

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTAIN

**MINUTES OF BUDGET MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY BUILDINGS, WICKLOW ON MONDAY,
28TH NOVEMBER, 2016 AT 10.00 A.M.**

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES:

CLLR. G. DUNNE

IN ATTENDANCE:

**MR. B. DOYLE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
MR. S. QUIRKE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. D. O'BRIEN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. T. MURPHY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. GEANEY, A/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. D. CROMIE, A/ HEAD OF FINANCE
MS. B. McCARTHY, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT
MS. L. GALLAGHER, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS
ADMINISTRATOR
MR. D. MARNANE, A/SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. L. FITZPATRICK, HEAD OF IT
MS. C. FLOOD, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. H. DENNEHY, A/SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MR. D. KEYES, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MR. D. FORDE, BRAY DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR
MS. J. CARROLL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. A. MINNION, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MS. S. DALY, LEO OFFICER
MR. B. MARTIN, COUNTY LIBRARIAN
MS. N. DRAIN, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MS. L. EARLS, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MR. P. O'ROURKE, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MS. K. BOYLE, I.T. SUPPORT**

Votes of Sympathy

Votes of sympathy were extended to the families of the late John Doyle, Mick Lambert and David Halloran. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

Suspension of Standing Orders

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Behan, seconded by Cllr. T. Cullen to suspend Standing Orders to discuss the issue of Ballynagran. It was proposed by Cllr. P. Vance and seconded by Cllr. J. Ryan to suspend Standing Orders at 4.30p.m. A vote was taken.

Need voting list

Local Authority Budget, 2017

Elected members were circulated with Wicklow County Council Local Authority Budget 2017 with report of the Chief Executive dated 18 November, 2016.

TO: CATHAOIRLEACH AND MEMBERS OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

**Report of Chief Executive on the Draft Budget for Wicklow County Council
for the local financial year ending 31st December, 2017.**

Dear Councillors,

The Draft Annual Budget and Chief Executive's Report for the financial year ended 31st December 2017 has been prepared in the statutory format, in accordance with S102 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended). The Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DHPCLG) has determined that the prescribed period for the holding of the Annual Budget Meeting for 2017 is 1st November to 30th November 2016. Accordingly the statutory Annual Budget Meeting is scheduled for 10am Monday November 28th. The Budget must be adopted within a 14 day period commencing on that date.

The attached Draft Budget has been prepared in consultation with the Corporate Policy Group taking account of known financial parameters. This includes the decision of the Members to retain the LPT basic rate for 2017. This provides €2.6m towards budgetary requirements which were identified in the report to the LPT Meeting of 26th September, 2016.

The Draft Budget presented to you provides for expenditure of €95,111,546. As the Council is statutorily required to prepare a balanced budget, expenditure provisions must be matched by income.

The Draft Budget has been prepared with the following income projections:

Divisional Income	€55.3M
Local Property Tax	€11.9M
Rates	€28.0M

Budget 2017 is a positive budget. There is an additional €3.9m expenditure included in the budget compared to Budget 2016. This increased expenditure is reflected across all divisions/services and includes such items as:

- Increased expenditure on repairs and maintenance to housing stock.
- Budgets being provided for central heating and electrical upgrade of our housing stock.
- An increase of 5% in our regional and local road maintenance expenditure.
- Budgets provided for public lighting energy efficiency and energy saving measures.
- An increase of €500k for local footpath renewal/maintenance.
- An increase of 8.6% in discretionary expenditure for Municipal Districts.
- Increased budget to provide for increased monitoring of our River Basins, Oil pollution as required under the Water Framework Directive.
- Increased budget for Arklow library running costs.

This increased expenditure has been achieved despite the constraints imposed on us in 2017, including the impact of union agreed Lansdowne Road agreement, an increase in our insurance premiums and additional pension payments. These constraints also include income reductions in LEO funding, the impact of non domestic water billing transferring to Irish Water and the full impact of the Global Rates Revaluations which took place in 2016.

Staffing Generally

It is evident to the Members that there is a need to recruit staff (indoor/outdoor) to maintain services and Budget 2017 should go some way to alleviate the pressure divisions/sections are operating under.

Budget 2017 provides for additional staff for Housing Assistance Programme (HAP) and Leader Programme. It provides for the filling of General Operative positions as a result of retirements in the current year and also to fill vacancies that have developed over a few years due to the public sector embargo. It also provides for additional staff that are required for Building Control, Health and Safety, the Laboratory, Economic Development and the IT section.

