement of the N11/M50 and also public transport along those routes and there is a section
34 in the regional planning guidelines which states that the Wicklow - the only road project listed

1 for the greater Dublin area for the planned period in the regional planning guidelines is that "To
2 improve the functioning of the N11 and M50 areas... (reading) as stated in the regional planning
3 guidelines". And I think we should make the rezoning which will have to accompany those
4 numbers there dependent on that happening. And it is not just about the road, but it's about
5 improved public transport as well and I think we just can't go on the way we are, anybody who
6 has seen the traffic jams which now go back from Kilmacanogue to Newtown every morning,
7 and there is massive developments. That's one proposal that I have and would like to see
8 changed. And it is very much in accordance with the regional planning guidelines, it's an exact
9 copy of the wording in fact. In addition, in Greystones, there is a plan - the last - Greystones
10 Development Plan is probably out of sync with the other three major towns which are due to be
11 reviewed soon. Greystones was reviewed two years ago and is not up for review for a couple of
12 years. The requirement here is there should be another 5,000 houses built in Greystones, which
13 is a 75% expansion of Greystones, the number of houses, and we have had on the plan in
14 Greystones a particular road, the Delgany to Blacklion road for 30 years, maybe 40 years, almost
15 nothing has been done to make this road happen. The population has tripled in the time. There
16 are three schools, two large primary and one secondary built on this road now, each of which
17 will have a capacity of 800 students. There is also another one and a half, one big and one small
18 school on this road. It's absolutely essential we get on with this road, far more emphasis than we
19 have had in the last 30 years and I want to make any expansion which is, which would happen as
20 I mentioned on the shortfall/excess column currently 1267, to be dependent on that road being
21 completed because I think we simply can't have the town completely choked up with this
22 massive increase in houses, without this. So that's the second point.

23
24 And the third point which I think is that the number of houses needed is very dependent on what
25 the assumptions are for the number of people who live in each house. And if we look at that in
26 1996, the census figures I think, there was 3.23 in each house. The last census, 2011, it was 2.79
27 so the number has gone down substantially. And it varied, there were three censuses during that
28 period. It varied a bit between those periods. I think we should use that average as the
29 expectation of change, expectation of social change that there will be less people in each house
30 as we go forward and I would like to see as I put down here, that the figure that is used will be
31 2.3 in 2028, not 2.19. And that is consistent with what has happened over the 1996 to 2011. The
32 proposals in the plan and the numbers are based on a figure which is about 12% lesser number of
33 people are going to be in the houses than the average for the past 15 years. So that would
34 actually reduce the number of houses required. But in all of this, just the amount of expansion in

1 the towns is startling. And the ability to try - we have had a huge expansion in Greystones, not
2 all towns have had that expansion, and the amount of effort and difficulty we have had getting
3 infrastructure sorted out, and in particular the roads, I think we need this as a - these changes.
4 Thank you.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you. I might just let - Sorcha, do you want to take the last
6 point on the average house size.

7 MS WALSH: In terms of the average house size, what we have used is an average rate of
8 reduction that we have seen over the last 15 to 20 years to iron out any cyclical variations. We
9 do note that in the last intercensus period between 2006 and 2011, the rate of decline of
10 household size has slowed slightly to the pattern that there was in the years before that. But like
11 you said, we were looking at a longer term pattern to account for the changes that you have
12 between census periods. So what we were using was a figure of, 0.035 per annum. The last
13 census it was 0.02. We still recommend that you use the figure that we have set out in the
14 Manager's Report, because we think that reflects the national trend, the regional trend and the
15 long-term trend. We accept there are variations between counties, between countries and
16 between towns in your own county. But we have to provide a core strategy where we use the
17 same assumptions across the entire county so we have recommended a rate of decline which we
18 think is consistent with the patterns that have been shown over the past 15 years or so, but we do
19 note Cllr Mitchell's point that the rate of decline has slowed, so we wouldn't have a major
20 difficulty with using this alternative household size that he has suggested. The upshot is that by
21 using a larger household size, you need to zone less land, because you don't need as many
22 houses. So for some people in some towns that's a desirable outcome because they may think
23 there has been enough land zoned in their town recently. Some might find it's a problem because
24 if there is more houses needed in their town to reflect the demand for housing. As long as you
25 are clear that that's the overall impact of using a different household size and if that's agreed, we
26 can generate a new core strategy table which is the yellow blue and green table that you have in
27 your report and what that will turn out at the other end is how much land is needed to be zoned,
28 upzoned or down zoned in each town and we will move forward with that. Your next set of plans
29 will be on...

30 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: Could I just add, the role we have to do is that there will be enough land
31 zoned to provide housing for our citizens and we have to make coherent judgments ahead. There
32 is a problem with over-zoning, a big problem in Ireland, not so much in this county, but other
33 counties where there was ludicrous amounts zoned. Then there is the problem with
34 under-zoning, then you won't have enough houses and there could be a shortfall. These figures

1 are based on international comparisons. And I haven't looked at these very recently but
2 generally if you look at the house size say in scene is generally ahead of the rest of Europe.
3 Germany is not that far hyped. Netherlands and Ireland would be about ten years behind that.
4 But you can see the house size decreasing fairly uniformly everywhere. Obviously there was a
5 shock between 2006 and 2011 which would explain why household size came down, a lot of
6 people stayed at home with parents because they couldn't afford rent or didn't have jobs. I just
7 give that health warning. We can go with it, but there is a health warning that you might leave
8 yourself a bit short if there is a large uptake in housing. For those who got the memories at the
9 end of the century, we were getting lambasted in the papers again and again from the papers
10 basically representing developers saying there wasn't enough land zoned for housing, that's why
11 the prices were going up so much and we had to produce loads and loads of figures in the greater
12 Dublin area. It turned out there was enough land zoned until the greater Dublin area, but there
13 was a time when we were blamed for not having enough zoned land. At the end of the day it's
14 your decision, we have given you what we think is probably the median, and the best fit for
15 predicting the future. But at the end of the day you are making assumptions and it will be a
16 matter for the members. I would give that health warning. Sometimes they say there is too
17 much land zoned but there have been times in the recent past where prices go up and they'll say
18 there is not enough land zoned.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Before we move on...

20 Cllr CASEY: Can I say something on that.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: The Director wants to say something else.

22 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: To answer Cllr Timmins and Cllr Walsh, I take it they're not going to be
23 directions, they're kind of recommendations on policy reviews, and I think we will definitely - in
24 fact I think there is sympathy with Cllr Timmins, what he is proposing. I think they've outlasted
25 their usefulness and we need to make it simpler and the amount of development in these small
26 villages has been so small, I think we have to revisit it in any case. But we can do it in an
27 holistic approach. Just on Cllr Mitchell's talk about having the increase in houses contingent on
28 transport infrastructure and I presume he means possibly the Luas coming to Bray and the N11
29 being some what improved to maybe get the queues back from Newtown at least to somewhere
30 approaching the county boundary instead. That's a matter for the Councillors. I suppose if it
31 was on a smaller road, and we had congestion like that, we probably would refuse locally, I can't
32 say it's unreasonable.

33
34 On his proposal in Greystones itself that there be no extra zoning in Greystones until Blacklion

1 Delgany road is improved, I would suggest that should really be limited to no extra zoning
2 around that road, because obviously any extra zoning around Charlesland or some other areas
3 which will have no impact on that road would be unreasonable and I think it would be just
4 making it in-flexible.

5 Cllr MITCHELL: I will just go back on that, the problem is there are five schools on this road
6 with about 3,500 pupils. Anybody who comes to Greystones is going to have children going to
7 those schools. And we now constructed the town with the schools there, and we had the plan to
8 put this road in, we have built the schools, the Department came up reasonably quickly with
9 the -- of Education, came up with the money for the schools. It affects the whole community,
10 the fact it's completely congested, and I think it should be for all future expansion of the town. I
11 mean there is as I said 3,700 houses already zoned. I am not suggesting it for that. But it's for
12 the extra ones which this plan is suggesting of 1700 or maybe that's reduced a little bit. But
13 whatever, that is what I am suggesting. Now obviously if some of the land is going to be used to
14 build that road, and therefore provide the road and provide some houses, then one wouldn't want
15 this. But in the case of land which is not connected to it, it's absolutely essential that this is a
16 major road for the town and it has to be built and we shouldn't get rezoned more land until we
17 have got this built. So I - because of the so many schools on it, everybody who comes to the
18 town who is of child bearing age and has children, will be using it, and I think that's why this
19 should be put in.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Cllr Snell, is this related to this?

21 Cllr SNELL: It is Cathaoirleach. I would have grave concerns in regards to some of the
22 language and what Cllr Mitchell has put out here in regards to proposed direction one. For East
23 Wicklow not to build any units until the M50 or the N11 is upgraded, I know he is coming from
24 his own perspective in regards to the transportation infrastructure and I accept that. But we have
25 seen how long it's taken the N11 from Rathnew to Arklow. There is Councillors here 20 years
26 have heard this before my time, and it's still not finished unfortunately. But it will be.

27
28 But just in regards to that type of language in regards to East Wicklow, it's the populated part of
29 the county, the whole East coast; it's where the majority of the population want to live; it's where
30 we have the best infrastructure in regards to transportation ironically enough, in regards to trains,
31 Darts and bus services. And I certainly couldn't support this. Anything that will stop the
32 building of houses for our citizens is crazy talk. If you look at what happened in the Celtic Tiger
33 era, our citizens in Co Wicklow are living in Wexford, and further on down the country, and the
34 fact is that if our new County Development Plan is brought up to fruition, and the houses that we

1 propose building are actually built, not every one of them are going to get out on the N11 or the
2 M50 every single day. Unfortunately we have a jobs crisis, and not everybody is travelling on
3 the N11 to and from work. Greystones as it happens, is the highest preference area outside the
4 big towns of Arklow, Wicklow, and Bray, for people on the housing list. So we need to also be
5 looking and very mindful of we need Local Authority houses built there. I think some of the
6 comments in this would be contrary to further plans down the line and might hinder us in regards
7 to providing housing units. And I certainly, I don't know how other members feel, but I certainly
8 couldn't support what's in this document here. I am all for improving a transportation system,
9 but not at the detriment - and waiting for its NRA, we know the NRA, we have businesses there
10 which can't even get signs up on the main thoroughfare through the county on the N11. So in
11 regards to dealing with them, or the NTA, to improve the roads network, the best of luck with
12 that, I suggest he talks to some of his Ministers in his own department about that. But don't hold
13 back our County Development Plan in providing housing units, because we need units now.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Tommy Cullen.

15 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: I don't see a free for all of the madness of what went on in 2004 repeat.
16 Particularly I am concerned about any future rezoning around the Charlesland, with what I know
17 now I'll be keeping a very particular careful look at that. I am just laying down that marker here.

