

ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

HELD AT WICKLOW COUNTY BUILDINGS, WICKLOW TOWN

On MONDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER 2018 at 10.00 AM

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1 THE MEETING COMMENCED ON MONDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER 2018, AS
2 FOLLOWS:

3
4 CATHAOIRLEACH: We'll start the meeting with the votes
5 of sympathy.

10:01

6 MS. GALLAGHER: Yes, Cathaoirleach. For Sarah Margaret
7 Dorothy Stokes, mother-in-law of Cllr. Jim Ruttle; for
8 Nancy O'Dea, mother-in-law of our colleague, Teresa
9 O'Dea, Environment Section; for Paddy Meagher, father
10 of Damian Meagher-Hanson; and Sandra Dunne, Finance;
11 and for Breda Tiernan, mother of Paddy Tiernan.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: I think we also recognise Mary
13 McDonald's mother as well, and I think, Tom Fortune,
14 your brother-in-law died as well. We recognise that as
15 well, okay. Can we stand please.

16 CLLR. BLAKE: Sorry, Chairman.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, sorry, yes?

18 CLLR. BLAKE: There was the accident in Carnew last
19 week.

20 MS. GALLAGHER: Oh yes.

21 CLLR. BLAKE: And the family of John Byrne.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, certainly on that. Nothing, no
23 other ones? Okay, we'll stand please, thank you.

24
25 MOMENT OF SILENCE

26
27 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Members, we're going to start
28 with just a brief comment from the Chief Executive and
29 then the Finance Officer and then we'll get into, into

1 the bones of the meeting. We're going to take the two,
2 two, two and two, the programmes together, the first
3 two in twos along the way, and obviously then we'll
4 have a question and answer session after each, each of
5 those two programmes. So I'll let the, the Chief
6 Executive then.

10:02

7
8 PRESENTATION BY MR. CURRAN

9
10 MR. CURRAN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just before I
11 start, the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund
12 grants have just been announced, and I think we did
13 well on that. We got three Category A projects.
14 They're announcing the shovel ready projects. So one
15 of those is the Bray Public Transport Bridge which is
16 linking the golf course lands to the garda station,
17 it's 3.45 million, Arklow Historic Core which is in
18 around the courthouse, in the playground area, digital
19 hub and courthouse, significant as well, 1.645 million,
20 and Wicklow town which is principally the Fitzwilliam
21 Square area, 1.626. So that's 6.7 million. I think we
22 did well on that. We're one of the few counties to
23 get, to get three projects which are three shovel ready
24 projects.

10:02

10:02

10:03

25
26 Now we got of course the, the funding in linking the
27 Avonmore walk, Jubilee walk last week which is just
28 around 500,000 as well which will be very significant
29 in terms of outdoor recreation working through, I think

10:03

1 it's last wednesday.

2
3 Now just back to the current account. Again, we're
4 having the same problems we had last year. The LPT is
5 80%. We still have to self fund housing as part of 10:04
6 that. We have an issue with retirements. There's 200
7 employees due to retire in the next five years, so
8 that's a draw on resources. Pay restoration is kicking
9 in. We can't increase commercial rates as you know
10 because we're in the harmonization process, and our 10:04
11 dividend from IPB was down by two thirds.

12
13 But on the plus side, we do have additional income from
14 rates. We will have next year, about 300,000 because
15 of wind farms and various other buildings coming on 10:04
16 stream. We have an increase in the vacant site fund,
17 about 300,000 as well, NPPR parking is up. We will be
18 doing the rent review in terms of housing, but any
19 increase there will be ring-fenced for housing.

20 10:04
21 So, we have some extra money to put into the budget
22 which is going on the housing conditional survey.
23 There's about 150,000 for central heating installation,
24 boiler maintenance, extra 250,000 for Fabric Upgrade,
25 increased funding for the homeless, and then there's
26 additional staff, significant additional staff in the
27 libraries, but also Housing, HR, Economy Development,
28 ICT and outdoor staff.

29

1 There's an increase in the book fund, an increase in
2 funding and fire services, additional funding for the
3 Wicklow and Arklow swimming pools. Then we'll
4 maintained the discretionary funding for the Municipal
5 Districts, 900,000. The 300,000 for local footpaths 10:05
6 like last year is in there as well.
7 IPB funding is now 500,000. Again that's
8 discretionary. That will be in place for the next five
9 years. Down slightly on last year but we have it
10 guaranteed for five years. The GMA, as you know, is 10:05
11 238,000. So it's 1.94 discretionary for the, for the
12 Municipal Districts.

13
14 There is of course a significant amount of other monies
15 spent in Municipal Districts, and we'll see that in the 10:05
16 schedule of Municipal District works which will come in
17 January/February when we have the, have the roadworks.

18
19 So I think that's a very brief summary. I'll hand over
20 to Brian just to run through it in a bit more detail. 10:05
21 Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: The Finance Officer, Brian, Brian
23 Gleeson.

24
25 PRESENTATION BY MR. GLEESON 10:06
26

27 MR. GLEESON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Good morning,
28 Members. I'll first of all summarise the main areas
29 that I plan to discuss during the presentation this

1 morning. We'll give an overview of the budgetary
2 process, the planned expenditure and income for 2019,
3 the financial challenges that we're facing next year.
4

5 Then I'll outline new and additional expenditure 10:06
6 arising next year, the funding to the Municipal
7 Districts, and the main changes to our income and
8 expenditure in the budget next year. Following this we
9 will look at each division with the relevant directors
10 of services. Then to conclude, we have a couple of 10:06
11 decisions that are required in relation to the
12 commercial rates for 2019.
13

14 The first stage of the budget process involves local
15 property tax rate variation. As you're well aware at 10:06
16 the September meeting it was decided to leave the rate
17 unchanged for 2019.
18

19 The next stage involved the Municipal District
20 budgetary plan, would have been the general Municipal 10:06
21 allocations which were adopted by the individual
22 Municipal Districts at their meetings in the past
23 month. The adoption of the Statutory Annual Budget
24 takes place today, and the final stage of the budgetary
25 process involves the schedule of Municipal the a 10:07
26 Municipal District works which will be finalised and
27 issued in early 2020, or early 2019.
28

29 The decisions that we need to take today, the first one

1 is adopting the statutory annual budget, the second one
2 in relation to commercial rates. As part of the rates
3 harmonization process, we need to determine the
4 adjustment for the former rating authorities and also
5 decide on the rates relief percentage to be applied on 10:07
6 fatal premises.

7
8 The draft budget presented to you today provides for
9 107.2 million of expenditure in 2019. This is an
10 increase on the 2008 budget of 95.6 million which is 10:08
11 fairly substantial. This is mainly due to increased
12 grant funding in the areas of housing and roads.

13
14 It should also be noted that over 44 million or 43% of
15 the budget relates to pay and pensions. The screen 10:08
16 there shows a breakdown of the allocations per district
17 per division. I'll just outline them. Housing, 23.4
18 million; roads transportation, 23.9; water services, 7
19 and a half million; development management, 12 million;
20 environmental services, 12.7 million; recreational 10:08
21 amenity, 8.5, agriculture, education, health and
22 welfare, 1.7 million, and miscellaneous, 12.67 million.

23
24 As we are required to prepare a balance budget, the
25 planned expenditure must be matched by income, and the 10:08
26 table on the screen outlines the main categories of
27 income. Local property tax, unchanged at 11.9 million.
28 Our commercial rates come in at just under 28 million.
29 Goods and services account for 33.3 million. That

1 would cover rents and housing loans, the annual payment
2 from Irish Water, parking fees and planning fees
3 amongst other things.

4
5 Grants and subsidies account for 29.6 million of our 10:09
6 income and that would include grants of 17.1 million
7 from our parent department, Department of Housing,
8 Planning and Local Government, and 9.2 million from TII
9 in respect of roads.

10 10:09
11 There are a number of financial challenges we face in
12 2019. The first one is restricted sources of funding.
13 As the LPT is unchanged at 12 million, due to a
14 decision in September, in addition no new property
15 valuations will be included in the calculations of LPT 10:09
16 until the end of 2019, so we will not see the impact of
17 this until Budget 2020. In addition, as the Chief
18 Executive mentioned, we are in the final year of our
19 rates harmonization process and we cannot alter the
20 existing ARV until this is completed. 10:10

21
22 In relation to the national pay agreement, the
23 additional costs of the public service pay deal in 2019
24 is approximately 900,000 of which we will receive 88%
25 compensation from the Department. So approximately 10:10
26 100,000 needs to be met from our own resources to cover
27 these costs.

28
29 Increase in pension costs is the third item. As you

1 are well aware, greater numbers are retiring each year
2 and approximately 200 staff members are eligible to
3 retire over the next five years. We also have to
4 factor in the loss of pension contributions under the
5 Single Public Service Pension Scheme which now go 10:10
6 directly to Deeper rather than into the Revenue budget
7 of Wicklow County Council.