Municipal Districts

- **Municipal District Budget Process**
The budget process for the Municipal Districts remained the same for 2017. Budgetary Plans adopted for each Municipal District are incorporated into the Draft Budget. While it is accepted the timing of the Budgetary Plan is unsatisfactory, this forms only a part of the overall budget for the Municipal Districts. The Draft Annual Budget also includes the funding streams for the Schedule of Municipal District Works under the 2017 Service Delivery Plan.
- **Schedule of Municipal Works**
It is appropriate that each Municipal District review their 2016 operations to assess how they have delivered on the Service Plan.

Local Property Tax

The Government agreed the Local Property Tax (LPT) Allocations for 2017 with 80% of LPT retained locally to fund vital public services. Wicklow is one of the twelve

counties to be a net beneficiary under the national equalisation model, with the balance of 20% to be paid into an equalisation fund. This is to ensure no local authority is worse off when compared to the 2014 General Purpose Grants allocations.

Wicklow County Council's provisional LPT allocation (80%) for 2017 is €13,645,066. Wicklow will receive greater levels of LPT funding in 2017 compared to the level of funding we received from General Purpose Grants for 2014. Consequently the Council have been notified that part of this surplus will be used to fund services in the Housing area thereby replacing central government funding for these areas.

Details on this are provided in Table 1 below and also in Appendix 2 of the Draft Budget Tables.

TABLE 1 – 2017 Local Property Tax Allocation

	2017 (Fin 04 2016)
100% of LPT Income Allocations for Wicklow	17,056,333
20% to National Equalisation Fund	3,411,267
80% of LPT to be retained locally	13,645,066
Amount of surplus to self fund housing	1,686,553
Discretionary LPT Funding for Budget 2017	11,958,513

Commercial Rates

Commercial Rates Income

Commercial Rate income is estimated at €28.0m for 2017.

The shortfall arising from the exemption from commercial rates for Irish Water is being met by DHPCLG again for 2017.

However in 2017 Wicklow County Council will feel the full affect in the reduction of changes made in the Global Valuations

Rates Harmonisation

Pre-unification there were four rating authorities in County Wicklow with four separate Annual Rates on Valuation (ARV). The Local Government Reform Act 2014 (S29)

provides for the harmonisation of the ARVs. This means rate payers within the County transition to a single county rate.

The harmonised ARV of €72.04 was adopted by the Members in 2015. This rate has a materially neutral impact on the finances of Wicklow County Council. The rate means that over 55% of the rate base will see a reduction in their rates bill.

The Base Year Adjustment (BYA) provides for the phasing of increases and decreases on the annual rates. It is proposed to transition to the rate of €72.04 over 5 years. 2015 was Year 1 and in 2015 the BYA applied meant rate payers were charged the same in 2015 as in 2014. The first year of changes to the rate demands was 2016.

The timeframe can be revisited and agreed each year at the Annual Budget Meeting.

The base year adjustment for the former four rating authorities is shown in Table C of the budgetary tables. The impact of this for ratepayers is

- 19% will see an increase of 3% (Former Arklow and Wicklow TC)
- 26% will see an increase of 2% (Former Bray TC)
- 55% will see a decrease of 2% (Former Wicklow CC).

The Draft Budget provides for the continuation of the Rates Incentive Scheme. The aim of the Scheme is to ease the burden on local ratepayers and address their concerns about the impact of commercial rates. It also helps mitigate the effect of the ARV harmonisation.

Small and medium businesses operating in Wicklow account for 90% of the County's ratepayers (Table 2).

The grant of 5%, of the current year bill (2017) up to a maximum of €250, will be paid as a financial support to occupiers of commercial properties with total annual commercial rates bills of up to and including €10,000, subject to certain terms and conditions.