18
19 Chairman, talking about building more houses, we should be looking to build more factories and
20 jobs to for people so they don't have to community commute out of the county. We have a
21 situation where over 70% of the people of the county have to commute every day to Dublin to
22 get work. This plan should - the primary thing is about creating jobs in Wicklow. I think at one
23 stage we were the fourth most industrialised county in Ireland. Up to 30 years ago. We are now
24 down to 16th or 17th, or somewhere around Leitrim and Roscommon. And so we need to start
25 rebuilding and planning to rebuild the industrial base of Wicklow so that people of Wicklow
26 don't have to commute to Dublin, 70% of the people who have to commute. And if you go up
27 the N81 in the morning time, and thousands, literally from Wexford travelling all up the N81
28 travel to Dublin to get to work, leaving home early in the morning and coming home at 8 o'clock
29 at night time. That's no way to live. We should look to start re-attracting an industrial base back
30 into Wicklow. You just go across the borders from West Wicklow into North Kildare and it's a
31 buzz with new industry, and you come across to West Wicklow and down the South and up the
32 North and there is no - virtually - we are not attracting - near, about 10% of the industries that
33 Kildare is attracting. That's what I would like the primary focus, creating jobs for the people of
34 this county and not so they can stay at home and there is hope for and a future for the local

1 children. We are talking about building more and more houses, building more and more houses
2 without the proper infrastructure, roads and sewage, that's the road to nowhere, and that's the
3 road to ruination. If you learnt any lessons about the collapse of the Celtic Tiger is you don't
4 repeat the same mistake twice.

5
6 Chairman, we have a discussion coming up later about people being evicted out of their homes.
7 One of the reasons for that is because the price of houses was developer lead. And they made
8 huge profits on the building of houses. Whereas the profits normally was 10 to 15% of a profit
9 on a house, during the Celtic Tiger, the builders were heading 50, 60% profit and that was
10 passed on to the mortgage holder, the people desperate to buy houses because the local
11 authorities weren't building any social houses. We have a situation in Greystones where we
12 were sitting on a land back of over 22 acres zoned on which we never built a single house since
13 1987. That's a bit of a question.

14
15 I think Chairman we shouldn't lose the fact that we need to build more affordable houses, and
16 there has to be huge social input into that, so we are not going to have people getting themselves
17 into huge debt that they can't afford to borrow. Because the average house in Wicklow now is
18 heading back again to 300,000 euro and persons on an average income simply can't afford that.
19 We shouldn't be encouraging people to, and making policies that are going to drive people -
20 because there is no social houses available, to have to buy private houses which many people
21 didn't afford and got themselves into huge debt and eventually bankrupted the country. That's all
22 now Chairman.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Murphy, this is related, I want to deal with Cllr
24 Mitchell's proposal first, this is related to Cllr Mitchell's, is it?

25 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: I also support Cllr Timmins' proposal.

26 Cllr MURPHY: I suppose it is connected. I would just be concerned about the situation we
27 have in Arklow in the housing, I mean the sewage has stopped development. Where do we stand
28 in that in looking ahead? We haven't built in ten years. We are not allowed to build for the next
29 question mark, question mark, question mark, because of the sewage situation. So what do we
30 do as a municipal group and telling people there is no housing and sitting there planning a
31 Development Plan?

32 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Nolan. This is related...

33 Cllr NOLAN: Come back to me on that.

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Anyone else want to speak on Cllr Mitchell's? Cllr Walsh.

1 Cllr WALSH: I want to support Cllr Mitchell. If one is to travel between North of Bray and
2 Kilmacanogue between peak hours any day of the week and you will see the volumes of the
3 traffic. Same is applying to the R761 in Greystones as a result. The new road he referred to in
4 Blacklion and Delgany is part of the problem. I would also take on board Cllr Snell's point in
5 relation to the bad need for new housing. There needs to be a two pronged approach taken to
6 this, rather than one going before the other if possible.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you. Cllr McLoughlin.

8 Cllr McLOUGHLIN: I think there might be a bit of misunderstanding going on. There is
9 17,000 units sold. That's not what Cllr Mitchell is talking about. He is saying yes we can build
10 them, even though that's going to be difficult. What we are saying is there is no point in
11 rezoning anymore without having the proper infrastructure put in and I don't think that's too
12 much to ask. If we go ahead on the East coast and put in another 17,000 units without anything
13 being done to the N11, it just does not make sense. I think it's time we stood up to the national
14 spatial strategy and said okay fine we will take all these extra people that we need to have in East
15 Wicklow, but you need to put in the infrastructure. That's what I think Cllr Mitchell meant by it.

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Fortune.

17 Cllr FORTUNE: Thanks Cathaoirleach, I think the debate referring to Cllr Mitchell's input, his
18 first couple of points I would agree with and the last point where Cllr Snell had an alternative
19 opinion on it, I just think that's the challenge we are faced with in putting this plan to. and we
20 really have to learn from the last ten years or we are at nothing. And there is two objectives, one
21 is to get the infrastructure right and two is to provide houses that are badly needed, both private
22 and public houses and we have got to get a situation as well where people are not all commuting
23 out of the county.

24
25 Really I think if the plan were put together - we are putting together is going to be a success, we
26 have to meet the two demands, the one Cllr Mitchell is talking about and the one Cllr Snell has
27 raised. They're not different. They're one and the same thing. That's a challenge we have. We
28 can't willy nilly tick boxes and following the spatial strategy and say that's the way it's going to
29 be and whatever the figure is and we are making an awful lot of assumptions. Our assumptions
30 in the past have proved to be wrong. We need to be very, very careful and I don't think we
31 should rush at this like at a gate. A lot of people will be concerned.

32
33 You take the town of Greystones which is envisaged to grow to 24,000 people. There isn't the
34 proper infrastructure there to cater for that. The inner roads aren't geared for that at all. The

1 place will come to a stand. Part of that is because we put the schools in the wrong place in the
2 town and we have created the problem for ourselves and now we are saying that if we don't put
3 the road up in the Blacklion area, this thing is going to come to a halt. I know we are where we
4 are, but we didn't have to do that. We made the mistake by putting them in there in the first
5 place. We have to learn from that and we have to take into account that obviously the North of
6 the county is the exit gate out the county if you are coming from the South, but as Cllr Snell
7 raises there is a lot of issues going on in East Wicklow and down into Arklow. The East coast is
8 where most of our population is and we have to look at it as a total unit and we have to take a
9 very careful approach to it and get this thing right.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Bourke.

11 Cllr BOURKE: Cathaoirleach, I think the logical thing is to do is not to freeze development, but
12 to have both done in tandem so that you get a road upgrade in tandem with population growth,
13 because otherwise you will have a chicken and egg situation where nothing will happen and I
14 believe that if we were to have more dialogue with the NRA on this issue and in fairness to Cllr
15 Mitchell, he has been talking about this for the last five years and nothing seems to have
16 happened yet. I think maybe the management should push this much more strongly on behalf of
17 Cllr Mitchell's aspirations. So that we get the best outcome for everybody. And I would also
18 like to ask the Director to what extent does he believe that the - the other utilities, Irish Water for
19 example, can actually keep pace with our aspirations in this County Development Plan that we
20 are proposing in terms of water and waste water provision for the towns and the villages, large
21 and small towns and villages, for the lifetime of this new plan. Because that's really important.
22 If they can't keep pace with us, we are at nothing, and what sort of accountability and linkage
23 will we have from the management of Irish Water in terms of delivering what we need to
24 reconcile with this County Development Plan?

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr O'Neill.

26 Cllr O'NEILL: Just briefly, as a member of the planning SPC, I have expressed concern before
27 outside the Chamber, the input of the role of An Taisce...

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: I'll come back to you on that Gerry. I just want to give --

29 Cllr O'NEILL: We can put all the Development Plan's together, but where you have dozens of
30 people in West Wicklow alone have been refused planning permission because of objections
31 from An Taisce. I am not saying, An Taisce do great work as regards cleaning up...

32 CATHAOIRLEACH: Gerry, Councillor, I'll come back to that.

33 Cllr O'NEILL: Their whole role in the development of the county is not right.

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: You are singing to the converted on that one, all right. Is this -- Cllr

1 Whitmore, is this related?

2 Cllr WHITMORE: Thank you Chairman, I would just like to agree with my district colleagues
3 on this issue, particularly with the Delgany to Blacklion road. One of the schools on that road is
4 a primary school with 600 pupils. In order for those children to walk to school, part of the path
5 to that school is less than a foot wide in some instances, and I would really hate to see any
6 increase in traffic on that road, because I think at the moment it's incredibly dangerous and any
7 increase in traffic will make it more dangerous so we have a situation where children can't walk
8 to school. Parents have to drive there. So I really wouldn't want to see any increase on that, so I
9 agree with my district colleagues on that that really we need to look at the infrastructure and the
10 provision of that infrastructure before we start increasing the traffic on roads such as that.

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you. Cllr Matthews is this related. Is it related? Councillor.

12 Cllr MATTHEWS: It is Chairman. I just want to make the comment on conflict that people
13 have with provision of services and the planning and the planning principles should take
14 precedent. That's what we should be taking on plan on, good planning principles and then the
15 services should follow. That's the point I want to make. The Chief Executive's response on page
16 166 sums that up very succinctly and much better than I could put it. I would recommend the
17 members read that because that's the principles we are following here.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Lawless.

19 Cllr LAWLESS: Just in regards to Councillor Michelle's proposals there, I do agree we have a
20 major traffic problem within the area and infrastructure has to be looked at, but I also agree with
21 Cllr Snell, housing, we can't stop the progress of housing, we need to try and find I suppose a
22 balance if we can possibly find a balance, between the two, but you know, I would support Cllr
23 Mitchell in infrastructure really has to be looked at, especially the N11 because the traffic
24 situations we have in Greystones and with the increased, with the three schools there and the
25 secondary school now which will be up in full swing as well, it's just - it's not really acceptable.
26 And just on a point Councillor Tommy Cullen, he has left now, but he was saying just very
27 briefly, just an infrastructure with jobs, an industry within the county. That's all well and good
28 and yes we do need jobs in the county, but we have to have homes for people who live in first if
29 we want them to actually stay in the county so, housing should be really our priority. Thank you
30 Cathaoirleach.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you. Just before I let you back in Councillor, there is not a
32 town in the county or village that hasn't got infrastructural deficits. The Killarney Road
33 roundabout going into breaks the N81 in West Wicklow, we all know the Arklow issues with
34 sewage. So where does this stop? You are proposing it for East Wicklow? But if we use the

1 same principle we are going to freeze development across the whole county. I would agree with
2 Cllr Snell, totally. I think Cllr Bourke has made a very valid point as well, that it has to be done
3 at a pace that infrastructure can keep up with. But to freeze development based on deficiencies
4 in principle, it's a good idea, but you are left in limbo. Neither development takes place nor the
5 infrastructure is developed. So I would not be in favour of supporting the motion as proposed
6 but I will let in the Director who wants to make a point.