8
9 The last point there relates to reduced income. In
10 2018 we received the first tranche of the IPB capital 10:11
11 redistribution funding which was 700,000. This amount
12 has been reduced to 500,000 in 2019, and that will be
13 the figure for the remaining years of the funding
14 programme up to 2022. Also due to significant and
15 sustained volatility in the global investment market, 10:11
16 our IPB dividend has been reduced from 434,000 in 2018
17 to approximately 130,000 in 2019.

18
19 However, to offset these reductions we have identified
20 a number of income increases in other areas. Our 10:11
21 commercial rates will see an increase of 300,000 based
22 on new business valuations that occurred in 2018. NPPR
23 receipts will be up by 200,000 based on our existing
24 income levels. Parking income is increased by over
25 200,000, and the new vacant site levy is expected to 10:11
26 generated over 300,000 in the coming year.

27
28 So notwithstanding all those challenges, we have been
29 able to provide a number of increases in certain areas

1 in the 2019 budget, which I will now outline. These
2 include the commencement of a housing conditional
3 survey and associated works; additional fundings for
4 central heating, boiler maintenance and housing
5 repairs; a new funding provision for Fabric Upgrade 10:12
6 works to our housing stock; increase funding for the
7 housing of the homeless and disabled person grants;
8 additional staffing for libraries and an increase in
9 our library book fund. We've also included additional
10 staffing in the areas of IT, HR, legal services, 10:12
11 economic development, building control housing and for
12 outdoor staff.

13
14 There is an increase in funding for our fire services
15 and for tourism and promotion. We've also been able to 10:12
16 retain the discretion funding of 900,000 for the
17 Municipal Districts and the footpath renewal scheme of
18 300,000 taken from special development levies.

19
20 I'd now like to highlight the total discretionary 10:13
21 funding that is available to the Municipal Districts in
22 2019. As mentioned already, public relevant
23 discretionary funding will remain at 900,000 as well as
24 the local footpath renewal scheme, 300,000. In
25 addition to those two items, we have the general 10:13
26 Municipal allocation, which was approved earlier this
27 year, 238,500, and the IPB capital payment of 500,000
28 in respect of footpath repairs. This brings the total
29 amount of discretionary funding available to the

1 Municipal Districts next year to 1.94 million.

2
3 However, it should be noted that this is not the only
4 funding that is available to the Municipal Districts.
5 There is under the schedule of Municipal District 10:13
6 works, we have over 20 million of direct district works
7 in the areas of housing repairs, road programme,
8 maintenance of parks, playgrounds et cetera. There's
9 also centrally administered district works in excess of
10 10 million which relate to the provision of fire 10:14
11 services, libraries, harbours and swimming pools. In
12 2019 we also plan to continue the process that was
13 introduced this year whereby Members will submit
14 proposals in respect of restoration, maintenance and
15 improvement works with regard to the local roads 10:14
16 programmes.

17
18 I will now in the budget book, the introduction would
19 have highlighted the main changes in relation to
20 expenditure and income for the budget. we'll now go 10:14
21 through each of those. Starting with housing;
22 continual survey works. These are all, by the way,
23 actual increases rather than the full provision.

24
25 So conditional surveys works, an increase of 114,000 10:15
26 this year. We have an increase of 150,000 across the
27 areas of central heating, boiler maintenance and
28 housing repairs. There is a new provision of 250,000
29 for Fabric Upgrade works and a new provision in

1 relation to capital remediation works. We've also seen
2 an increase in homeless expenditure, 170,000, and
3 disabled person's grant expenditure of nearly 800,000.
4 That's based on increased grant assistance.

10:15

5
6 Over the area of roads, the IPB Capital Footpath Repair
7 Scheme is down 200. We have provided an increase
8 provision for public lightening energy efficiency of
9 50,000, and our parking operations will generate extra
10 income over 200,000.

10:15

11 In the area of development management, the new income
12 for vacant site levy will generate over 300,000. There
13 is a new initiative being introduced across all local
14 authorities in relation to digital mapping and we've
15 provided 60,000 in respect of this. Tourism and
16 promotion will receive an additional allocation of
17 25,000. In the area of environment, extra allocation
18 in relation to the fire service operations of 100,000.
19 Recycling operations approximately 50,000 of an
20 increase. There's a new regional anti-litter
21 initiative that we have to contribute and that will be
22 in the amount of 25,000. There is a climate adaption
23 plan which must be produced next year in line with
24 government policy and we've earmarked 50,000 in that
25 respect.

10:16

10:16

10:16

26
27 In the area of recreation and amenity, Arklow/Wicklow
28 swimming pools, we've increased the capital provision
29 for 50,000 to upgrade works in relation to these pools.

1 Additional staff costs in line with our work force plan
2 in relation to the library, 115,000. We have increased
3 the library book fund by 50,000 from 150,000 up to
4 200,000. A number of miscellaneous changes, the
5 national pay agreement compensation has increased from 10:17
6 last year by 900,000. IT running costs which includes
7 additional staff and increased licence costs, 144,000.
8 Our NPPR receipts will increase by 200,000. IPP
9 dividend will reduce by approximately 300,000, and the
10 last two items are pension gratuity increases of 10:17
11 350,000 and a rates income increase, which I have
12 mentioned earlier, of 300,000

13
14 So that concludes the main part of the presentation. I
15 will now go through each of the divisions and the 10:17
16 individual budgets. We'll start with housing.

17 Division A, the planned expenditure for housing is 23
18 --

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, just on that, there's a couple
20 of Councillors want to get in. I'd like to get in, 10:18
21 unless it's brief, I'm going to give the Councillors
22 plenty of time, you know, as we go through programmes.
23 Unless it's very brief, because I don't want to open it
24 up to the whole floor now because we're getting into
25 the programme now and you'll have plenty of time as we 10:18
26 go through all the programmes to ask the particular
27 questions.

28 CLLR. BOURKE: I just want to make a general comment
29 about the announcement that the Chief Executive made.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, if you'll be brief on that. I
2 think if you're brief, okay, right. Okay, that's fine.
3 CLLR. BOURKE: I'd just like to compliment the Chief
4 Executive on the hard work that he and his team have
5 done in securing the funding from the Urban 10:18
6 Regeneration and Development Fund for the works that
7 are earmarked. The 1.6 million grant for upgrading the
8 Historic Town Centre in Arklow is very very greatly
9 received and it's excellent news. I'd also like to
10 compliment (inaudible) and his Director of Services, 10:19
11 Michael Nicholson, because this news comes hot on the
12 heels of the, from the Rural Regeneration Fund which
13 was announced last week. The 392,000 for the footpath,
14 or the footbridge in the Rathdrum to link the Avonmore
15 way and the Jubilee way. That's going to be a game 10:19
16 changer for Co. Wicklow in terms of pedestrian walkways
17 and tourist numbers. So great credit to the management
18 team and everybody involved. Thank you.
19 MR. CURRAN: Yes. I might say, the staff in the
20 Municipal District put a lot of work into that Arklow 10:19
21 project. You know I think it's great for them actually
22 that they get it because it is, it's the public, it's
23 great ground. The whole public area there is a plaza
24 development. The existing courthouse will be
25 refurbished. There is a digital hub hot desk space in 10:19
26 there, and a lot of design work gone into that. 1.645,
27 it's a significant grant that they can really do
28 something with, you know.
29 CATHAOIRLEACH: we'll put this on the agenda in

1 December to give people more information on the
2 actually projects and all that are involved in this as
3 well. Cllr. Behan, did you want to come in there?
4 CLLR. BEHAN: On the programmes, when you start the
5 programmes. 10:20
6 CATHAOI RLEACH: Oh yes, that's fine.
7 CLLR. BLAKE: Just a couple of questions, Chairman.
8 CATHAOI RLEACH: Yes, Cllr. Blake?
9 CLLR. BLAKE: We won't get a chance to go back to it.
10 One was a revaluation of the rates. We won't get a 10:20
11 chance to talk about that even though --
12 CATHAOI RLEACH: Yes, that's at the end of the meeting.
13 We're going to have that at the end of the meeting.
14 CLLR. BLAKE: Okay. The second question then in
15 relation to it is the staffing level, the staffing 10:20
16 levels internally here. Again we're concerned about
17 the external staff out there.
18 CATHAOI RLEACH: Yes.
19 CLLR. BLAKE: Again we won't get a chance to talk about
20 them later on. The last question I'll ask is, in 10:20
21 relation to the, what you just talked about a few
22 moments ago there about the likes of the vacant site --
23 and I don't understand how those are in actual --
24 CATHAOI RLEACH: Yes.
25 CLLR. BLAKE: I thought there would be income, direct 10:20
26 income in regard to it.
27 CATHAOI RLEACH: Okay. No, okay, we're going into the
28 programmes and I'll let you in on that again. Cllr.
29 Walsh and then I'm moving on to --

1 CLLR. WALSH: Just a comment, Cathaoirleach, in
2 relation to the directors, a reference there to the
3 fact that over 200 council staff will be eligible to
4 retire over the next five years.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes. 10:21

6 CLLR. WALSH: That is concerning. The Department don't
7 seem to be dealing with this issue. I know other
8 consultations have been made and this is something we
9 need to be strong, and we can't --

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: No, we can't, we can't afford that. 10:21
11 We're well aware of that. We'll handle that later on.
12 Now we'll go into the programmes. Right, okay.