Table 2 Wicklow Rate Base

Annual Rates Billing Band	No. of Accounts	Rates Base Value	Commercial Rates Value	% of Rate Accounts	Average Annual Rate Demand per account
€			€	%	€
> to 1,000	547	9,658	350,174	1.26	640
1,000 – 2,000	758	31,429	1,120,026	4.03	1,478
2,000 – 3,000	511	35,304	1,256,548	4.52	2,459
3,000 – 5,000	570	62,126	2,228,953	8.02	3,910
5,000 – 10,000	477	94,214	3,346,584	12.03	7,016
10,000 – 15,000	744	50,421	1,786,926	6.43	2,402
15,000 – 20,000	78	38,171	1,353,002	4.87	17,346
20,000 – 30,000	81	57,278	2,030,946	7.30	25,073
30,000 – 50,000	63	67,146	2,419,041	8.70	38,397
50,000 – 100,000	34	65,672	2,325,462	8.36	68,396
100,000 – 500,000	31	159,862	5,757,421	20.70	185,723
> 500,000	2	101,444	3,834,590	13.79	1,917,295
Total	3,896	772,725	27,809,673	100	

Rates on Vacant Premises

The LG Reform Act 2014 provides for a change to rating law in relation to the refund of rates on vacant properties. The elected members may by way of reserved function vary the levels of rates refund applicable to vacant property in individual local electoral areas. The Act does not make any change to the eligibility criteria for refunds.

The decision to alter the rate of refund should be taken at the Annual Budget Meeting. It is decided in respect of the entire local electoral area and will apply only for the year to which the budget relates. Each local electoral area can have a different rate of refund. In the absence of any decision the existing provisions re the rate of refund apply. The current rate of refund that applies in Wicklow is 100%.

In weighing the decision to reduce the rate of refund the following issues should be considered:

- Limited localised recovery of commercial sectors in Wicklow
- Additional cost-burden to landlords which may hinder tentative recovery
- Majority of property owners are actively engaged in seeking a tenant and it is not in their interest to leave property vacant
- Challenge and cost to the rates collection process.

It is recommended that the rate of refund for eligible vacant properties remains at 100% for 2017.

Key changes in the Draft Annual Budget are summarised in Table 3 below.

Table 3 - Summary of Major Changes Budget 2017		Cost / (Saving)
		€000s
Housing	Local Authority Housing Rents increase	(1,350)
	Housing Repairs budget increase	176
	Central Heating and Electrical Upgrade	150
	Tenant Liaison	43
	HAP	± 167
	Loans (including 2 land loans maturing)	107
	Homeless Costs net decrease	(79)
Roads	Local Road Footpath Renewal	± 500
	Public Liability Insurance	202
	Regional Road Maintenance	55
	Local Road Maintenance	101
	Invasive Species Removal	50
	Public Lighting Energy Efficiency	150
Water	Irish Water reduction in income & expenditure	± 289
Planning,	Planning Income budget increased	(166)
Community & Social	LECP	80
Development	LEADER Programme (contra)	±154
Economic	SICAP (contra)	±327
Development	Rates Incentive Scheme - decrease	(100)
Environment	Additional Lab Technicians	67
	Increased Monitoring RBD, Oil pollution, Air Noise	138
Recreation & Amenity	Cliff Walk	(50)
	Shoreline Running track increase	52
	Library running costs/payroll increase(mainly Arklow)	105
	Arklow & Wicklow Pools - reduction in running costs	(50)
Ag, Ed, H&W	Control of Horses -Net	(50)
	Wicklow Port	±146
Miscellaneous	Lansdowne Road Agreement	378
	Global Revaluation	(300)
	Rates Write off - decrease	(134)
	NPPR increase	(200)
	IPB Dividend increase	(183)
	Municipal District Public Realm discretionary fund	50
Other	Pensions costs & lump sums increase net	323
	Area Office Payroll increase	114
	Milestone 4	251

In Conclusion

I prepared the 2017 Draft Annual Budget in consultation with the Corporate Policy Group and in accordance with the Local Government Act, 2001 (Section 133). This consultation with the Corporate Policy Group during the budgetary process, together with the Members workshop has been a key aspect of the budget preparation. At these meetings significant factors within the Budget were raised and discussed and I am grateful to the Members of the Corporate Policy Group and the Cathaoirleach Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald for their constructive engagement with the budgetary process.

I also wish to acknowledge the work done by Cllr Derek Mitchell in pursuit of compensation due to Wicklow County Council no longer being compensated as the source of Dublin Water since the establishment of Irish Water in 2014. We have been unsuccessful in securing funding for this in Budget 2017 but we will continue to argue our case with the Department in 2017.

As I have stated in the LPT Report in September, Wicklow's income from general purpose grant did not compare favourably to other comparable local authorities. Our general purpose grant allocation for 2014 is now been used as our LPT baseline going forward. Comparing the 2016 annual budget figures, Wicklow spends less per person than the national average across all services. We have already made submissions to address this under-resourcing with central government, however we need to continually pursue this both at official level and also through our elected representatives.