7 Cllr MITCHELL: Can I just correct what was said. Can I propose it - my proposal wasn't really
8 as Cllr Snell suggested. The 17,000 houses zoned to be built and are not built in the four big
9 towns of East Wicklow. That's the column there, total housing yield of existing zoned land. My
10 proposal was that that would remain unchanged. But that any future re-zonings, which are in
11 shortfall and excess units, the next column which come to about 7,000 in those towns, that they'd
12 not be, that the zoning on those would state that the transport things had got to be sorted out first.
13 So 17,000 houses is enough for 45,000 people. It's a lot of building. It's not affected by what I
14 am saying. So we need to build those houses and get on with it and there is plenty of zoned land
15 to do that, there are some reasons in Arklow and for sewage and other reasons why that's not
16 being done, but - and there is a condition like in Arklow that if you don't have the sewage, you
17 can't build on the zoned land, but I think if we are going to rezone more land to increase the
18 number of houses by say 75% in Greystones or 68% in Bray, that we should make that re-zoning
19 conditional on the N11 being sorted out. But continue on with building the 17,000, which is an
20 enormous number of houses, so that's what I am proposing and that's exactly what I have said in
21 the proposal.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: When you say East Wicklow, you have put East Wicklow in your
23 submission, does that include Bray?

24 Cllr MITCHELL: I mean the four big towns of East Wicklow.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Bray, Greystones, Wicklow and Arklow?

26 Cllr MITCHELL: Yes. It would also apply though I haven't included them in the statistics to
27 Newtownmountkennedy and

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Kilcoole.

29 Cllr MITCHELL: Kilcoole maybe as well yes, but their numbers are quite smaller.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: It has serious ramifications if we go with this motion because there is a
31 huge shortfall in some of those areas that you have mentioned for housing and you have
32 specifically said the shortfall of housing units shall not be built. Okay.

33 Cllr MITCHELL: I'll adjust it to the four large towns of East Wicklow.

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yeah, but you have said for East Wicklow, which you have named as

1 Bray, Greystones, Wicklow, Arklow and Kilcoole and Newtown, the shortfall of housing units
2 shall not be built.

3 Cllr MITCHELL: The four towns in East Wicklow I said. Sorry, no my wording was about
4 East Wicklow, yeah. It could be addressed to the four towns.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: East Wicklow is Bray, Greystones, Wicklow Town, and Arklow.

6 Cllr MITCHELL: Yeah.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, I'll let in the Director.

8 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: Cathaoirleach, not much to add to what I said previously, it was more
9 what was said in the meantime. Cllr Cullen said we should be building more factories. The law
10 as relates to core strategies, we have to deal with housing and retail, but it doesn't actually
11 mention employment. It should. But having said that, in all the plans and lots of you have been
12 involved in doing local area plans and town plans, we have copious amounts of lands zoned for
13 employment. In fact we have been accused by the NTA sometimes of over-zoning land for
14 employment. So I just - I think that was a red herring to bring that up at all, because I think the
15 sentiment is correct, we need more employment here, we don't want people travelling up the
16 road but it's not from lack of zoned land. And Cllr Bourke asked my opinion would Irish Water
17 be able to deliver to us in the lifetime of the plan? To be honest, that's an imponderable because
18 I am not even sure what their funding now is based on. Having said that, the idea of the plan is
19 to set the targets of what is needed and then for the other agencies to provide for it. we don't
20 really - we can't be dependent on what Irish Water may or may not do. On that basis we might
21 zone no extra land in Arklow at all. We have to assume the service providers will provide the
22 services. Our aim is to give them the figures for what they have to provide for, which is why
23 even though the Development Plan is a six year plan and even though the RAG say a ten year
24 perspective, we like to give a much longer perspective to allow the service providers to be able
25 to provide the services.

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, will have I a seconder for Cllr Mitchell's direction. Number one.

27 Cllr McLoughlin. Okay, is that agreed? Okay, we will take a roll call then.

28 SPEAKER: Can I just clarify what --

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: You all have, it's proposed direction number one.

30 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: It's up on the overhead -- proposed direction one.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: For East Wicklow which Cllr Mitchell has clarified is Bray, Greystones,
32 Wicklow and Arklow. Okay.

33 Cllr MITCHELL: It's amended just to mention specifically the four level three towns.

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, we will take a roll call.

1 Cllr FORTUNE: Can I just clarify, we can have a roll call but I am just wondering why do we
2 want to do a roll call on it, we are at a very early stage in the development of the County
3 Development Plan. There is an issue has come up which Cllr Mitchell has articulated and Cllr
4 Snell has come up with an alternative view on it. To me it's fundamental to where we are going
5 forward. So I don't think we should force a vote on it today. I don't see the need for it, because
6 we need to have more discussion. The planners are going to come and talk to the districts and
7 have all that discussion, I just think that it's premature to force a vote on this at the moment.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: That's up to the Council.

9 Cllr FORTUNE: I am going to abstain on it --

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: I don't disagree with what you are saying.

11 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: This is a legal matter that the Planning Act allows that the members at
12 this stage can give directions which shall be included in the plan. So it is a - it's a right for the
13 members to make a proposal and if they get support from the Council, then the executive shall
14 include that in the plan. That's all it is really councillor. Personally, a lot of plans we have held
15 off from having directions and said that anything that's - but we will take on board but it is the
16 rights of the members 20 do it.

17 Cllr FORTUNE: I am just saying in light of the experiences of the last ten years or that time
18 whatever and everything else going on and the way things have changed and the way directions
19 are going, I think it's premature.

20 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: I don't disagree, I am just saying that's the reason.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: I get the thrust of what you are saying but it's Cllr Mitchell's right to
22 make a proposal.

23 Cllr MITCHELL: I would be happy to change it just to Bray and Greystones. Some Councillors
24 from Wicklow have suggest that had they weren't happy, Wicklow area, weren't happy with it,
25 whereas it seems to me maybe it's the two bigger towns which are under the most population
26 pressure which is the biggest issue. If other Councillors from other areas in the other two towns
27 want their areas to have this, that would be up to them, but I could be happy to amend it to being
28 Bray and Greystones.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Well I am from Bray and I am not too happy about it either.

30 Cllr SNELL: Could Cllr Mitchell give a direction further on down the line and maybe consult
31 with the planning SPC member and thrash it out there and maybe that's the right forum there.
32 We all want the right thing, we all want the housing and the road infrastructure.

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: I am happy to put this on the next phase of the Development Plan if you
34 want to thrash it out further at planning SPC level?

1 Cllr MITCHELL: When is the next phase?

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: The next phase is actually agreeing the detail in the Development Plan as
3 opposed to the core strategy. We could include this as the detail rather than core strategy.

4 Cllr SNELL: If I could suggest it could be put on the agenda of each municipal district for each
5 Municipal Council to discuss it as well, there is a conflict there in regards of there is an
6 uneasiness within the different districts obviously. But I think we all want the same thing. I
7 certainly want housing anyway.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: I just think this may have a knock on effect that we haven't considered.
9 Look I am not forcing you to do anything, you can proceed with your proposal. Cllr Winters.

10 Cllr WINTERS: I suppose we have all looked at the - well the plan that is NRA has and the
11 NTA has and basically they didn't mention Wicklow in it and the only way we are probably
12 going to get them to take us seriously is to force their hand. Now I don't think anybody really
13 wants for housing to be held up, everybody wants to house people. But if we are just going to
14 give them houses, and we are not going to give them any infrastructure to go with it, it doesn't
15 meet the needs of the people that we are trying to accommodate. So if we don't include it within
16 our - as a direction within our County Development Plan, there is every possibility that the NTA
17 and the NRA will simply go, sure they don't care, and up to now, they haven't really looked at us
18 or they've no major proposals for Co Wicklow and we are now saying to them we really possibly
19 don't want them to have any for the foreseeable future of this plan as well. Like we have got to
20 fight for infrastructure for Co Wicklow and this is the only mechanism that we as Councillors
21 have to do that. So may I - whereas I don't want to stop people having houses, I do want proper
22 infrastructure to service the people that are going to live in them and this seems to be the way
23 that we have to go about it, because they have no other mechanism open to us, this is our plan
24 and we can actually force the issue.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Matthews.

26 Cllr MATTHEWS: Chairman, I am just trying to get clarification on that there that the request
27 is that the housing units shall not be built until measures have been put in place, but does that not
28 come under development control much further down the line, that planning wouldn't be granted
29 for the building of those houses unless the services were adequate or that they'd be provided as
30 part of the development

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yeah.

32 Cllr MATTHEWS: Is that not something to be addressed under the local area plans then?

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: Plus the point that the measures have not been identified. What measures
34 have to be in place.

1 Cllr MATTHEWS: I would be very concerned about doing this.

2 Cllr MITCHELL: "The (reading) ...stated in the regional planning guidelines." It's a repeat of
3 what's in the regional planning guidelines. What somebody needs to do is study how we
4 transport people out of Wicklow by road, by rail, and improve T the NTA has written to this
5 body and said that - this review and said it has no plans to significantly enhance the transport of
6 this county. So here we are saying we have put these vast expansion of people in when we have
7 been told they're not going to expand it. So I think we should make it a condition and I think we
8 should force their hand.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Casey.

10 Cllr CASEY: There is a motion coming from Cllr Behan to increase the population of the
11 county, I am just wondering how that's going to play out in relation to this discussion. One point
12 I would like to make and I sympathise with what Cllr Mitchell is saying but what we are also
13 saying if we agree with him is that 40% of the proposed increase in Bray's population will not
14 happen. We are saying that 3,245 units will not be built if this is not there. And that's a huge
15 blow to Bray. That 40% of the potential growth will be restricted by this motion. So 3,245
16 houses in Bray will not be built. I fully sympathise with the road infrastructure and I sit here
17 honestly, I am not being cynical, I don't think it will make any difference with the NTA what we
18 do here. We need to lobby it in a different format all together. If we change this, I don't think it
19 will make any difference to the NTA but we are reducing Bray.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Murphy.

21 Cllr MURPHY: I know in Arklow alone, we are fighting to keep public transport in our towns
22 by bus and by public transport like CIE, they're stopping services, and we are a main Dublin to
23 Rosslare, and they're cutting services, I mean our Cathaoirleach was actually down at Bunclody
24 wasn't it, fighting for bus services to be maintained. I mean I go home on the train this evening
25 to Arklow, and Avoca train station is closed, and many other rural transport stops are closed.
26 And I mean we are talking about putting, getting people in housing. In housing people are being
27 told from Wicklow County Council to go back to your original parents' house. So I mean this is
28 everyday living. Everyday living. Build a house, but you have to get out of your house to live.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Fitzgerald.