13 MR. GLEESON: The first programme is housing. The
14 planned expenditure is 23.4 million. Income is
15 planned, 24.5 million, and the figures can be looked at 10:21
16 on the budget booklet on page 84, a summarised version
17 and the detailed version of the figures are on pages 95
18 to 97.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. We're doing both of them
20 together now, the roads as well. Okay, listen, Clr. 10:21
21 Behan?

22 CLLR. BEHAN: Yes. I've comments and questions on the
23 two programmes.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Okay, that's fine.

25 CLLR. BLAKE: So like do you want both programmes or 10:22
26 just the housing first?

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: Well, no, just take the housing at the
28 moment.

29 CLLR. BEHAN: It won't take long. First of all I

1 really do want to put on record my appreciation of the
2 work that the Chef Executive, the Director, the senior
3 engineer and all of the staff in the Housing Section
4 did in relation to the MDY site in Bray.

5 CATHAOI RLEACH: Yes.

10:22

6 CLLR. BLAKE: I mean it's very good news that that work
7 is going to be recommence, I think, in a week's time.
8 I particularly want to compliment Breege Kilkenny
9 because I know she was at the, really at the core face
10 of the negotiations that happened. It took a lot of
11 patience, and it also, mind you, took patience on the
12 part of public representatives who wanted to be
13 responsible who weren't rushing out with media
14 statements about it quick enough, anxiety and fears of
15 all kinds, and in fact taking a chance that they could
16 direct the entire process which would have led to a
17 recommencement of the work. So I want to compliment
18 everybody who contribute to that because it's
19 definitely good news. It's a pity we've lost so much
20 time, but I think this solution allows us to get back
21 to work on that site and many many people, not least
22 the people who are on the housing list, will be very
23 glad to see the work recommencing there next week.

10:22

10:22

10:23

24
25 Secondly, in relation to the core weather initiative,
26 again to the Cold weather Initiative, again I
27 compliment the staff. I think Jackie is very involved
28 in that particular work.

10:23

29 CATHAOI RLEACH: Yes.

1 CLLR. BEHAN: The fact that there will be another cold
2 weather initiative and that it will commence hopefully
3 very very soon. Again I'd just like clarification as
4 to the referral process. If Councillors become aware
5 or are notified that they are people who are sleeping 10:23
6 rough who need the access to that service, and we get
7 it clarified publicly here what the referral process is
8 so that if we become aware of somebody we can refer
9 them on.

10
11 Now just coming to the bad news then, one of the 10:23
12 statements that's in the Chief Executive's report is a
13 proposed rent increase of €600,000 next year. What
14 he's doing here, I think, is a very dangerous thing
15 because what he's actually saying is that this money, 10:24
16 although it's current money, it's going to be classed
17 as capital because it's going to be capital expenditure
18 on houses that are going to be re-let. I think that's
19 letting the government off the hook in a huge way where
20 they should be responsible for ensuring that we get 10:24
21 capital grants for works that needs doing in houses.
22 What the Chief Executive is basically doing is allowing
23 current income to be used as capital expenditure, and I
24 don't think that's a good precedent. I don't know if
25 it's happened before here but I certainly don't agree 10:24
26 with it.

27
28 But there's another reason why I don't agree with it
29 and it's a more fundamental reason; people who are on

1 HAP, who are in an employable (inaudible) sector, and
2 RAS, there's not as many RAS now as HAP, part of their
3 rent is based on a differential scheme, differential
4 rent scheme which I think is comparative to the Council
5 differential rent scheme.

10:25

6
7 Now, if I'm reading this right, what that would mean is
8 that HAP renters will also have an increase to pay in
9 their rent, if I'm reading this correctly, and if that
10 is the case I think that is grossly unfair on people
11 who are suffering at the moment through first of all
12 lack of available rental accommodation, but secondly,
13 the exorbitant rents they're having to pay even with
14 the HAP process. One way or another I think they're
15 either going to have to pay more or it will up the
16 price of private rents in the private rental sector
17 because renters, landlords will realise that there's
18 actually more money being taken out of the system by
19 the Council administration.

10:25

10:25

20
21 So, I want to know a little bit more about this. I'm
22 kind of surprised we didn't have any discussion on this
23 at our most recent Housing SPC meeting which was only a
24 week ago, I think it needs to be teased out. I know
25 the Chief Executive was talking about a review, but
26 this review is going to have to be very detailed. We
27 will have to make sure that it will not fall unfairly
28 on people who are already being hugely victimised by
29 the lack of private rented accommodation available.

10:25

10:26

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Secondly, in relation to the Fabric Upgrade, Upgrade scheme, this is something I've been going on about for a long time. In Dublin city and Dublin local authorities, they are already on Phase 2 of the Fabric Upgrade Scheme where they're getting new doors, new windows and other works, and in fact a lot of these works are being done on the oldest houses. Tenants of our oldest houses in Wicklow have not availed of the first phase of the scheme. I want assurance from the Chief Executive here today that this Phase 2 is going to begin very early in the new year and that it will, you know that it will deal with as many as possible during this current year because I think it's a disgrace that people in Dublin are availing of this service and the residents in Wicklow -- and it's government grants by the way. So we're actually not drawing down government grants because of the fact that we've been very slow to take up this particular scheme, and I think we should move on it.

In relation to roads, Cathaoirleach, could I get an update on what's happening about the extra lane on the N11 at the garage there in Kilmacanogue. We went through a public consultation process. I understood work was to start in October.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.

CLLR. BEHAN: Where is that at? I'm not talking about the huge scheme, I'm talking about the lane at the

1 garage there going up over the bridge and so on. Like
2 is there some delay in that particular project or why
3 have we not heard more about it?

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

5 CLLR. BEHAN: Also, I don't think there's half enough 10:27
6 money put in the scheme, in the estimates at the moment
7 for footpath upgrades, particularly in urban areas.

8 You know yourself, Chairperson, you walk around Bray.

9 The state of the footpaths in Bray are an absolute
10 disgrace, an absolute disgrace, and while there's a 10:27

11 certain amount of money being put in here, there is no
12 way it's going to deal with the inadequacies of

13 footpaths in the Bray, and I'm sure it's the same in
14 all of the other areas. When people pay their property

15 tax, they're entitled to see some bit of improvement 10:28
16 when they look out, when they go out their door, go

17 down the road whatever. I just think that a lot more
18 could be done in terms of footpath expenditure. I'm

19 wondering can that not be increased in terms of capital
20 expenditure in this budget or in future budgets. 10:28

21
22 The final point, you'll be glad to hear, Cathaoirleach,
23 is in relation to public lighting. There's a figure

24 put in there, I think it's an extra 50,000 or something
25 for upgrade or public lighting. There was a plan at 10:28

26 one stage when they were going to upgrade all the
27 lights in the county and that seems to have died a
28 death.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.

1 CLLR. BEHAN: But before we get too far into this, I
2 just want to flag complaints that I've received from
3 some of the new LED lighting that has been put in in
4 some estates in Bray, I don't know if they've been put
5 in other places. They're a very small light but 10:28
6 they're actually a very very dazzling light, and if
7 you're driving past or walking past, they actually can
8 be very dazzling. I spoke with the engineer about this
9 and he said there are different types. There's the
10 softer type and a harsher light. But in residential 10:29
11 areas, these are going to cause complaints. They're
12 only being replaced as they're needed at the moment.
13 I'm only flagging that there is going to be an issue
14 about this, particularly for people driving past. They
15 have a very harsh glare off them and I think we should
16 have a look before we proceed much further on that.
17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, grand. Thank you. Cllr. Blake?
18 CLLR. BLAKE: Thanks for that. There are two things I
19 want to actually bring up. I certainly do support him
20 in regards to the refurbishment of our own local 10:29
21 authority housing and only called up a number of times
22 at the SPC meeting as well. But certainly the concept
23 there from central government, we should be drawing
24 them down.
25
26 Just on the public lighting, I know there's a lot of
27 talk about the LED lights and so forth. But we had a
28 problem for the last couple of years where we
29 endeavoured to upgrade or to put in some new lighting.