The draft budget has been prepared in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions, and this report, with the accompanying detailed financial tables, sets out the position for consideration by the Council.

I would like to pay tribute to the staff for the commitment and enthusiasm towards achieving the objectives set out in the Corporate Plan and Annual Service Plan.

The 2017 Draft Budget before you today is a plan of action to best deal with the reformed environment of local government. It allows the Council to build on the process of recovery and to work to deliver growth in our community and economy. While significant challenges remain in dealing with the economic realities facing the Council, we can cautiously look to build on the emerging economic growth nationally and translate this to increased growth across the County.

There is considerable detail contained in the Draft Budget Report to assist the Members in their deliberations. Please take the opportunity to discuss aspects of the Draft Budget with the Heads of Function.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Members of the Council for their support and look forward to continuing to work with the Elected Members to deliver high quality services for the people of Wicklow.

The Draft Budget preparation required significant input from staff across the Council's Divisions. I thank all the Directors and their staff who have contributed to and supported that process. Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to Deborah Cromie, Acting Head of Finance and Breda McCarthy, Financial/Management

Accountant and the rest of the staff in the Finance Section for their hard work in preparing and framing this Budget.

I recommend the Budget to you for adoption.

BRYAN DOYLE
WICKLOW CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Ms. D. Cromie A/Head of Finance outlined the tasks of the meeting:

- (1) To Adopt Statutory Annual Budget 2017, with or without amendment
- (2) Determination of Base Year Adjustments – Commercial Rates
- (3) Rates Relief on Vacant premises – Commercial rates

Ms. Cromie introduced the following divisions:-

Housing and Building Division A- Total Draft Expenditure estimate for 2017 of €20,607,744 and a total draft income of €21,882,035 which is detailed on pages 71-73 in the draft budget book.

Road Transport and Safety Division B – Total Draft Expenditure estimate for 2017 of €21,285,675 and a total draft income of €10,718,422 which is detailed on pages 74-76 in the draft budget book.

Elected members made the following contributions:-

- How is miscellaneous of €11 million made up?
- Why is there a decrease in funding for DPG's?
- The condition of some rented properties is appalling and needs to be addressed
- €150,000 budget for upgrade of central heating only equates to 30 units – need to be increased
- What exactly would be the budget to completely sort out the housing issue?
- Housing crisis a major issue and needs to be increased
- There has been limited success in attaining private housing
- Why only €100,000 from LPT being spent on housing?
- Will stock be freed up as housing is in dire straits?
- Delgany to Blacklion Road – why is it not in the budget?
- Knockroe Bends – N81- can progress be made to remove the bad bend?
- Where are Development Contributions spent?
- Junction between Rathdrum and Arklow needs to be looked at.
- Glenview Park, Kilpeddar – Are there plans to sort out the substandard roads?
- How is footpath maintenance funded?
- How will LED lighting be brought in?

Joe Lane Director of Services updated the elected members and responded to the queries raised. A budget of approximately €600 million would be needed to completely fix the housing issue. This is not do-able as neither Wicklow County Council nor the State would have the capacity. With regards to the Housing programme their have been achievements – part fives have gone through in Rathnew, there is PPP, RAS, HAP and social leasing, which are all alleviating the problem. The allocation for DPG's is allocation based and as estimate is provided until the actual figure is received. Any shortfall will be provided. Housing with mould and central heating issues will be looked at. A figure of €12.4 million has been included in the budget as income for Rents. Part 5's will begin to pick up over 2017 and 2018.

Ms. Cromie confirmed that the budget book is a statutory document and this is how we are obliged to present our budget. Miscellaneous covers such things as the machinery yard, register of electors, coroner's fees, local representation of civic leadership, motortax.

Sean Quirke, Director of Services responded to the queries raised in relation to the Roads Directorate. He advised that Development Contributions can only be spent as per scheme. Funding for Delgany to Blacklion would not appear in this budget as this is the "revenue" budget and not the "capital" budget. Knockroe Bends will progress in 2017 with funding from T.I.I. Glenview Park is a matter for the Municipal District to address. The junction between Rathdrum and Arklow will be kept on the agenda. Footpath allocations will be given to each Municipal District. A pilot scheme in relation to LED lighting is to be done in Arklow but an assessment to be carried out first. It is a national initiative and will reduce consumption costs.