30 Cllr FITZGERALD: The fact is there are more people leaving South Wicklow to go to Dublin
31 than there were in the good times. I mean in Arklow we have lost over 2,000 jobs, and there is
32 none being - we are not getting no replacements. Effectively if more jobs came into the region
33 think we would have less people leaving the region. We have infrastructure, we have a lot of
34 people in the building and are now working in Dublin. They leave every morning, you see them

1 in the Ashford service station there, recently I was in there a couple of morning early and I met
2 about 50 people from Arklow who go in there in the mornings. They're commuting to Dublin.
3 So hopefully there will be a pick-up, less people on the N11. You take it the amount of people
4 that's coming from Gorey through Arklow that are commuting from Wexford to Dublin. So the
5 issue has been let's say exasperated by the number of people who are having to travel to Dublin
6 to get work, and it is a fact that there is more cars leaving South Wicklow, and from North
7 Wexford, and from South Wexford, commuting through Arklow to get work. I think myself like
8 4,000 is - we have land for 4,000 houses in the Arklow area, and we are going to be short 1726
9 but the likelihood of us getting those houses built by 2028 is highly unlikely. So the 1726 I don't
10 think it has to be taken out. It won't happen. So you can leave it there safe in the knowledge that
11 it won't happen, unless some miracle, there is a miracle in the meantime. In saying that we
12 would lose 28% of the population, the projected population if we don't get the extra 1726 houses,
13 but the situation in this county has dis-improved on the roads, because of the number of people
14 leaving the county. As Cllr Murphy said, Bus Eireann seem to be trying to reduce the services,
15 we have 16 buses a day leave Arklow and five trains, but there is no use getting a train if you are
16 going for work to nine, getting a train at eleven. Effectively the NTA has a role to play there as
17 well to get more people back on to public traits port but it's not happening. I think them figures,
18 I would not be supporting Cllr Mitchell's motion.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you. Councillor Ryan.

20 Cllr RYAN: Cheers, thanks Cathaoirleach. I suppose just from my point of view looking at this
21 in terms of Bray based on what Cllr Casey was sort of saying, if we go with Cllr Mitchell's
22 motion, there is still 4,600 units would be built in Bray. Currently as you directly and correctly
23 said, Hollybrook roundabout is a disaster, Southern Cross is a disaster, the N11, M50 merge is
24 an absolute disaster. So I don't know. Number one they're not going to get planning permission.
25 Fassaroe won't be given planning permission with the current infrastructure in place anyway, so
26 we are just exacerbating - it's cloud cuckoo land saying in here in this document that we are
27 going to increase it even further, even though we know we can't even have the population, an
28 increase in houses of 4,600 that are already included in the plan. So I don't know, I mean if we
29 want to play around with numbers, that's fine but I think it's time we got real and built a plan that
30 we can actually deliver.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Walsh. Wall

32 Cllr WALSH: From what we heard so far, there are heavy arguments for and against the
33 proposal. Can the matter be referred to the Housing SPC where we can apply pressure to the
34 NTA to sit up and take notice of the situation which has been pointed out is chronic and is only

1 going to get worse.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: That's for the proposer? If he wishes. Cllr Nolan.

3 Cllr NOLAN: Just again to reflect on what other people have said, just in the plan on the page
4 where detailed the projected increases in growth, I notice Newtown and Kilpedder area went
5 from 3,000 to 5,500. While I would love the idea of 2,500 more votes coming into Newtown,
6 will there be a Local Area Plan or a town plan for Newtown in the future? And I mean, this
7 nearly doubles the population and the amenities, the facilities, the schools, the sports facilities
8 that Newtown has at the moment are under enough pressure as it is. Would there be scope for
9 new facilities to come in for a new school to be built, etcetera, because I mean they are under a
10 lot of pressure as it is. And also there are ongoing issues with water supply services and sewage
11 there in the garden village sewage plant, it's been ongoing for the last 30 years and it's an
12 absolute disaster and the Woodstock road plant as well is overused and abused at this point and I
13 think that would need to be looked at. Now I would totally agree with what Cllr Snell said we
14 need more houses but I would also have sympathy with the other side. Infrastructure, facilities
15 and amenities need to be seriously looked at as well particularly in every town that's projecting
16 huge growth, like the population, as I said, of Newtown Kilpedder is looking like it's going to
17 double if this plan comes to fruition, so we would need a lot more facilities, infrastructure and
18 amenities.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. We will get you an answer to that. Cllr Blake.

20 Cllr BLAKE: Thanks Chairman. Certainly we have a lot of sympathy with what Cllr Mitchell
21 has to say in regards to the problem with the traffic on the M50 and the N11 and certainly the
22 access to Bray and Greystones, there is great problems down through the years, but is it a case
23 that we as a Council are start to put restrictions on what houses or what population is going to be
24 in Greystones or Bray or Wicklow or Arklow over the next number of years? Is that going to
25 give the NTA the opportunity to say look you are putting in restrictions there, why should we
26 continue to upgrade the M50 or the N11 into the future? Bearing in mind that you are talking up
27 to 28, how many more development plans have taken part by Wicklow County Council have
28 taken place over all those years that these issues could be addressed. It could be detrimental to
29 us, while we want to see the upgrade of that road, it could actually by putting in conditions in
30 there that the NTA could use it as an opportunity to actually ignore our requests in that regard
31 Chairman.

32 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you. Cllr Kavanagh.

33 Cllr KAVANAGH: It seems to me it's pretty much a chicken and egg situation and which came
34 first, the housing or the infrastructure. For our part, we can only do what we can do for our

1 Development Plan and we have no authority on the NTA to tell them what to do but there are
2 people at another level, a regional and national level who can co-ordinated all of these issues
3 together. That's not at our level and they should be doing their job in making sure that all of
4 these things are co-ordinated and that they tie in together and match up and I don't know who we
5 write to in that regard but we certainly should be bringing these people on board to say we have
6 made this County Development Plan with whatever regulations in it and this is what we need
7 and we want the services to support that plan. Thank you.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, we need to move on okay. Cllr Mitchell.

9 Cllr MITCHELL: Chairman, I do feel strongly and as I say it doesn't affect the 17,000 houses
10 which are already zoned, only the 7,000 that will be zoned as part of this plan. I would like to go
11 for a vote on this. I think it's important issue, a lot of very genuinely held views on all sides here
12 but I just think we can't go and put people into houses that they can't get into on the road.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: And that's seconded by Cllr McLoughlin?

14 Cllr McLOUGHLIN: It is yeah.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay we will go for a roll call so.

16
17 (Vote taken)

18
19 MS GALLAGHER: That's four for, 18 against, four not present and six abstaining.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, the second direction, are you proposing that Councillor?

21 Cllr MITCHELL: Yes. I am, yes.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Have I a seconder for that? Cllr McLoughlin? Okay, we will go for a
23 roll call. It's a similar thrust to this.

24 Cllr MITCHELL: About building the Delgany to Blacklion road in Greystones.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Have we all got the document, we have, in front?

26
27 (Vote taken)

28
29 MS GALLAGHER: That's eight for, 14 against, four not present and six abstaining.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay on direction 3 in relation to the house size coming down from 2.3 to
31 - sorry from 2.19 to 2.3?

32 Cllr MITCHELL: I would like to put this forward. This is, it's actually quite technical, this
33 particular one because we take the average from 1996 to 2011, it was 0.29, if you take it from the
34 start to finish, if you take it in four sections, it's actually - comes to a some what higher figure I

1 think but the actual average if you take it from 3.23 to 2.79 and divide by the 15 years in
2 between. I suggest it's consistent with what's happened in the 15 years up to 2011.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: It means less housing units, is that correct?

4 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: That's correct yeah.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Have I a seconder, seconded by Cllr McLoughlin.

6 Cllr CASEY: Where did we get the 2.19 from, did we generate that figure or is it a national
7 figure?

8 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: We were doing it on the basis of .035 units per house per year.

9 Cllr CASEY: We are, Wicklow County Council is?

10 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: Yeah and we got this figure used in the regional planning guidelines
11 previously and this is based on international comparisons. Must have been

12 Cllr MITCHELL: I got the figure 0.29 from the 1996 to the 2011 figures taken at the beginning
13 and dividing it by 15 years and I am carrying that on for the next whatever years worth on this
14 plan.

15 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: I suppose in effect the difference is there is a slower decrease in
16 household size after the recession and that's what's carried - I mean look, it's just the
17 practicalities of it. There won't be any down zoning as a result of it, because the existing plans
18 and zoning we have are based on 2.3? Correct? Yeah. But there will be a certain amount less
19 housing planned for in the future. I have already spoken on it. It's your decision.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, it's been proposed and seconded, we will have a roll call.

21

22 (Vote taken)

23

24 MS GALLAGHER: That's eight for, 16 against, seven not present and one abstaining.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. We will move on. Cllr Behan, Cllr Matthews have proposals in,
26 do you want to take yours Cllr Behan.

27 Cllr BEHAN: Chairman, first of all, my apologies for not being here at the beginning of the
28 discussion. And I think I have been through about three of the Development Plan cycles here in
29 this Council, and this is the first occasion that I can recall where Councillors at the very
30 beginning were able to issue directions that can influence what comes next. In the past what
31 generally happened, and I am open to correction on this is that the planners present add draft
32 plan and then Councillors attempt today either add to it or subtract from it and so on. So it's
33 very, very important that we get at the beginning, as public representatives, the strategy that we
34 want that will ensure that the objectives we have as public representatives are seen and realised

1 at the end of the process. So the core strategy is the ultimate, if you like decision maker at the
2 very, very beginning and to my mind one of the most important elements of the core strategy is
3 the decision we make as to what we think is an acceptable target population to work towards. I
4 am not saying, and I don't think the planners are ever saying or have ever said that because you
5 have a particular target population you are definitely going to achieve that figure. The
6 experience in the past has been that we haven't achieved the figure that would have been set out
7 as a target, but it is a target. And for those members who are representing areas other than the
8 main urban areas that have been mentioned already, what happens in relation to the target
9 population will affect the smaller towns and villages as well in terms of what they will be able to
10 allow to develop in the future. So this is a matter that doesn't just affect Bray, Greystones,
11 Wicklow, Arklow, it affects all of the smaller towns and villages as well. On that basis, I felt it
12 was important that we allow ourselves the maximum amount of scope to ensure that the
13 population increase that we feel is justified in this county is allowed to be projected right
14 throughout the Development Plan and not only in the main urban centres, because this is a
15 County Development Plan after all.

16
17 Now in the document that we received and I want to compliment the planners and the fantastic
18 amount of work they've done in assembling this document, they have given near the end their -
19 there were four different options they considered for what the target population could be. And I
20 just feel that they've been quite cautious in terms of looking at what we should aim for. They've
21 kind of more or less gone for one particular option, but we could have gone for a higher one. I
22 am not saying we will reach the 203,400. But I believe at this stage if we don't allow for the
23 maximum increase, we may run into difficulties later on when we are trying to look after or
24 ensure that people throughout the county are, their views are represented in the smaller areas as
25 well.