1 I know in Baltinglass and in Carnew they joined up to
2 estates (inaudible). Pat put in some discretionary
3 money back if not at least two years ago, if not three
4 years ago to upgrade the lights in Carnew. That hasn't
5 happened. So I'm just wondering where are we actually 10:30
6 with the, whether it's the ESB or is it whoever is
7 responsible for installing new lighting that we're
8 actually proposing for ourselves but it's actually not
9 being done. Thanks, Chairman.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, grand. Cllr. Snell? 10:30

11 CLLR. SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I suppose I
12 should be a little bit disappointed because normally I
13 get the soapbox out at this time of year and I stand up
14 on it, and I mentioned in regard to central heating and
15 the insulation and the lack of insulation in our 10:30
16 properties. But looking at what the Chief Executive
17 has presented here today, there's a lot of positives,
18 particularly the commencement of the housing
19 conditional (inaudible) and associated works. The
20 extra 150,000 for central heating, fibre maintenance, 10:31
21 housing repairs.

22
23 I also shared the frustration of Cllr. Behan, and to be
24 fair to him, he has mentioned it for a long time here,
25 not just in the chambers but at the Housing SPC. In 10:31
26 regards to the Fabric Upgrade works, and it is
27 something that I'd like to see progress to Phase 2
28 certainly in the first quarter of 2019 because while we
29 have a huge amount of housing stock, almost 4 and a

1 half thousand properties, it is very important that
2 people see the benefit of Phase 2, that is insulation
3 --

4
5 I'd also like to welcome the increase funding for 10:31
6 housing the homeless and the DPGs. These are stuff
7 that I wouldn't envisage to coming in here this morning
8 there was going to be increases on, so I just want to
9 commend everyone involved in producing the figures here
10 today. Obviously it's 23,000 of the overall budget. I 10:32
11 would love to see more of the overall budget spent on
12 housing, but like previously speakers I want to commend
13 the Housing Section and the staff from the Director of
14 Housing to the Senior Executive Officer and all the
15 staff who work around them for the work they do. I 10:32
16 know they could spend an awful lot more money if they
17 had it, and maybe Brian might find a little bit more
18 money by the afternoon. But the reality is that they
19 do a tremendous job with the little they get. Thanks,
20 Cathaoirleach. 10:32

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Cllr. Lawless?

22 CLLR. LAWLESS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I just have one
23 question. Just in regards around housing, I would
24 just, I would actually like to thank Joe, Jackie and
25 the team just for the Cold Winter Initiative as well. 10:32
26 It's great to have it back up and running again this
27 year. I would be the same as Joe as well, Joe Behan,
28 I'd like to know the ins and outs of referrals, that we
29 have the correct information, we're contacted by the

1 public as well.

2
3 Also I know in my own area 90% of my work is generally
4 housing and I'm glad to see there is movement of people
5 actually getting houses which is a real positive as 10:33
6 well, and the same as what Cllr. Snell is saying, I'm
7 very glad to see there has been increases in funding
8 into the Housing Section as well.

9
10 So I've just one kind of question in around some of our 10:33
11 vacant houses that we have. I know a few in our own
12 area. I'm just wondering of the turnaround on them
13 because there is a new framework model and one
14 particular house in my area was used and it's taken
15 nearly a year for this house to be actually refurbished 10:33
16 and for somebody to get into. I'm just looking
17 compared to the way they used to do it or not. I know
18 there was another house vacant and I know it's actually
19 bordered up for a year now. I'm just wondering the
20 difficulties around that, Joe, and why it's taking so 10:33
21 long because obviously I know your goal is to get
22 people housed, so it's no criticism of yourself. I'm
23 just wondering with this new framework model from the
24 Department, is this actually what's causing the delays
25 in getting these houses up and running again for people 10:34
26 to occupy them. Thanks.

27 CATHAIRLEACH: Okay, grand. Cllr. Fortune?

28 CLLR. FORTUNE: Thanks, Cathairleach. I'd like also
29 to compliment the Housing Section and the good work

1 they do I think in very very difficult circumstances.
2 The pressures that are on out there is quite, quite
3 serious.

4
5 Rather than repeat something that's already been asked, 10:34
6 I just wanted to focus on a couple of things, really
7 the HAP and rent increases in general. I'm aware of a
8 situation at the moment where a HAP team, where people
9 are living under that scheme in Newcastle which the
10 place is going to be sold. So I'm just wondering how 10:34
11 you propose to deal with that going forward because
12 it's going to leave people in very, in very difficult
13 circumstances when it happens. We do have a five or
14 six-month notice on it so I'd certainly like to see a
15 kind of proactive positive being put in place to cater 10:35
16 for that before it becomes, as I say, a serious issue.

17
18 Then the other, a lot of calls I get, and there are
19 other councillors getting it as well, where people are
20 paying rents and then suddenly the rent goes up and 10:35
21 there's a gap and the shortfall is not being made up by
22 anybody and they find themselves then in really
23 difficult circumstances. Also people who are being
24 told that where they're living is going to be taken
25 back from them for all kinds of reasons. The problem 10:35
26 with that is that we, the system, I think there seems
27 to be a gap where we don't seem to be able to cope with
28 that. So I'm just wondering under our programmes, we
29 look forward to the coming 12 months, how do we see

1 ourselves dealing with that. I'm saying this in the
2 context of us hopefully being proactive rather than
3 reactive because generally what happens is, someone
4 rings you in a panic. I've got to be out of my house
5 in a month or I've to be out of the house in five 10:36
6 weeks. I've nowhere to go. I've two children
7 blah-blah-blah. We don't, we don't seem to be able to
8 cater for that.

9
10 The other concern I had is when houses now are being 10:36
11 allocated, there's not enough houses obviously and I
12 think our national government needs to really step up
13 to the mark here and support the local authority
14 because as I said the upside of my comments, I think
15 the local authority are doing a very very good job in 10:36
16 very very difficult circumstances.

17
18 So my main concern is looking at the budget and looking
19 at going forward, how are we going to cater for those
20 items because that's where the, that's where the 10:36
21 pressure comes on. It's great to get the extra money
22 for adaptations and refurbishing houses, that's
23 brilliant. But the cold face end when people are under
24 pressure, you know where they're got families, small
25 families and suddenly they find themselves under this 10:37
26 kind of pressure, I just want to see have we got some
27 proactive programme in place where we can react that
28 positive way or can we as reps interact on it without
29 having to go through, being told like we have to fill

1 out this form or we have to, we can't talk to you under
2 data protection and stuff like that, that there's a
3 fast track way of dealing with a person who finds
4 themselves in that situation.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Grand. Cllr. Walsh? 10:37

6 CLLR. WALSH: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just a general
7 comment on the presentation.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: If you've both as well, if you've
9 anything on houses and roads together we're taking,
10 right. Okay? 10:37

11 CLLR. WALSH: we have three 886 applicants currently
12 looking for social housing support which obviously huge
13 demands there. Our programme expects to deliver 375
14 units by the end of next year so there's a huge
15 shortfall obviously there. So we continue to rely on, 10:37
16 on the private market for housing in relation to HAP
17 and of course the Part 5s which again it's
18 unsatisfactory but the rental situation of it is there
19 (inaudible) but to engage in HAP.

20 10:38

21 We have situations where I know of one couple there
22 with a young family living in substandard
23 accommodation, converted garage, no proper heating,
24 dampness, and they're almost afraid to present because
25 if that property is inspected you could find 10:38
26 themselves, you know, homeless and they don't have any,
27 they have no other options, so that's the sort of
28 situation that's out there.

29

1 I'd just like to commend the Housing staff here for the
2 tremendous work they do on a day-to-day basis under
3 extreme pressure, thank you.

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. That's it now. I've just a
5 couple of questions myself. In regard to the house 10:38
6 purchase loans, I don't know with other Councillors but
7 I've had numerous people on to me about how difficult
8 it seems to be to actually get a loan. The criteria,
9 what they're saying is almost impossible. They're
10 finding it really difficult. I've never had this 10:39
11 problem before in regard to council loans and that type
12 of thing. I just want to know what exactly the
13 situation is in regard to this because I can't believe
14 that people who are, have a very good salary are being
15 refused loans from the Council. It's never, to my 10:39
16 mind, happened before. That's one.

17
18 In relation to public lighting, Cllr. Behan put it,
19 it's another issue in regard to the lighting and the
20 brightness and all. What I'm finding with public 10:39
21 lighting is the amount of time that it's taking to
22 replace lights that are out. I mean on some occasions
23 people have been off ten and 12 times to the provider
24 and they still haven't got, so the response time is
25 absolutely abysmal at this stage, and I think all over 10:39
26 the county I'm getting this. I think something has to
27 happen there.