Ms. D. Cromie, A/Head of Finance set out brief summaries for Divisions C Water Services and Division E, Environmental Services.

Water Services Division C– Total Draft Expenditure estimate for 2017 of €8,127,363 and a total draft income of €7,651,102 which is detailed on pages 77-78 in the draft budget book.

Environmental Services Division E– Total Draft Expenditure estimate for 2017 of €11,787,307 and a total draft income of €1,877,041 which is detailed on pages 82-84 in the draft budget book.

Elected members raised the following questions/made the following contributions:-

- Unaccounted for water – we are a little below the 80% detection rate at 76% - what is being done about this?
- Derelict sites – there is no allocation for this – why? Provision should be made.
- Explanation for increase in cost of burial ground maintenance.
- Explanation for water quality management breakdown.
- Why does Wicklow County Council spend less per person than the national average?
- Are there plans to cover insurance costs for small groups who clean up burial grounds?
- Growing problem of illegal dumping on private land.

Mr. Michael Geaney, A/ Director of Services, advised that the measurement for unaccounted for water has changed in the last 12 months. Wicklow County Council carries out the detection for Irish Water. Leak detection is ongoing in the County with

approximately 6 staff members working at any one time. Derelict sites are dealt with under Planning Division. It is proposed that funding for caretakers of burial grounds will be funded by District's. There is currently no funding provided for small groups cleaning burial grounds. Extra monitoring is being carried out on rivers and there is a need to carry out an oil spill responses. Under the Water Framework Directive new legislation has been coming in since the beginning of 2016 increasing what we should be doing. Illegal dumping is followed up by the Council. Funding for Tidy Towns is also made available to CCDS.

Ms. D. Cromie commented that the reason Wicklow County Council spend less per person is because we have less money available to spend.

Ms. D. Cromie, A/Head of Finance set out brief summary for Division D – Development Management.

Development Management Division D – Total Draft Expenditure estimate for 2017 of €11,333,332 and a total draft income of €4,859,091 which is detailed on pages 79-81 in the draft budget book.

Elected members raised the following questions/made the following contributions:-

- There is an increase in income for planning fees which would mean an increase in planning levies. Can this money be spent elsewhere?
- What budget is in place for derelict sites?
- Is there a budget for Bray Tourism?
- Bray Institute For Education needs recognition.
- How much is Clermont Campus costing?
- Is there an update on Ardmore Studio?
- Perhaps, inhouse, staffing, offices, car parking could be looked at.
- Rates incentive scheme – how successful was this?

Mr. Des O'Brien, Director of Services advised with regards to levies that protocol is that each spending directorate decides where to spend the levies. The spend must be capital and put towards infrastructure that will facilitate development. The figure for derelict sites is for enforcement as the biggest spend in on salaries but this is in a different budget. There are only a handful of properties on the list.

The meeting then broke for lunch reconvening at 14.00pm.

Tom Murphy, Director of Services advised that the Local Government Act 2014 has strengthened the role of Local Government in economic development and Wicklow County Council has risen to that challenge, drive through the work of the SPC's and the LECPC advisory group. The budget for economic development for 2017 is €309,000 with a portion for salaries. New brand "Endless Opportunities". Acknowledged the excellent work of Bray Institute For Education and there is a memorandum of understanding between BIFE and IT Carlow which will lead to greater co-operation. Clermont Campus operational cost is €205,000 with a loan repayment of €300,000. A letter has been written to Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor and Enterprise Ireland requesting that the State maintains their interest in Ardmore Studios and we are hopeful to hear something back soon.

Ms. D. Cromie, A/Head of Finance advised that there has been a good take up of the scheme. All rates customers who got a demand in 2016 were given details of the scheme. Collection rate has improved. We had a target of 73% collection rate but we actually got 76% collection and are on our way to achieving 78%. Arrears must be paid in full before being considered for the scheme. The vacant discount applies to the time the property has been vacant.

Division F Recreational and Amenity Division F – Total Draft Expenditure estimate for 2017 is €7,522,982 and a total income of €594,849 which is detailed on pages 85-86 in the draft budget book

Elected members raised the following questions/made the following contributions:-

- This is one of the best programmes for interaction with ordinary people throughout the County.
- Staffless libraries – is an effort by Central Government to replace staff – needs further discussion with staff.
- No mention of Bray skate park.
- Could the allocation for Jigsaw – a youth mental service – be increased from €20,000 to €60,000?
- Why is there an increase of €67,000 for the Arts Programme?