26
27 Now we have often talked here about a housing emergency. And I missed Cllr Snell's main
28 comments but I got the jist of what he said and I would agree with everything that I heard; which
29 is that we have a housing emergency and one of the reasons we have it is that we don't have
30 enough houses in the county. We don't have enough houses in the county and what's happening
31 is people are being made homeless; they're paying absolutely astronomical rents for the small
32 amount of houses available to rent; or the third option is they're moving on to Co Wexford to
33 Gorey and other places. So we are losing our people and we are kind of - we have an
34 opportunity I think to redress that balance. And I believe therefore to ensure that we have the

1 opportunity to redress the balance, we need to give ourselves as Councillors enough scope to do
2 that throughout the whole planned process. If we limit the population today to what the officials
3 are suggesting, then we limit our options in terms of what number of houses we can have in this
4 county in the future? Now the figure of 203,400 is a figure estimated to be in 2031 I might add.
5 This is not something that - this is a 15 year look ahead but I think it's a good idea to look ahead
6 that far and look and see where are we going and what is the road we want to travel? I agree the
7 infrastructure is not there at the moment but I also believe and people who are from let's say the
8 Green Party way of thinking have already said and I think the planners would say, you don't
9 necessarily say that you restrict your goals in plan to go what infrastructure might be available
10 today. You put your best foot forward, do the plan that's more sustainable and then look and
11 make the case to have the infrastructure to allow for that. Because particularly the regional
12 planning guidelines and I'll finish on this Chairman, the regional planning guidelines which in
13 the past have informed the Development Plan process, they're not even drawn up yet for a new era
14 if you like from next year on. So we are kind of effectively accepting a limit, if we accept what
15 the planners have recommended, that it's being kind of self imposed without really the RPGs
16 having been decided yet, the Regional Planning Guidelines. So I think and I would humbly
17 submit to the Council that we would be better to give ourselves room for manoeuvre now,
18 particularly given the fact that we have such a housing crisis in the county at this moment. On
19 the basis, I propose the motion.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Have I a seconder for the motion. Cllr Kavanagh. Okay, I'll let in the
21 Director.

22 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: Yeah, we gave various scenarios because as I said earlier on because of
23 the lack of the national spatial strategy and RPGs, we don't have our population delivered to us.
24 Sorcha did four scenarios just to give you the balance of what could be out there. The key
25 assumption in that option that Cllr Behan has chosen is that in any regional planning guideline
26 share-out, we get 30% of the population of the Mid East region. Before we got 26.5% was what
27 we got the last time. The idea of doing assumptions is actually to do something that's robust and
28 try and predict actually what will happen. In this particular case, I don't think this will happen.
29 But that's fine, you can decide to go very, very high if you like. They'll have to look at the
30 implications of what you have done. One is that we are now going to have to revisit every plan,
31 and increase the amount of zoned land available. If in the meantime the national spatial strategy
32 is done and regional planning guidelines come out and give us directions of what the population
33 will be doing, we will then have to revisit every plan and you will then have to down zone and
34 decide which land you are taking out from every plan. It's going to be an awful lot of expense on

1 your time and our time obviously.

2
3 And then the final difficulty is: Is this populations that have been distributed in the tables you
4 have are based on some reality of what's available. And I suppose the main one here is Bray.
5 Bray is very, very short of land in this side of the county boundary. In the Environs Plan, we had
6 to go a little bit to Kilruddery and across the road to Fassaroe. If Bray is now going to be
7 increased again, we are probably going to have to coalesce with Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue.
8 If you are making that decision at this stage, these are so consequences you are going to have to
9 take into account. I have nothing else to say.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

11 Cllr FORTUNE: Can I get clarifications.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Is it on this matter.

13 Cllr FORTUNE: It is on this matter. Maybe I am naive or totally missing the train here. But if
14 it's a fact that we are waiting on the regional planning guidelines to be agreed or put in place or
15 whatever the correct term is, and that's going to influence our futures going forward, then why
16 are we driving ahead and putting in place a County Development Plan? Now I know the answer
17 will be well that's because what they tell us from the department you have to do this on certain
18 dates T just seems to me a crazy way of going about doing our business. It gets back to my point
19 originally. And I am - obviously Des and the team have to do what they have to do, but nothing
20 has been learned here in my opinion. So we are going - if we go ahead and go along with Cllr
21 Behan has proposed and the guidelines come out with a different thing all together, there is a
22 whole raft of stuff has to be redone and re-changed and as the Director has said you are looking
23 at maybe de-zoning and various things, I just think this is absolutely crazy. And someone should
24 put their hands up and say stop, this is not the way to do things.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yeah. I agree with you. I think we do get it a bit back to front, but back
26 in.

27 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: It was an excellent question councillor. In fact we had this slightly the
28 last time in that we had to go ahead with our plan before the RPGs were out but we could sigh
29 the way the winds were blowing because people were working on them. But I agree, we suggest
30 to the department that we change the act that plans will following regional guidelines. It's not a
31 department direction. This is actually the law. The law is we shall do a plan every six years.
32 We shall start the process four years after the last plan. And we are just legally bound to do this.
33 It is not perfect. And I agree, I have said all along we have had to try and do our best and predict
34 what's going to happen. And we did that by basically using the parameters or assumptions that

1 went on in the previous RPGs but your question is well put.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr O'Neill.

3 Cllr O'NEILL: I probably support - I fully support Cllr Behan's and if you look back on our
4 history, we had these little settlements everywhere, I am thinking about rural areas, little areas
5 like Ballysmuttan, until we suffered the British famine of the 19th century where they starved us
6 out, the population of Wicklow was three times what we have. And I think these little hamlets
7 are places should be encouraged but I do believe there should be a standard set there as regards
8 the type of housing. If you go through rural Wicklow and see mansions here and there and see a
9 local lad just want to build a small house, he is not allowed do so. I can't agree with Cllr Fortune
10 there that it's all up in the air that we have to rezone. If we have to rezone, we have to rezone, I
11 think we really have to look at things in a different light.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Casey.

13 Cllr CASEY: Thank you Chairman, the populations have been given to us or set by us and on
14 page 16, it states, "A review of the current regional planning guidelines... (reading) guidelines
15 will remain in force." Now in Cllr Behan's absence when he left us to go to the higher office, we
16 did challenge a number of plans and we failed, we failed in our challenge with them and it will
17 create a cycle of events here if we do break the populations guidelines that's been set to us. I
18 think it just might be the wrong move. But also in relation to - I don't think the population is the
19 cause of the lack of housing. It's the environment that we are in is the cause. And we could
20 increase the population by 50,000 here today and it won't have any impact in the delivery of
21 houses because that's not where the problem is, the problem is in relation to the environment of
22 building houses is the problem. Thank you.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr McLoughlin.

24 Cllr McLOUGHLIN: I would concur with Cllr Casey. The issue here is not about the lack of
25 housing, it's due because we haven't zoned enough land. We have adequate land zoned and if
26 you add on the extra on top of that, we have plenty of land zoned for the current need and the
27 future need. We don't need to look for a higher population. I think we are putting out the wrong
28 message that the reason we haven't got the housing is we don't have enough zoning. We have
29 adequate zoning, there was no houses built, that's why we don't have enough houses full stop. I
30 completely concur with Cllr Casey.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay thank you. I would agree with Cllr Casey as well. I think the
32 limiting factors on houses being built is land and credit, and I do think the 176,000 target is
33 probably a more appropriate target. When you look at how that's broken down, you are talking
34 about a shortfall even in Bray of 3,240 units, there is probably not the land in Bray to facilitate

1 that. And you go down, there is sizeable increases in population in a lot of the towns and
2 villages at 176,000. And obviously I would not be in favour of Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue
3 coalescing with Bray. I do understand that Bray has to develop out somewhere but I think we
4 have to increase our population at a steady rate to allow infrastructure to keep up, and I think a
5 target of 203,000 is probably excessive. So unfortunately I cannot support the thrust of Cllr
6 Behan's motion, but it's been proposed and seconded.

7 Cllr BEHAN: Can I just respond. I feel him throwing in this thing well that the only option is
8 going to be merge Enniskerry, Kilmacanogue and Bray. That's your opinion Director.

9 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: I am being misquoted there. I said there is a great shortage of land and
10 it may involve.

11 Cllr BEHAN: Okay, but again at the end of the day, it is your opinion, but it's not necessarily
12 the case that that would happen and in effect that's a kind of a scaremongering tactic that's being
13 used to prevent us as public representatives making our decision here. At the moment, we have
14 the power to make these decisions and I am just saying that now we should ensure that we have
15 as much flexibility as we possibly can before we come down to making very difficult decisions
16 later on in this process. If we take away our flexibility now, we will not get it back. This core
17 strategy is going to determine everything. That's the only point I would make thank you.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay we are going to go for a roll call on Cllr Behan's proposal. And
19 that's to increase the projected population of the county in 2031 from the suggested 185,000 to
20 203,400 and to distribute it pro rata throughout all the settlements in the county.

21
22 (Vote taken)

23
24 MS GALLAGHER: Eleven for, 16 against, four not present and one abstaining.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay we will move on to the next submission, Cllr Matthews. Some of
26 this is probably not core strategy, but ...

27 Cllr MATTHEWS: Do you want me to go through it or will I just propose it? Okay, the - I
28 accept the Chief Executive's recommendations on the population, to take the 2028 figure and
29 take the 2022 as made by the Manager.

30 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: That's not a direction really.

31 Cllr MATTHEWS: No, I accept that as well.

32 Cllr FORTUNE: You are just a lick.

33 Cllr MATTHEWS: I am going to get the same answer to direction two I presume but I would
34 like to expand on that, that's the chief recommendation that two they had of the population will

1 be in a location with access to public transport. What I would like to expand on is in those areas
2 where we have access to public transport, it will improve the access to public transport in those
3 towns. I would propose that we try to increase access to public transport within those towns.

4 Increasing pedestrian and cycleways. Are you going to take these individual --

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: We are going to be voting on the Chief Executive's recommendation, so I
6 would suggest --

7 Cllr MATTHEWS: That's his recommendations --

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: It's only if you are amending his recommendation.

9 Cllr MATTHEWS: Can I add that on then at a later stage

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: What part are you adding?

11 Cllr MATTHEWS: So his recommendation two thirds of the population growth, and in public
12 transport areas, but that we need to increase the efforts to increase pedestrian and cycle access to
13 public transport within those towns. It's not enough to have development, there is towns that
14 have public transport access but accessing that public transport within that town is not as easy as
15 it should be. I want to try and give people the choice of getting into the car --

16 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: I think there is an objective in the transport sections plan, that will be
17 carried Ford

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: It's an objective pretty much in line with that if you are happy with that.

19 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: I am happy enough to craft that into the plan from the transport section,
20 I don't think there is any need for direction.