28
29 Like what Cllr. Behan was saying, in regard to an

1 update on the Kilmac, the road there in Kilmac, we
2 believe that was going to be done before Christmas it
3 was suppose to be done in regard to that, okay.
4 So I'm going to Joe now and Housing now is finished, so
5 I'm going to Joe now and then I'll go on to the roads 10:40
6 then after, to answer the questions on the road
7 situation.

8
9 PRESENTATION BY MR. LANE

10 10:40
11 MR. LANE: Okay, yes. Thanks very much. Thanks for
12 your patience, Members, particularly the Members of
13 Bray Municipal. For all of us, I presume we're all
14 beginning to realise how difficult housing construction
15 is. It is quite a complicated thing, but hopefully 10:40
16 things will start on the ground this weekend, just
17 assessing where they are and they should be commencing
18 this week I'd say. Okay. (Inaudible). There were a
19 number of -- in regard to this. It's a balance between
20 people turning up and good management situation while 10:41
21 at the same time making sure that nobody is turned
22 away. We have to assess, we have to register but there
23 are -- to answer a specific question, there are four
24 referral routes, Wicklow County Council, (inaudible)
25 and also the gardaí. 10:41

26
27 We are trying to, we are looking at the moment to
28 indicate the call number and clearly also we'll come
29 back to you on that if we can get that up and running.

1 But it's a balance between not turning people away
2 while at the same time (inaudible).

3
4 The rent issue, just clarify a few things there. Over
5 the last couple -- we, we know -- when houses come
6 back, and this answer also to re-lets, so I'll answer
7 re-lets and the rents together, when houses come back
8 some of them, we do a full assessment when the house
9 comes back and we don't leave it back out until it's
10 fully compliant with the regulations and the rent
11 regulations. 10:41

12 We also, because of the, because it will be dealt with
13 in the future, so unless they come back in fairly good
14 condition this involves new kitchens, a quite
15 comprehensive remit, to make sure that it is fit for
16 purpose for longer than just leaving it out. 10:42

17
18 Also a lot of houses they come back as -- a lot of
19 cases involves a rewire. So they can be slow to leave
20 back out but when they're gone out they're back up to
21 the new standard and a standard that hopefully will
22 keep the tenant happy for a number of years. For the
23 last couple of years we didn't, we funded this because
24 of the sheer volume of houses and because of the
25 expenditure per item. We expended money on the capital
26 account rather than the written account but the author
27 has drawn attention to this and said you have to have a
28 source of income. You cannot continue funding just
29 with the capital account with an unfunded balance. So 10:42

1 from now on it must be funded from the Revenue account.
2 This is just, it's not, this has been hidden in the
3 capital account. It's simply that we, that the money,
4 we can't just capitalise it and no source of income.
5 So all we're doing is ring-fencing on to the 10:43
6 (inaudible) and charging it against re-lets. In normal
7 cases we probably should be taking it out of the
8 revenue account in the first place but we'll bring it
9 up to the standard that will keep the units for a
10 considerable time. 10:43

11
12 All rents, including HAP, will be included in the
13 increase. It's not an increase per se, it's a review
14 of the rent based on the current system, based on the
15 current rents scheme. So it's only ensuring that all 10:43
16 the information we have in the County Council that the
17 rent is based on that.

18
19 Fabric Upgrades, yes, we have been doing the first
20 phrase of this over a number of years. I think Dublin 10:44
21 would be -- maybe one more, and Phase 2, the rest of
22 the local authorities are still at Phase 1. All the
23 schemes finished in early 2019, all the ones under
24 Phase 1. We're currently also assessing houses to see
25 what can be done in Phase 2. Some of the units still 10:44
26 can't be done in Phase 1 and will have to be done under
27 Phase 2. That will inform our grants for Phase 2 but
28 we're still very dependent on a few more surveys coming
29 in to apply for the Phase 2. That will then be sent to

1 the Department as early as we can in the new year.

2
3 Conditional survey, yes. We -- I think we may do a
4 conditional survey for the purpose, a couple of years
5 and we have a lot of information but we don't have
6 consistent information in a uniformed manner that the
7 other local authorities or Housing in general has. So
8 it is proposed to do a conditional survey in 2019.

9 We're currently waiting, our hope is there will be a
10 national scheme on this because there's no point again
11 in, there's a few local authorities who have started it
12 but there's additional information, environmental
13 information. There's a whole lot of other information.
14 We're going for consistent approach.

15
16 There's a reason for this. For me the good practice
17 would recommend or we would recommend the planning
18 maintenance rather than a response maintenance. In a
19 lot of cases if you look at it the central heating and
20 stuff, the central heating, that's more of a plan where
21 we go in and we have a programme over a number of
22 years. Invariably a lot of our maintenance money is
23 spent on this.

24
25 Conditional survey would be more of the, we would hope
26 that the planning maintenance, our programme over the
27 years where we deal with stuff on a routine basis and
28 we don't have a crisis if the units come back or
29 something like that. We're hoping that the government

1 will have a scheme. We'll already contribute a
2 percentage, a large percentage of the continual survey
3 itself and then afterwards the programme. This will,
4 this may be targeted and we will replace the government
5 current wide scheme where we will be more in control 10:46
6 and rather than having a crisis that this will be good
7 planning maintenance.

8
9 Okay, re lets again, sorry, there's another issue
10 there. The framework was our own and I think in one 10:46
11 location of this over in Newcastle it was used to
12 accost the framework. The framework is not, the
13 national framework is their own framework so we
14 basically give a sample to (inaudible) which we then
15 fill out. A particular one might be, the second one I 10:46
16 think might be -- so there are, we are conscious
17 (inaudible)for re lets. Some cases, it depends on
18 what condition they come back, and like I said earlier
19 you know the condition we want to send it back but they
20 can take long for our people, we just have to bear with 10:47
21 them. If there's any particular issue, we do try
22 because it's a national indicator and because it's good
23 management and good practice, we do try to get them out
24 as quickly as possible. But we have, there are a lot
25 of inspections for electricity and in a lot of cases we 10:47
26 let out a particular issue -- sorry, rewires can be a
27 particular issue. It doesn't look like we're doing
28 anything, and there we'll be doing re-wiring and a
29 whole lot of work to be done afterwards. It's just

1 bear with us on that.

2
3 HAP, homelessness, yes. For anybody in a situation
4 like that, they need to get in contact with the local
5 authority and we advise them. We have a whole lot of 10:47
6 new systems regarding that. In particular we have, and
7 the last year appointed a Homeless HAP Place Finder.
8 This is the essential part of the homeless team. If
9 something can be done in -- they need to get on to us.
10 They need to get the information into us so that we can
11 put them (inaudible). The Homeless HAP Place Finder
12 was appointed in 2018. It seeks out potential
13 properties suitable for householders. They liaise with
14 specific householders. Sometimes we can do something
15 with the landlord at times. So the important thing is 10:48
16 to get in to us as quickly as possible and get it done,
17 get the people on our register so we know where we are.
18 On top of that, we also need to know what's going on in
19 the market. So I can't stress, we need to get people
20 in to us as quickly as possible, even if it's only just 10:48
21 to make that contact.

22
23 Then afterwards we have to go through the homeless
24 process to move them on so we know where we are in
25 relation to what we need in the area and all that. So 10:49
26 like I say, let's get on, complete the data, get it in
27 to us and we'll deal with the stuff.

28
29 It is people -- I think most Members, people in HAP and

1 RAS, we have significant people registering or becoming
2 potentially or at risk of homelessness and (inaudible).
3 It's a significant workload. But we are dependent, as
4 I say we are dependent on HAP. (Inaudible). With the
5 best effort in the world because people will liaise and
6 that is with fair wind. So far there might be more
7 emphasis on HAP and RAS but the balance might change
8 towards HAP.

9
10 Housing purchase loans, yes. I think we issued, I 10:50
11 think we issued some of that just before that. The
12 background for this is there, and there's a national
13 scheme. It is very dependent on -- we stress test each
14 application. So we complete the form -- and the
15 housing agency ensuring that people do not go back to 10:50
16 the old system where they're not able to borrow. There
17 is a committee each. Approval will be positive,
18 negative. It does go through a committee here in the
19 County Council. But the housing agency stress test is
20 probably one of the biggest criteria. If people can't 10:50
21 afford the loans, they will not be given the loans,
22 it's as simple as that. There is criteria for the
23 housing agency. Affordability is the main one.

24
25 As regards then, I think it's as regards the homeless, 10:51
26 yes. This year between -- look, depending on one
27 scheme. They might have I suppose January/February.
28 We reckon we'll have 120, over 120 new units into our
29 system. That's important. That's new ones. Any

1 purchase will be well over 150. In 2019 we will double
2 that. There will be at least 240, 250 into the system.
3 So we are getting there but we will need to be
4 dependent on HAP and RAS. Even, even if we did housing
5 we would still be depending on -- first of all people 10:51
6 they're quite happy until that system also.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Michael, do you want to come up
8 here now. Grand, thank you, Joe. Like what Cllr.
9 Behan was saying, particularly in the situation in
10 regard to Kilbride, I'd like to compliment the Housing 10:51
11 Department in regard to that. They put an awful lot,
12 an awful lot of work into that. It was a difficult
13 type of thing to do and certainly the best result has
14 happened in that and certainly the quickest from our
15 point of view could have set it back quite a 10:52
16 considerable amount of time. I want to thank him on
17 all our behalf in regard to that. Michael?