Mr M. Nicholson, Director of Services advised that The skate park in Bray is on the programme but on the capital budget not the revenue budget. The Council is fully supportive of Jigsaw and it was a last minute decision to provide €20,000 in this budget. The increase in the Arts Programme is due to a member of staff returning from maternity leave.

A broad discussion took place around the issue of the staffless libraries. It was proposed by Cllr. J. Behan and seconded by Cllr. M. O'Connor to ascertain the views of the staff before progressing.

Agriculture, Education Health and Welfare Division G – Total Draft Expenditure estimate for 2017 of €1,572,640 and a total income of €739,502 which is detailed on pages 87-89 in the draft budget book.

Miscellaneous services Division H– Total Draft Expenditure estimate for 2017 of €12,874,503 and a total draft income of €7,004,943 which is detailed on pages 90-92 of the draft budget book.

Elected members raised the following questions/made the following contributions:-

- Who are the County Committee of Agriculture?
- Has a tender gone out for the dog pounds?
- Why is there a decrease in horse control?
- What section does the maintenance of Bray Harbour come under?
- Where is the allocation for the Municipal Districts? Needs substantial increase.
- How much are piers and harbours actually costing?
- Why is the allocation for animal control down?

Ms D. Cromie, A/Head of Finance and Mr. M. Graney advised that there is one pensioner of the County Committee of Agriculture for the former CEO of ACOT. The Budget for Municipal can be found in H0905 which is an increase of 8.6% on last year. A net cost of €160,000 for Wicklow and Arklow harbours. Horse control decrease due to less horses being collected. Under the Control of Dogs Act, the dog pound does not have to be tendered. The current contract with ISPCA is up in February 2017 and negotiations will begin for a successful outcome. There is a figure of €5,000 in the budget for Bray Harbour. There is no specific budget for Municipal Districts but there is money available.

A short break was taken and the meeting reconvened at 4.30pm

Suspension of Standing Orders:

Proposed by Cllr. J. Behan and seconded by Cllr. P. Doran to discuss the following:

Urgent Business: Standing Order 16: Ballynagran.

Standing Order No. 16 – Motion for Purpose of Dealing with Urgent Business states as follows-

“Notwithstanding any other provision of these Standing Orders a motion may be proposed without notice for the purpose of dealing with urgent business related to a function of the local authority, subject to the requirement that not less than a majority of members present vote in favour”.

As per Standing Order No. 16, I proposed that this Council –

- Withholds its consent to the alteration of planning conditions at Ballynagran Landfill as proposed by the Chief Executive.
- Calls on the EPS to rescind its amendments to the Waste Licence for Ballynagran Landfill
- Requests an immediate explanation from the Chief Executive for this refusal to consult with the democratically elected members of this Council or local residents on this matter.
- Condemns the incompetence of the system of monitoring of landfill capacity in this country which allowed this emergency to develop so suddenly.

Following a lengthy discussion a Vote was Taken

Get Voting List

FOR: ()

AGAINST: ()

NOT PRESENT: ()

ABSTAINING : ()

TO ADOPT STATUTORY ANNUAL BUDGET 2017, WITH OR WITHOUT AMENDMENT

Cllr. P. Vance proposed and seconded by Cllr. I. Winters to adopt the budget as is with the following amendments:

NPPR increase by €50,000
Planning Fees increase by €25,000
Rate Incentive Scheme decrease by €50,000
Burial Grounds decrease by €25,000
The Pension Lump Sum decrease by €25,000
Wicklow Port decrease by €25,000
Library Fund decrease by €45,000
Enforcement increase by €25,000

An increase of €270,000 to add to the €630,000 to a total of €900,000 to be distributed pro rate among the five Municipal Districts.

A Vote was Taken

Get List

FOR: (24)
AGAINST: (7)
NOT PRESENT: (4)
ABSTAINING : (1)

TO ADOPT THE DETERMINATION FOR BASE YEAR ADJUSTMENT

It was proposed by Cllr. I. Winters, seconded by Cllr. ???

TO RECOMMEND THE RATE FOR ELIGIBLE VACANT PROPERTIES

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Ruttle, seconded by Cllr????

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

**Cathaoirleach,
Wicklow County Council**

**Senior Executive Officer,
Enterprise & Corporate Services**