21 Cllr MATTHEWS: This is about the Luas, core strategy and the Luas being critical to reaching
22 the core - attaining the core strategy set down, and it's critical too that the Luas comes to Bray.

23 That's my view on it. I don't know, is that a ... is that a direction?

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yeah, that's a direction.

25 MS WALSH: In the proposed core strategy at the moment under transport, it does refer to the
26 Luas, that could be expanded or altered if you feel it needs strengthening. At the moment the
27 word something that one of the critical pieces of transport infrastructural required for the growth
28 of the county is improvements to the Dublin Rosslare rail line, the extension of the Luas to Bray
29 Fassaroe, provision of car and bus park and ride facilities and improved penetration of local bus
30 services in designated towns. They're the priorities for local transport. It's in there as part of the
31 core strategy. That can be fleshed out either in that objective, in the next stage or in the actual
32 objectives that will be contained in the chapter on public transport which we can work through in
33 the workshops.

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Is that okay Councillor.

1 Cllr MATTHEWS: Happy with that.

2 Cllr MITCHELL: I would be strongly in favour of the Luas to Bray, it's very important for
3 Bray. However the reason here, there is a slight incorrect statement in it. It will not address the
4 N11 congestion. The 2010 National Roads Authority report by Ronan O'Donovan states clearly
5 it will not help the N11 congestion because the congestion is South of Fassaroe, so the traffic
6 will still have to get to Fassaroe through the worst part of the road and that's a very strong
7 conclusion of the 2010 report. However, it's very important that the Luas goes to Bray, but I just
8 think that that's an incorrect statement. I don't think it's going to go into the plan, I wasn't quite
9 sure.

10 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: It says there Councillor this will provide an option for removing car
11 traffic from the N11 and M11, it doesn't say it will solve congestion.

12 Cllr MITCHELL: The piece of paper with the direction says that. I wasn't sure --

13 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: Existing proposed core strategy.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Matthews has made a reference to it.

15 Cllr MITCHELL: I am just making a clarification there.

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: That's clarified. Direction 4.

17 Cllr MATTHEWS: Part A is quite similar to direction 2, but it's just to emphasise that if we
18 have public transport nodes within our towns, that we have to make it easier and accessible for
19 people within those towns to use those public transport nodes F you get out into your car and it's
20 easier to get on to the N11 than it is to actually get into the train station or the bus station or
21 wherever the public transport focus is in the town, you are going to have that battle with people
22 and you are always going to have congestion, so I think what we need to do, it probably is
23 expanded on further within your transport policy, but I just want to emphasise that. It's not
24 enough just to improve public transport. You need to improve access to public transport within
25 the towns. Whether that's linked cycleways, linked walkways, whatever, we can finalise that or
26 put the detail on that. Is that acceptable?

27 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: To be honest, we accept --

28 Cllr MATTHEWS: Okay.

29 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: We accept everything you have in proposed direction 4, maybe except
30 B D which includes the A rating of housing. The rest of it we will weave into transport. I don't
31 think it will be a problem.

32 CATHAOIRLEACH: I think E possibly should be left to the next meeting where you are
33 talking about reserving land for schools, when we get into the zonings, maybe that's a more
34 appropriate time to look at lands reserving lands for schools.

1 Cllr MATTHEWS: The recommendation, or sorry the direction is not to look at zoning for
2 lands, but it's to include within the zoning principles that you would again these linked
3 cycleways and walkways and safe ways to schools. That's what I am looking for to be included
4 in the zoned principles for land for reservation for schools.

5 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: Cathaoirleach, that's acceptable. I would rather not have a direction but
6 we will certainly incorporate that into the plan.

7 Cllr MATTHEWS: I may have misunderstood the direction.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: So that's without D.

9 Cllr MATTHEWS: Without D, okay we will leave out D and take direction five, because that's
10 an individual on that.

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Take out D.

12 Cllr MATTHEWS: Direction five is about energy standards in development within the county,
13 and I know Dun Laoghaire have introduced a very high standard that they're going to go to
14 public consultation on and I think we should do the same. I think we should set a high standard
15 for Wicklow. From what I have researched and looked at it doesn't necessarily add to the overall
16 cost of the development to have your developments to a very high energy standard. I know the
17 regulations state 8.3 and possibly 8.2 for apartments but I think we should raise that higher in
18 Wicklow. I definitely think we should for Local Authority housing, I know there will be some
19 argument that the building regulations dictate what our energy standards would be, or how we
20 attain the energy standard, but I think we should have a higher standard here in Wicklow, I think
21 for Local Authority housing that we build should be built to a passive standard. And I think
22 Local Authority owned land that we may sell or use for housing, with other housing agencies,
23 those should be incorporated into the contracts of for sale of those, that those houses should be
24 built to a passive standard. It doesn't necessarily increase the construction costs of the house but
25 it hugely increases the value of the inhabitants of that house, improvement in quality of life,
26 dramatically reduces energy and running costs of the house and it's the way forward. You can
27 say we are probably, we should be just trying to reach the building regulation standards, but I
28 would say if we look at those in five years time, what we are talking about here would be the
29 norm. I think it gives a good, it shows Wicklow to be quite progressive and to be thinking ahead
30 and think that energy costs in this country are only going to go one way and we should do
31 whatever we can to ensure that people keep that money in their pocket to spend in their
32 localities, rather than spending it on imported oils and gases. That's - I would like to hear the
33 Manager's view on that please.

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Director?

1 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: Cathaoirleach, the - it's not that pertinent that Dun Laoghaire put it in,
2 you can put anything into a Development Plan. When we come to do a planning application, we
3 have to be consistent with proper planning development and having regard to the County
4 Development Plan. Generally, the law on making planning is if there is another act covering it,
5 then planning shouldn't be used to cover that. In this particular case, the building regulations
6 deal with energy efficiency. So I think - I don't think we could actually use it for a reason - I
7 don't think we have got the power to actually look for higher standards than are in the legislation
8 on building control regulations. In the case of Council housing, I am not actually sure what the
9 legal position is because we are actually meant to be consistent with our own Development Plan.
10 And that possibly could have an adverse effect in if the department were willing to pay the extra
11 cost to make passive build houses, we might end up maybe being - losing out on social
12 allocation. I am out of my depth here. I know it's a legal matter, but it's a risk I wouldn't really
13 like to take at this stage. Maybe the Chief Executive might have some more opinions on that.
14 No, he is too wise! I just would be some what concerned on that.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: It's probably more appropriate for the building control regulations, I don't
16 see how we can have one policy in Co Wicklow and a national policy then that is not the same.

17 Cllr MATTHEWS: There is a difference between design, quality and energy standards. And
18 could we incorporate it into a design guideline for the housing in Wicklow? We have a
19 recommendation that we would have a housing design guide, so could we incorporate it into
20 that?

21 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: That was something that came out of the consultation that we were
22 doing - that we would do maybe a design guide and we could certainly incorporate something
23 out of there, and maybe striving to reach this standard. I don't think we can put it down as an
24 imperative. And certainly dealing with our own development. Because there have been court
25 cases stating we are obliged to be consistent with our own Development Plan and I would be just
26 a bit worried about that. Like I said I am not a lawyer and I can't give you --

27 Cllr MATTHEWS: I understand we have to follow the guidelines, the building guidelines.
28 What about for Local Authority housing, could we agree that we would - because we would be
29 the contractor there, the one setting the standards of the design and what we hope to attain in it
30 and we would be the landowners as well. This is like a private homeowner saying I am going to
31 build a passive house. Could we apply that to Local Authority ... the construction costs aren't
32 necessarily more expensive if it's planned well from the beginning.

33 SPEAKER: Our aim would be for passive housing but it would all depend on the funding from
34 the department. They'll make the final decision but that's our aim because of the fuel poverty

1 point of view, the passive house will operate much better for our tenants and residents. That's an
2 objective from our point of view. Ultimately it would be what the department would say we are
3 approved for funding for.

4 Cllr MATTHEWS: If the same funding builds the same number of house toss a passive standard
5 as it would to a sub standard as I call it, lower than that, then we can go for passive?

6 SPEAKER: We will make our submission and our submission will be a passive house. But the
7 department come back down and say maybe the extra associated with that is that you could get
8 more houses, more bang for your buck basically and they make that decision, but our objective is
9 we are going to work towards a passive standard.

10 Cllr MATTHEWS: Okay, I accept that thank you.

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Mitchell.

12 Cllr MITCHELL: Thank you. I would just be a little concerned this would add significantly to
13 the cost of the houses, I don't know the present regulations have added something like between
14 10 and 30,000 to the cost of housing and that has been mostly sensible in terms of the reduction
15 in energy. But a major reason why people, why we have 17,000 houses which we have zoning
16 for and which have not been built is because people can't afford them and if we are going to put
17 extra costs on it, I think we will inhibit development and certainly in the case of the Council's
18 own houses. Now it may be if it can be done for the same price, that's fine, but I do think there
19 is a housing shortage and a house which is A 3 is a very, very warm house compared to any
20 house built twenty years ago and I think we should go for making sure we get as many social
21 houses as we can, now if that happens - if it's not expensive to put in this passive thing, that
22 would be fine, but I do know that very few people build passive houses, there must be a reason
23 for that. Presumably in my view it must be because it costs more, but it would be interesting to
24 know before we commit ourselves to it.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, well then councillor, are you happy with what the housing section
26 have said as regards the objective that they'd apply for funding and that this would be left as a
27 matter for building regulations and under house design we could have a look at incorporating
28 something into the house design section which will be decided at a later meeting?

29 Cllr MATTHEWS: Okay, that's fine.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay number six.

31 Cllr MATTHEWS: This is on landscape assessments, that we carry out landscape assessments
32 on areas of natural outstanding beauty and I can't remember the other designation. If a landscape
33 assessment was required in an area outside those two areas, that it would be up to the planners to
34 decide if a landscape assessment was needed.

1 Cllr BRADY: It's there already isn't it?

2 Cllr MATTHEWS: I don't think so.

3 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: That could already be open to the planner because he already as it
4 stands -

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: It is there already.

6 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: We are looking at landscape in page 29, to maybe as part of that we can
7 include that in that section when we are looking at it. There might be some workshops on
8 landscape which, I imagine the members will be dealing with that and we can take it at that stage
9 councillor.

10 Cllr MATTHEWS: Okay. Direction number seven that we had a vision for - to make the great
11 little Sugar Loaf areas of special amenity and there is ministerial order, a ministerial order made
12 in 2008, and I have proposed that we implement that ministerial order.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I just say that the last Council discussed this at length and agreed not
14 to proceed with the special amenity order, instead to get all the stakeholders together to form a
15 management committee because the original boundary did include private land, which was of
16 concern. I am not a big fan of revisiting decisions that have been made in the recent past, but I
17 certainly would be opposed to a special amenity order being placed on the Sugar Loaf. But I
18 would be supportive of the group coming together to progress issues, whether it's tourism,
19 walking trails or whatever. But I think that can already be done under current legislation. It
20 doesn't need a special amenity order to progress those issues. But look that's your proposal, have
21 I a seconder for that? Cllr Kavanagh. I am opposed to that so we will have to take a roll call.