18
19 PRESENTATION BY MR. GEANEY

20
21 MR. GEANEY: Now, the (inaudible) foundations are
22 scheduled to be put in there before Christmas and the
23 contract is about to go up to tender for the particular
24 job, and works will commence in earnest in 2019. Once
25 the scheme starts I'll organise regular updates and 10:52
26 give them to the Bray Municipal Districts so that
27 they're all aware of what's happening.

28
29 Just on the, on the public lighting, there will be an

1 upgrade, a national upgrade of public lighting. That
2 will start at the end of 2019 and it should commence
3 right through, it will work right through 2020. At the
4 moment Wicklow County Council are carrying out surveys
5 of the, all the existing lights and it will be ready 10:53
6 when the national contract will come into play, so
7 we'll be ready to join that.

8
9 Just to say on public lighting at the moment, we have,
10 as we speak this morning there's 501 issues, 501 lights 10:53
11 out countywide. Now they're equally distributed really
12 between the five Municipal Districts. There are a
13 number as well that need the ESB networks to work. Now
14 in fairness there's a small number, there's about 20 of
15 the lights at the ESB networks as well. 10:54

16
17 We are trying, we are trying to push along everything
18 and manage this carefully. I'm not satisfied that
19 enough is being done by the contractor to keep the
20 lights lighting but I'll endeavour to, you know to keep 10:54
21 on top of it and manage the thing so that all lights,
22 that there's a small amount of time between when the
23 light goes out, when the light is repaired. The figure
24 last year about this time was similar. It went up to a
25 maximum last year of 600 in January. 10:54

26
27 Just as I have the opportunity I'd like to thank all
28 the District staff for all their responses over the
29 year, to Emma and recently to Callum to that particular

1 episode, and also all the routine work that are being
2 carried out during the year and all the roadworks
3 programme on board, maintenance and roadworks, they're
4 all listed there in the budgetary, under the budgetary
5 pack on page 15 and page 16, just I'd like to thank all 10:55
6 the District staff for all their work.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Cllr. Cullen, briefly now,
8 because you should have been in earlier.

9 MR. S. CULLEN: Just first of all I want to compliment
10 Michael and all the road staff on the amount of work 10:55
11 that has been done. I mean it's obviously they're
12 looking at the programme that, you know the restoration
13 of works throughout the county. There's a lot, a lot
14 of work done. I just want to mention the Community
15 Involvement scheme and the EILS Scheme which I think 10:55
16 again the funding opportunities that have be given to
17 communities and people around the, around the country
18 need to be recognised.

19
20 Just I suppose on the down side, I believe there is an 10:55
21 issue with safety, particular on our rural and regional
22 roads with regards to overhanging trees. I know it's
23 the responsibility of landowners to cut their hedges
24 and by and large there's a lot of that being done, but
25 there's certainly roads, particular in rural areas, 10:56
26 that need attention from large overhanging trees. I
27 think it's something that needs to be addressed.

28
29 I suppose Michael has just said it recently there on

1 public lighting. It has come up at our Municipal
2 District level in delays in getting contractors to deal
3 with repairs. I think the delays are too, they're too
4 long. Again needs to be addressed.

5 Finally, the low cost safety works and realignment
6 works at Calary on the R755, I think to be honest it's
7 regrettable that this work has taken over a year to
8 complete. I think it's one of the busiest roads in Co.
9 Wicklow. I think it's totally unacceptable that it's
10 taken so long.

11
12 Just to follow on from that, there are traffic lights
13 that have been put in position on, again on the same
14 road on the top of what is known as the Long Hill up
15 from Kilmacanogue. I just want to make sure that these
16 works are going to be done quickly and there's not
17 going to be the same delays because, as I said, it's
18 probably one of the busiest roads in our county and I
19 don't think we need the delays that we've had from last
20 year.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Cllr. Walsh, briefly now please
22 and then I'm getting answers and I'm moving on then.

23 CLLR. WALSH: Just in relation to the management car
24 parking, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow parking by-laws were
25 adopted in the meeting here on the 12th June 2017. I
26 think from my understanding they're subject to review
27 after 12 months. I'm just wondering how that is going
28 to come out? Is it done at a District level? Will it
29 be done here in the chamber or countywide?

1 CATHAOI RLEACH: Okay.

2 CLLR. WALSH: There are issues, you know we have local
3 issues and I'd like to revisit just a couple here and
4 there. So we'd just like the opportunity to review
5 those. 10:58

6 CATHAOI RLEACH: Okay.

7 CLLR. WALSH: Thanks.

8 CATHAOI RLEACH: Then Michael and then we're moving on,
9 okay.

10 MR. GLEESON: Yes. First, on the, on the local 10:58
11 improvement schemes, a further allocation of 358,000
12 was given in October for local improvement schemes.
13 This is because Wicklow County Council completed works
14 by the end of July on the first tranche. On the, on
15 the Calary jobs, on the Calary jobs, surfacing was, was 10:58
16 done last week on that and it's going to, fencing and
17 crash barriers are going to be put in place now this,
18 before Christmas and this weekend, next week maybe.

19

20 Now, the road itself will not be opened until, it won't 10:58
21 be opened until about March because the final surface
22 won't be done until then. Just regarding the, the
23 long, the old Long Hill in Kilmacanogue, this is a
24 separate job that needs to be done. So funding is in
25 place to do that and works are ongoing and will 10:59
26 continue until it's completed.

27

28 On the parking by-laws, that's a countywide, that needs
29 to come back to this chamber here to be reviewed, just

1 to say that, but if any of the Municipal Districts have
2 particular issues, they should put them together and
3 discuss them at Municipal District level before they're
4 gone to this chamber.

5 CATHAOI RLEACH: Okay. Moving on -- 10:59

6 CLLR. FORTUNE: Chairman, sorry.

7 CATHAOI RLEACH: Sorry.

8 CLLR. FORTUNE: Can I just make a comment on a point of
9 --

10 CATHAOI RLEACH: Just briefly now because I had you in 10:59
11 there earlier on, yes.

12 CLLR. FORTUNE: No, no --

13 CATHAOI RLEACH: Yes, okay. No, okay, fine. Go ahead.

14 CLLR. FORTUNE: Because it might be more appropriate
15 though if some Members, when you come back to them 10:59
16 asking the question after the Director has addressed
17 issues because it might be --

18 CATHAOI RLEACH: Ah no, listen, I'm easy enough on that
19 if they're brief enough, right.

20 CLLR. FORTUNE: Because for us to ask questions before 10:59
21 the Director says anything is a bit kind of --

22 CATHAOI RLEACH: Ah yes, okay, if it's necessary it can
23 happen, right, okay. Okay, we're moving on. We're
24 going on to C and E now, the waters and the
25 Environmental Services. 11:00

26 MR. GLEESON: Okay. The planned expenditure for water
27 services is 7.5 million with income of 6.9. They're in
28 the booklet. Reference pages 86 and 101 to 102. In
29 relation to Environmental Services, the expenditure

1 planned is 12.7 million with income of 12.1, and the
2 reference pages are 88 and 106 to 108.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Okay, Cllr Behan?

4 CLLR. BEHAN: Yes, Cathaoirleach, first of all can I
5 get a clear unambiguous statement from the Chief 11:00
6 Executive that there will not be any proposal during
7 the coming year to introduce charges at the Council
8 Recycling Centre.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

10 CLLR. BEHAN: Secondly, I note that the Council is now 11:00
11 proposing to abandon the collection, the mobile
12 collection in west wicklow. That was an issue that
13 came up, I think, a year ago and I'm not sure what
14 local Members, if they've been consulted on that but
15 I'd just like to know what the basis for that proposal 11:01
16 is and whether it's actually the right way forward in
17 the west of the county, thank you.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Thank you Cllr. Blake?

19 CLLR. BLAKE: Yes, sorry, I'd like to see that actually
20 the money for the (inaudible) facility is being 11:01
21 maintained anyway, but as Cllr. Behan has said there,
22 there is a proposal to phase out the inflation charges
23 in the (inaudible) area and that's clearly a concern
24 both for ourselves and in the Baltinglass area.