22 Cllr MATTHEWS: Can I just clarify on special amenity orders that there is a huge fear that you
23 can't have any development within those areas and that's not true. Development is permitted

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: My experience is that An Bord Pleanála use all means at their disposal to
25 restrict planning, particularly for rural dwellers, and I certainly am adamantly opposed to a
26 special amenity order being placed on the Sugar Loaf. But look, it's up to the members. We will
27 take a roll call, it's been proposed and seconded.

28 Cllr KAVANAGH: Can I just say something. I wasn't here at the last Council when whatever
29 decision was made and this is a new Council so the proposal is there. But when it was suggested
30 that a management plan - has that been implemented, how long ago was that implemented and
31 has that plan been put into action?

32 CATHAOIRLEACH: The stakeholders have met.

33 Cllr KAVANAGH: For how long, how far back are we going

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: How long is it, a year, a year and a half, probably 18 months.

1 Cllr KAVANAGH: Have there been any developments or just dead in the water

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: There has been proposals put to the Uplands Council in relation to
3 particularly a walking trail which would connect with a potential green way in Roundwood that
4 Councillor Shay Cullen is working on, and I know Cllr Matthews is anxious to connect it to the
5 little Sugar Loaf in Bray. So that is a matter that has progressed significantly. That's one of the
6 issues. Also there are 13 grazing right holders who farm the Sugar Loaf. They have also entered
7 into a document that's protecting the environment from overgrazing, and they've agreed to a
8 reduction in sheep numbers. So there are a number issues that have progressed under auspices.
9 A lot of the stakeholders would be adamantly opposed to a special amenity order. I know I have
10 attended a couple of meetings but look if it's the will of the members, then so be it. So we will
11 go for a roll call.

12
13 (Vote taken)

14
15 MS GALLAGHER: Two for, 26 against, four not present.

16 Cllr MATTHEWS: During the cliff walk between Bray and Greystones, through Kilmacanogue
17 and then to meet one the Wicklow Way, and I would like us to form a policy on that, and assess
18 if it's an acceptable route, or if it's an acceptable direction.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: I am happy to second this if you would add the term in consultation and
20 agreement of the landowners. I know that there are references made in the document to rights of
21 way in general, and I think the best way to progress those issues is in consultation and agreement
22 with landowners. There are always going to be difficult cases but I think where you don't have
23 agreement, or consultation, it's just opening up a Pandora's box. I have seen that in other local
24 authorities, and to be fair to the landowners, we see the Wicklow way which I think has 85
25 signed upland owners, it's a fantastic trail, so if you were prepared, and I would also put it on the
26 other rights of way that have been investigated, that we should perhaps do it in consultation and
27 agreement with the landowners, and if you were prepared to add that, I would be happy to
28 second that councillor.

29 Cllr MATTHEWS: I am happy with that amendment Chairman.

30 Cllr KAVANAGH: Can I ask for an amendment too please. Cathaoirleach - could I just ask that
31 you might consider an amendment as well, that the walking trail that joins Bray to Wicklow on
32 the coastal route, because I think it could well extend to Wicklow as well along the Murrough.

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: I know in the document it says that not a committee, but a member of the
34 Planning Section is to look at the whole area around rights of way and public access, and access

1 areas, so what I would suggest is that we would leave that brief with them and see what he or she
2 comes back with and then we can agree it.

3 Cllr KAVANAGH: I suppose that's up to Cllr Matthews, but the question is for Cllr Matthews
4 as to whether he would consider amending that to Bray to Wicklow along the coastal route.

5 Cllr MATTHEWS: Well Chairman, it's just that we already have the Bray Greystones cliff walk
6 in place and we already have the Wicklow way in place. It's actually to join the two of them up,
7 and it's that perfect little triangle of Greystones, Kilmacanogue and Bray, so I wouldn't want to
8 delay implementing that on the establishing of a Greystones then to Wicklow route. But I would
9 be very happy to work with you on looking at a route there as well, if we looked at a Greystones
10 Wicklow route then.

11 Cllr KAVANAGH: That's up to you.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

13 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: I would just ask, do we need a direction, to be honest this is an excellent
14 suggestion, something that we are quite happy to include in the planning and if we can get the
15 wording set down

16 Cllr MATTHEWS: I'll take the advice on that. Okay, thanks very much.

17 Mr O'BRIEN: Including Cllr Kavanagh's, I know Sean Quirke put a lot of work into trying to
18 move that walkway past Iarnrod Eireann and Joe Lane has been moving on that as well, it might
19 even get to the stage where Iarnrod Eireann will put a bridge across the river to facilitate this.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, so there is no need really for direction on that.

21 Cllr CASEY: Chairman, I have absolutely no problem with this, it's just that we are listing one
22 specific walk and there is an awful lot of trails currently being developed within the county that
23 are equally link to go the Wicklow way.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Somebody has been given the task of identifying and looking at a host of
25 different routes.

26 Cllr CASEY: We all could put in a list of routes

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: I am just saying it should be in consultation and agreement with the
28 lapped owners.

29 Cllr CASEY: We are specifically saying one here, are you with me.

30 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: I think the Councillor has now agreed that we will do it through
31 negotiations.

32 Cllr CASEY: I have no problem, it's just that we are listing one specific --

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: We are not listing it.

34 Cllr CASEY: No, we have taken the thrust of the direction and are going to expand on it, we are

1 not going to actually put in one trail. Thank you Councillor.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, that's the end of the submissions. So we are going to take a
3 proposal on the core strategy document, plus the amendment. Have I a proposal for that. Cllr
4 Blake, seconded by Cllr Ruttle. We will take a roll call.

5

6 (Vote taken)

7

8 MS GALLAGHER: 21 for, four against and seven not present.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay thank you members. What's the next stage of this?

10 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: The next stage I suppose at municipal district level we will have to
11 agree the maps with the members and all the town plans that will be part of the County Plan.
12 Which - and then there will be further workshops probably on rural housing, landscape, actually
13 whatever ones the Councillors want, probably members can talk to ourselves or Cllr Blake who
14 is Chair of the SPC on how we would progress these. We would like to have the plan written by
15 May, June. So we can have workshops in the meantime on that.

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay thank you. Members, I am conscious of the fact we haven't made
17 great progress on the agenda. And there is quite a number of important items on it. Now I
18 would like to clear this backlog this month, so I had a Special Meeting in mind for the 27th, this
19 day fortnight. I know there is a suspension of standing orders now in ten minutes, okay. There
20 are a number of important items that we are not going to get to today. There are also a number
21 of Notices of Motions and I notice the second Notice of Motion from the Sinn Fein party was
22 very relevant over the Easter on the Brittas Bay car park. So can I get agreement that the 27th
23 would be acceptable to come in here to clear some of the backlog of the meeting.

24 Cllr WINTERS: It's a Wicklow municipal district meeting that day.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: If I said two o'clock, can we reschedule the municipal meeting for the
26 morning?

27 Cllr BLAKE: Item number ten as regards the speed limits in Baltinglass, could that actually be
28 put on the agenda for the Baltinglass municipal district meeting for that particular morning as
29 well. Is that possible?

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: It has to be done here. Is there going to be a discussion on it.

31 Cllr BLAKE: I think there will be a discussion on it, I would ask that it be put on the agenda for
32 the Baltinglass meeting prior.

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: We can agree it then here on the 27th.

34 Cllr BRADY: I just want an answer to the question.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Item seven. Then we will take a suspension then, your question, and then
2 the rest may wait until 27th. Consider the Bray Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works, you
3 may or may not know that the budget in Bray failed to reach agreement, so under the legislation,
4 it has to come before the members here. So we are looking for a few bob off the rest of you!

5 Okay Lorraine.

6 MS LYNCH: Just to fill in this is a new process for everyone around the room this year. The
7 schedule Municipal District Works was considered by each municipal district in March. Bray
8 Municipal District didn't adopt it and under Section 103 of the act, the Chief Executive had to
9 submit a report to full Council for their consideration and adoption with or without amendment.
10 A report was submitted which outlines - excuse me, a report was smutted last week which
11 outlines the municipal district schedule as circulated to the Bray Municipal District. It details I
12 suppose the amount of 4,945,000 of municipal district expenditure plus 3 million of municipal
13 district expenditure that's operated on a central basis. In addition - similar to the information
14 given to the municipal district members in their meeting in March, it details the roads
15 programme in terms of the roads improvement works both on regional roads and local roads,
16 totalling 478,000. And on restoration, maintenance, on regional and local roads totalling
17 103,000. The - I suppose the schedule Municipal District Works covers a programme of works -
18 covers a programme of works on repair and maintenance for the district. It's as per the adopted
19 annual budget that was adopted here by the members in November, but it kind of just details it
20 on a district level as to the repair maintenance on housing, in roads, be it in terms of the tourism
21 and economic development, it includes the maintenance for street cleaning, playgrounds and
22 outdoor areas. In addition, it also includes the discretionary fund that was agreed here by the
23 members in December, which for Bray is 112,500. On that there is a list of proposed works as
24 suggested by the district area to include 40,000 for Sea Crest, for drain flooding issues, which is
25 a serious problem that's been there for a number of years and required, requires the laying of a
26 new storm sewer and replacing the existing culvert. It covers 17,500 for flooding on Greystones
27 road, 40,000 for painting of the seafront railings and 50,000 for a harbour improvement study.
28 Which totals 112,000. This as I said is a new departure for all of us and it's something from all
29 of us, and I know from Wicklow municipal district and all the districts it's frustrating, we are all
30 trying to find our feet with it and any improvements we can see and we can carry back to the
31 department to try and improve it for next year, I'll do that. The money that's allocated under the
32 schedule of municipal works to determine the programme of works for the area isn't just the
33 money that's going to be spent in the area. There is a centrally controlled expenditure in terms of
34 the libraries, waste management, like the Recycling Centre, the planning functions carried out

1 centrally and that's not in the schedule of Municipal District Works because they're scheduled
2 functions. But they are still important functions that are being carried out in the area.

3
4 I suppose other than - as I said the schedule - I can go through it, take any questions on it, and
5 the details that are on it, I know it was went through with the Bray members at their meeting in
6 March but I am open to take questions on it. What I'll say I suppose is just it's the first run at it,
7 and it needs to be considered by the full members here at this stage.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Brady.