25 11:01

26 Just two other questions then; maintenance at burial
27 grounds, I just want to know would that be distributed
28 among the Districts, the five Districts. Secondly, in
29 relation to, on page 86, the CO file in relation to the

1 Administration of Group and Private Installations,
2 Water Schemes I presume and Sewerage Scheme, I just see
3 two different figures there, 346 and 308, I always
4 thought that those, those costs came from Central
5 Administration, or Central Government. I'm just 11:02
6 wondering why there's a discrepancy there between the
7 two figures. Thanks, Chairman.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Cllr. Ruttle?

9 CLLR. RUTTLE: Yes, Cathaoirleach. Any cutback on the
10 mobile collection in the Blessington area, Blessington 11:02
11 (inaudible). It's a very valuable service, and
12 certainly the idea that we'll encourage the -- by
13 sending people or sending the driver 20 or 30 miles,
14 that could work. That would be a proposal for the
15 restoration. Thank you. 11:02

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Okay, Cllr. Walsh?

17 CLLR. WALSH: Yes, just in relation to C04 there, the
18 maintenance of public conveniences and -- facilities
19 there across the county that have to be maintained and
20 there's a responsibility to outsource. I'm just 11:02
21 looking at the figures here. We had an expenditure
22 estimate, 369,500 with a net income estimate of 12 and
23 a half. You know there was a breakdown on those
24 figures.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Cllr. Dermot O'Brien? 11:03

26 CLLR. D. O'BRIEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Really only
27 to see the climate adaptation outlook for the
28 environment services, but I'd love to hear just a
29 little bit more about what the, the staff involved in

1 that and how that will roll out.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, grand. Cllr. Thornhill?

3 CLLR. THORNHILL: Yes, Cathaoirleach, just first say,
4 and I haven't said it earlier on, that I'm very
5 thankful to everyone here, to the whole effort because 11:03
6 this is a big thing in relation to the budget and I
7 also would like to say thanks very much to the
8 Financial Officer, Brian Gleeson, who I was talking to
9 during the week, and we were going through some
10 figures. Just I would concur as well with Cllr. Behan 11:04
11 in relation to housing issues, and, you know, that I
12 would just like to bring up but I don't know is this
13 the right time or not?

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: We're gone from Housing now. If it's
15 Housing we're gone from that. 11:04

16 CLLR. THORNHILL: No, it's an environmental issue.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes, well that's fine. We're on
18 Environment and Water Services.

19 CLLR. THORNHILL: Yes, that's exactly, that's what I
20 wanted, just wanted to bring up. 11:04

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

22 CLLR. THORNHILL: It's just something in relation to a
23 matter that has been brought to my attention. It would
24 be, if you recall that fire out there in Windgates, the
25 cliff walk, you know it's appropriate I should bring it 11:04
26 up. You know in June, you know, we had a very dry
27 summer and the whole lot but there was a fierce fire
28 out there, you know like, and I'm sure people, you know
29 like the likes of California weather you know like.

1 Some of the people out there had been on to me, you
2 know. The lack of services out there. There's no
3 hydrants because some of the fire brigades had to go
4 back down to Greystones to get water, you know to put
5 out the fire. Also I had been talking to the fire 11:05
6 officer in relation to the matter. Some of the people
7 out there were talking to me about that there should
8 have been some fire breaks, you know. It's something
9 very very important because at the end of the day, I
10 mean some of the people out there, you know we're so 11:05
11 concerned. I have, you know, one family home with just
12 really from destruction. You know like I mean, this
13 was catastrophic at the time --

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

15 CLLR. THORNHILL: -- and something should be -- 11:05

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: That's fair enough.

17 CLLR. THORNHILL: So I think that there should be a
18 provision made for this matter, you know, in the future
19 because this is something that could really get out of
20 hand. 11:05

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. No, that's fine. Cllr. Snell?

22 CLLR. SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Under Section C
23 in regard to water services, I just want clarity around
24 the service agreement between Wicklow County Council
25 and Irish water, and what is the income generated from 11:05
26 Irish water using facilities within the Council
27 Buildings. Under Section E, Environmental Services,
28 the maintenance of burial grounds. I do welcome that
29 there is an increase but it's an increase of €10,000.

1 I just want clarity around, is that specifically for
2 the maintenance of the graveyards or does it go into
3 the administration? Just to highlight, Cathaoirleach,
4 that there's 48 active graveyards within the county so
5 10,000 is very very small in comparison to maintenance 11:06
6 of 48 cemeteries.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Grand, okay. Let's finish then.
8 In regard to just myself in regard to the columbarium
9 walls, that there is an issue that I have with that and
10 I didn't like the wording in that, that it looked like 11:06
11 there could be a change of policy in regard to
12 columbarium which I'm absolutely totally opposed to.
13 We have money in Bray and have had from the previous
14 Council in regard to this and we're at a very advance
15 level in providing the first columbarium wall in Co. 11:07
16 Wicklow. So I think that's a policy that has to be
17 discussed at the SPC, but from my point of view that
18 wall that is well on its way now in Bray will go ahead.
19 I think in certain areas throughout the county that
20 that provision, that that service should be provided 11:07
21 because there's a huge amount of burials in regard to
22 columbarium walls throughout the country now. So I
23 think it's a service that we need to provide for the
24 community out there as well, and I just want to the
25 official to be well aware of that as well. 11:07
26

27 Now I'm going to let in Michael. We're finished now on
28 those two programmes, so I'll let in Michael in regard
29 to this. Okay.

1 MR. GEANEY: I'll just deal with the water end of it
2 and the fire end of it, Chairman.
3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.
4 MR. NICHOLSON: (Inaudible) will be dealing with the,
5 with the rest of the environment issues. 11:07
6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes, okay.
7 MR. GEANEY: Just on, on the income, the first item,
8 there was a question raised, I think it was by Cllr.
9 Snell on the income from Irish Water. That includes a
10 1.32 million figure, what they call a central 11:08
11 management charge. That includes all other costs that
12 are not direct costs to Irish water, you know for, from
13 buildings and so on, and also Head Office
14 Administration and all the rest there.
15 11:08
16 Just on firebreaks in windgates and that, yes, I'll
17 certainly look at that. Now it would be a matter for
18 the, for the people that own the land, for the
19 landowners to provide firebreaks themselves in, you
20 know around their houses, and also if a person's house 11:08
21 is surrounded by say lands that are owned by somebody
22 else, yes, we'd look from the legal point of view and
23 see if some notice could be serviced on people in order
24 to provide, in order for them to provide a firebreak so
25 as to protect property. That's about all I could say, 11:09
26 all I could say on that.
27
28 Now, theres' down on the windgates Roads because of the
29 number of people there, I'll have a look and see if

1 there is a hydrant and I'm not just sure of the
2 details. I will find out what the story on that is
3 because I know obviously they have water so whatever
4 the case is on that I will find out. Okay.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. In regard to the columbarium 11:09
6 walls? Have you anything on that?

7 MR. GEANEY: Yes, Sean will be able to --

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sean will deal with that, okay. So
9 we're moving on now to Development Management.

10 MS. GLEESON: Cathaoirleach, sorry -- 11:09

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, Environment Sean is going to --

12 MR. GLEESON: I just might add just on the fire
13 services, there was a provision included of 35,000 for
14 hazardous equipment which would include protective
15 clothing to fight wild fires, so we have addressed that 11:10
16 to a certain degree.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Sorry, Sean.

18

19 PRESENTATION BY MR. QUIRKE

20 11:10

21 MR. QUIRKE: Yes. So the columbarium walls, the review
22 is not really about the (inaudible) but we've looked at
23 some of the columbarium wall designs that are out there
24 and they probably won't be appropriate for all our
25 burial grounds so, yes, the wording could have been 11:10
26 better on that. Yes, I know Bray are advanced on it
27 but some of them are more like lockers nearly and
28 they're not, you know they need to be appropriate and
29 they need to be respectful obviously for the relatives

1 of people who will be putting ashes there. So they
2 will go ahead but the design is what we want to look
3 at.

4
5 with regard to public conveniences, most of the 11:10
6 increase there relates to the cost of operating APCs,
7 the Automatic Public Conveniences. They're a loss
8 maker obviously. We can't make any money out of them.
9 So we have them in Enniskerry and in Wicklow,
10 Greystones and Blessington. The cost of those have 11:11
11 gone up a few thousands in most cases.

12
13 The other issue, oh the mobile recycling for the west.
14 We've made provision for the expenditure again but
15 we're having a lot of problems with it because of 11:11
16 people leaving domestic refuse and it's costing us an
17 awful lot of money to try and monitor that. We've had
18 to put our own litter wardens out to try and stop that.

19
20 So with the rollout of private and the obligation on 11:11
21 private suppliers to collect recycling as well, we're
22 hoping that, that we can reduce that and control the
23 issue which is basically a litter problem it comes down
24 to. You know we're anxious to keep the service
25 provided but, as I say, it's not without its, without 11:12
26 its difficulties and costs.

27
28 The other issue I think was the grant for private
29 supplies. We don't get a hundred percent of them.