9 Cllr BRADY: Thanks Cathaoirleach. Bray, we rejected the proposed budget after lengthy
10 discussion and I think - and other members can speak for themselves but certainly as
11 Cathaoirleach, I think it was quite apparent that the lack of transparency to the whole process
12 was stark, and that we had a figure imposed on us and we certainly had no knowledge as to how
13 that figure was derived at, it was totally imposed on us, so I think on the back of that there was a
14 motion proposed at the municipal district, and it's motion number seven here, so I think the two
15 should be really taken in tandem because what's contained in the motion is very important and
16 paramount to the whole discussion and the rationale as to why the, as I see it, the members in
17 Bray rejected the proposed budget. And I mean, the headings there, I mean the members and
18 these would be relevant to all districts in the county in terms of commercial rates gathered in the
19 districts, commercial water charges, the local property tax collected in each of the districts, the
20 rental income from Local Authority housing, development contributions, parking fees and all
21 other regular income stream. Because I think that has to have a bearing on the allocations to the
22 districts. I don't expect you to have all that information today Lorraine but certainly going
23 forward, I think each district as part of that process going forward should have that information
24 and to see as to where the allocation that is being foisted upon us from the CEO I would
25 imagine, where that figure fits into the rates etcetera that are collected in the district. So I think
26 that information --

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: Are you proposing then that we get that information before we make a
28 decision?

29 Cllr BRADY: Absolutely, I think that should be --

30 MR DOYLE: I would just make one information intervention on that, the members of the
31 Council adopted the budget last November and it's a breakdown of those figures and none of us,
32 it's been a massive change for us, the three Town Councils were done away with and what we
33 have now is a unified structure and that unified structure, the Head of Finance in discussion with
34 the CE divided up that money as best we could having regard to the issues involved. I have

1 listened to all the members when we went around in May, after the elections, or June after the
2 elections and there was always going to be a problem with regard to this matter. In particular the
3 housing area is affected, but what we are seeing is a broadening of expenditure into the County
4 Council area as a result of the Town Councils in particular for housing. I think we are in a suck
5 it and see situation for 2015. I think the department acknowledged that there is problems. And I
6 think we need to bring back information to the department on how it affects us. I think when we
7 get to talk about our services plan, and the Municipal District budgets, it will give us an idea
8 where we are not being effective in providing services to the people in the county. And think
9 that's how we will be able to give the department information as to what changes should be
10 affected. The question of whether one Municipal District not adopting a budget that it comes
11 back here to the floor of the plenary Council to adopt it, it's a shall, it shall be adopted by this
12 Council, it's a statutory requirement on the full Council, is a kind of a very awkward situation
13 and I think talking to the Head of Finance, I think the head of the finance office generally would
14 feel that this should have been dealt with at the time of the budget meeting. It should not have
15 been a separate process, that we should have had an idea as to what the allocations would have
16 been for the municipal districts, and so I just - we are in an awkward situation, I would much
17 prefer if Bray would be in a position to move on. I do think we should try and provide the
18 information, but it will be - it's a unified structure, it's not - there is no doubt that the --

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I suggest then in line with what Cllr Brady is saying as Chairman of
20 Bray district, that the Notice of Motion number 7, that some information could be provided on
21 that, that on 27th as we are out of time now, okay, that we come back here with more
22 information on the 27th to make a decision because I am sure the members that are not Bray
23 members have no information to hand really at all, that with we would supply some of this
24 information and make the decision then on the 27th to adopt it or not. Is that agreeable?

25 DIRECTOR DOYLE: I don't oppose a deadline on the members, but when you have a statutory
26 requirement to adopt, it also means that the discussion at Bray say for tomorrow evening cannot
27 make any decisions on the budget, that they might want to make. Like the information with the
28 fact that we have four of the five adopted, we have a budget adopted. The information shouldn't
29 make a difference. It can inform decisions going forward, but it can't make much of a difference
30 at this stage, because the overall figure is the overall figure, what's left is the balance for Bray.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, look

32 Cllr BRADY: I appreciate that Cathaoirleach, can we agree to just leave it for two weeks, if it
33 has to be agreed, it has to be agreed at this stage, but core to this is that the process is made more
34 transparent that we can see exactly how much money is generated in each of the districts and

1 how that tallies with the overall allocation to see - I know that's not going to necessarily impact
2 on it this year, but the second thing there and just regards the discretionary NPPR funding and I
3 just want to raise a query around that because it's contained here Bray had an allocation of
4 112,500, now we have three, four projects being suggested. Can I propose that goes back to the
5 Municipal District members to agree on four projects as opposed to the engineer. I think the
6 members in Bray haven't really discussed this, and it needs to be discussed in more detail rather
7 than it coming here as four suggested projects from the engineer. So I don't know - certainly I
8 would like to propose that, that those aren't agreed, and that that funding goes back to the
9 members in Bray to agree as to what projects they as members, it is discretionary funding, they
10 as members would like to see going forward.

11 DIRECTOR DOYLE: I think we have a similar situation in most of the other municipal districts
12 in that they haven't made final decisions on that money but they have agreed the Municipal
13 District budget which would allow them to defer that on the basis that the members in Bray did
14 not do that, I can't see how it could be on the agenda. But we will have it dealt with in a
15 fortnight's time.

16 Cllr BRADY: So when it is agreed in two weeks time that, money will go back to the members
17 then in Bray to decide?

18 DIRECTOR DOYLE: That would be the intention, I don't intend to impose anything on the
19 members

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Behan.

21 Cllr BEHAN: One point should be remembered by all of us in this regard, one of the architects
22 of this new Local Government reform, Brendan Howlin, the Minister for public expenditure and
23 reform has gone on public record as saying it was a dreadful mistake. The whole idea of getting
24 rid of a N urban councils such as the ones we had in this county. He now accepts, he said I think
25 that he took his eye off the ball. So part of what our discussions I think in the future should be in
26 advance of people making promises at the next general election is to try and rescue this situation.
27 As has already been said by the Chief Executive, it's not working at the moment. And it's
28 certainly not working for people living in those towns. And it's something I think we should
29 look at and have a policy on that.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: I have a number of lights but this has been deferred for two weeks, so
31 now the time --

32 Cllr McLOUGHLIN: Just one question, I need to know what happens if we don't propose this
33 budget, what happens if we vote it down?

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: I'll tell you in two weeks! Sorry, we are going to defer it. Suspension of

1 standing orders, Gerry, you want to be quick.

2 Cllr O'NEILL: That Wicklow County Council condemn the banks for its present policy of
3 evicting families who are in mortgage distress and call for immediate Government intervention
4 and that's based please on the fact that also today in Bray there are 88 families now awaiting
5 their fate on whether they lose their home. The last couple of months, there have been 33
6 evictions through the courts. I wrongly pointed out earlier on there is 500, there is 252 in court
7 at the moment. My argument is really based on you know, we pumped 64 billion into the banks.
8 We read now that the developers are exiting NAMA. But they've had their write downs. And
9 they're back in business. We pump 500 million in the last 12 months into rent allowances. With
10 the policy, the Government policy at the moment where so many 11,000 people are before the
11 courts for repossession, there is only one big winner in this and that's been the law. There is
12 going to be millions spent on lawyers and solicitors and whatever. It's a real tragedy from the
13 word go. It's a real tragedy from the word go that young people, we all remember people
14 queuing up maybe days and nights to buy their dream home, and were walked into it to a certain
15 extent by banks. They got 1 10% mortgages, and the reason for that extra 10% was maybe to go
16 for a holiday and buy a new car. Lots of those people were only in their early 20s, young people.
17 And also you know, I am dealing with and no doubt there is Councillors in this room dealing
18 with people who are suffering greatly, psychologically with all this drama. We all know people
19 who are in really bad health. I see too that maybe our area of West Wicklow and there is some
20 areas within the county, you know from 1996 to 2006, there was a population growth of 23% in
21 the county, but in the same period, that was a 135% in areas like Blessington and Baltinglass,
22 and no doubt other parts of the county, special parts. So I would ask the Council here to support
23 my motion that Wicklow County Council condemn the banks for its present policy of evicting
24 families who are mortgage distressed and call for immediate Government intervention.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay thank you Cllr O'Neill. Cllr Brady.

26 Cllr BRADY: Thanks Cathaoirleach, I would like to second that and can I just say it is shameful
27 that as we sat here today, over 80 families were in the court in Bray trying to fight for their
28 family home. This all stems from the Land and Conveyancing Reform Act in 2003 which made
29 it easier for the four major financial institutions to repossess the family homes and in foot of that
30 legislation that was brought in in 2013, over 30,000 letters went out to families affecting to stop
31 their homes being repossessed or voluntary surrender. So I mean that's the upper scale. We are
32 talking about over 30,000 families and unless there is the proper legislation brought in to level
33 the playing field between the financial institutions and families fighting for their family homes,
34 unfortunately the banks that we as a nation, we as people bailed out to the tune of millions, so we

1 need legislation put in place to ensure that family homes aren't being repossessed at the rate that
2 they are. It's totally and fundamentally wrong and Gerry, Cllr O'Neill is dead right, inevitably it
3 will come back to this Local Authority to pick up the tab, people going on rent supplement,
4 trying to get on the housing list and that. So it's a false economy and it's putting really families
5 under serious, serious pressure so I second that motion and I think it needs to be sent not just to
6 the Taoiseach, the Tánaiste, but to the TDs here in Wicklow also. And to all other local
7 authorities.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Doran.

9 Cllr DORAN: Thank you I would support that motion. I just was listening to the radio coming
10 up this morning, there is 94 cases in Wexford this morning.

11 Cllr BRADY: Scandalous.

12 Cllr DORAN: I totally support it.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: All right members, thank you very much for that. There is one final
14 question.

15 MS GALLAGHER: From Cllr Brady. "On account of the homeless figures for 2015 be given
16 for each of the five municipal districts, how many individual families how many have been...
17 (reading) given accommodation and what time". We just didn't have anybody in the Housing
18 Department to breakdown the figures for this afternoon's meeting but the information can be
19 provided as follow: "There are 70 families present, 70 families have presented as either homeless
20 or at risk of homeless since January 2015, the majority from the private rented sector and
21 received notice to quit. Nearly all from either Bray or Wicklow Town or Arklow. An average of
22 20 families in private rented, currently at risk of homelessness. These are the accommodation...
23 (reading) families and friends. Regarding RAS eleven of these families are currently RAS
24 tenants who have been given... (reading) hotel accommodation presently."

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, apologies to that, I am new to the system.

26 Cllr BRADY: I am not going to add to that, I think the figures speak for themselves, maybe we
27 could have it as an item on the agenda for that Special Meeting on 27th and get a fuller
28 breakdown of the figures. Think there is some very, very serious figures there that needs further
29 investigation.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Also on that meeting agenda, we will have the AFS. There is one
31 quick notice about

32 MS GALLAGHER: There will be a public meeting for the Joint Policing Committee in Kilcoole
33 next Wednesday night, Wednesday week 22nd in Kilcoole at 8 o'clock, you have all been given
34 notification.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: And there is a protocol meeting now.

2

3 The meeting concluded

4

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