1 That's just a shortfall between what we get back, what
2 it all costs.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. On to Development.

4 CLLR. BEHAN: Chairman, before we --

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry?

11:12

6 CLLR. BEHAN: Can we just get clarification from the
7 Chief Executive about this business about charging in
8 the Recycling Centre.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Oh absolutely, yes.

10 MR. CURRAN: Yes, okay. No, there's nothing in here
11 for charging in the Recycling Centre so we're budgeted
12 on no charge. I mean if we were to change that or make
13 any changes to the Recycling Centres, and I suppose we
14 need to look at improving them in the long run, that
15 would go through the SPC in the first instance and then
16 come back to the, back to the Council.

11:12

11:12

17
18 Can I just mention the adaptation scheme as well Cllr.
19 O'Brien mentioned? That's something we're required to
20 do and we have set up a team in-house that would look
21 at how we adapt a climate change, how we look at our
22 emergency response, and we have a lot of experience now
23 built up between Storm Emma and Storm Ophelia, how we
24 look at coastal protection. There is regional groups
25 set up a shared service to provide to advise all local
26 authorities on that, so we'll be feeding into that.

11:12

11:13

27
28 That same group then, we'll be looking at the Council
29 and how we look at our energy. So for instance, there

1 will be a contract going out to replace all our public
2 lights with LED lights. Now that will be subject to
3 the approval of the Council again, but we need a loan
4 of something like 8.5 million. But with a view to
5 starting the lights in -- we'll be on for the end of 11:13
6 2019 and all through 2020, so all lights will be
7 replaced. That will make a big difference in terms of
8 our CO2 emissions. Then we're looking at all our
9 buildings in terms of energy upgrades as well.

10
11 I take the point Cllr. Behan made about the light. It
12 is a different type of light. It's more intense and it
13 doesn't cover a wider area, so that's something we'll
14 have to look at. Now it may require people getting
15 used to it but it is something. It's a fair point and 11:13
16 I think that's something we'll have to look at.

17 Thanks.

18 MR. QUIRKE: And part of the problem is I suppose if
19 you were putting up any leads for, you know poles are
20 at set distances, and the LED doesn't always cover the 11:14
21 distance that the, that the old light did, but they're
22 more energy efficient.

23 CLLR. BEHAN: I wonder would it be possible for the
24 engineer who is dealing with it, it's Mr. Sean, is it,
25 O'Brien, is it? 11:14

26 MR. QUIRKE: Declan O'Brien.

27 CLLR. BEHAN: Declan O'Brien. would it be possible for
28 him, even have a quick show of the one I'm talking
29 about, it's in Bray, to get it before we spend a lot of

1 money?
2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, that's a fair enough point, yes.
3 CLLR. BEHAN: You know just to see it at night.
4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. I think that's very important,
5 yes. Just three Councillors now very briefly now 11:14
6 because I gave you an opportunity earlier on, they
7 didn't come in. Cllr. Whitmore?
8 CLLR. WHITMORE: Thanks very much, Chair. Just a quick
9 question about the Whitestown dump. At one stage it
10 was reported that we were going to have a remediation 11:14
11 cost of 35 million and I'm just wondering, Sean, is
12 there any update on that dump and will there be any
13 cost associated?
14 MR. QUIRKE: On what's that?
15 CLLR. WHITMORE: The Whitestown dump. 11:14
16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, fine, okay. Cllr. Ruttle?
17 CLLR. RUTTLE: Yes, just on the mobile collection
18 clarification and the Director, is he saying that
19 you've allocated or provided a continuous --
20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.
21 CLLR. RUTTLE: -- for this year in the (inaudible)?
22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes, yes.
23 CLLR. RUTTLE: And the other issue is that on the
24 columbarium issue, it doesn't have to be the wall
25 format you know. 11:15
26 MR. QUIRKE: No, that's exactly the point.
27 CLLR. RUTTLE: It doesn't have to be, and I know
28 graveyards where it's the pavement system where you
29 don't have to put in a decision at all but yet it looks

1 --

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, that's fine. That's good.

3 CLLR. RUTTLE: Because I have queries in that.

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes. Okay, grand. Cllr. Walsh and
5 then, Cllr. Walsh and then we're moving in -- yes, 11:15
6 okay.

7 CLLR. WALSH: Just one issue, it probably refers to the
8 last section as well, the issue around the CCTV cameras
9 that we have installed across the county. We have them
10 at the recycling centres and all other areas. 11:15

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.

12 CLLR. WALSH: From time to time they get problems, you
13 know they don't work for whatever reason. There's an
14 issue in that around maintenance and the costs around
15 maintenance. There isn't a specific budget for that. 11:15

16 Certainly we've more and more cameras and more and more
17 relevance. So I would like to see a specific fund, you
18 know, in relation to this, maintenance of CCTV going
19 forward.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. 11:16

21 CLLR. WALSH: That's something I would have asked
22 earlier at previous meetings.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

24 MR. QUIRKE: Yes, there isn't a specific budget. It's
25 just with regard to Whitestown, we have consultants and 11:16
26 we'll be going out for tenders to our site
27 investigation works. They're doing their surveys at
28 the moment and so on for the remediation works and we
29 will keep that updated. We actually should have a

1 website going live in the next few weeks. That's just
2 technical problems.

3 CATHAUI RLEACH: Keep the Members informed of all the
4 details in regard to that, okay. Grand, we're moving
5 on to Development Management. 11:16

6 MR. GLEESON: Development Management, the expenditure
7 planned is 12 million; income, 5.6 million and the
8 reference in the report is page 87 and 103 to 105.

9 CATHAUI RLEACH: Okay. If there are no questions on
10 Development Management, are we moving on? Everyone is 11:17
11 happy? Okay.

12 CLLR. BLAKE: Sorry, sorry, Chairman.

13 CATHAUI RLEACH: Sorry, I knew this was going to happen.
14 Yes, Cllr. Blake?

15 CLLR. BLAKE: Yes. In regards to the -- this is where 11:17
16 maybe I asked the question earlier on about the staff,
17 staffing levels.

18 CATHAUI RLEACH: Yes.

19 CLLR. BLAKE: So I'm giving him the opportunity here
20 now to bring up the staffing level. There's an 11:17
21 increase in the estimates for the library service.

22 CATHAUI RLEACH: Yes.

23 CLLR. BLAKE: So, is the library service that when we
24 have a problem, we had a problem for a lot of years
25 anyway in terms of is it being addressed in this 11:17
26 budget?

27 CATHAUI RLEACH: Okay.

28 CLLR. BLAKE: Additional staff there in that regard.

29 CATHAUI RLEACH: Grand.

1 CLLR. BLAKE: There was operations -- a lot of money
2 there. Can you just give me some idea of what page are
3 you actually on in terms of where we actually spend all
4 that money?
5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Cllr. Snell? 11:18
6 CLLR. SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just the wording
7 in regards to the increase in the building control
8 inspection costs. I think that's to be welcomed in
9 regards to the development that's taken place at the
10 moment. I would just like a little bit of information 11:18
11 in regards to invalid applications, 258. While that
12 has nothing to do with the local authority, the onus is
13 on the applicant and their agencies.
14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.
15 CLLR. SNELL: Just is there a recurring reason why 11:18
16 applications that sticks out more so than others?
17 Another thing which is very surprising to me, and it's
18 something that Members here when they be talking to
19 people throughout the country, they would always hear
20 the negative around the planning which is very unfair, 11:19
21 but they acknowledge that 88.7% of applications are
22 granted within Wicklow.
23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes, okay. Yes, we'll get that for
24 you. Cllr. Fortune?
25 CLLR. FORTUNE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just a question 11:19
26 of planning enforcement. When a development, when the
27 (inaudible) is finished, do we physically go out and
28 audit, audit, that everything has been done as per the
29 application in all its detail, and what's prompted me

1 to kind of ask the question is, there's a situation
2 going on in Holywell, Kilcoole for the last number of
3 years in regards to the way the development has been
4 uncompleted in certain aspects. There's almost, as I
5 say, a massive full file at the moment here querying
6 various things on it. 11:19

7
8 So I had another query yesterday from a man who are
9 wondering about elements of the estate that they're in
10 that hasn't been finished. Now I'm told, and I 11:20
11 couldn't understand myself that obviously before we
12 would take the particular development into control, we
13 check all that out.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: We do, yes.

15 CLLR. FORTUNE: But there just seems to be a lack of 11:20
16 clarity and what we do -- -

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay no, that's fine. Okay, we'll get
18 that for you. Yes, okay. Cllr. Shay Cullen?

19 CLLR. S. CULLEN: Yes, thanks, Chairman. Just one
20 quick question on economic development promotion. I 11:20
21 just noticed on page 2 of the document here with the
22 general allocation, economic and development promotion,
23 in particular for park loads, 28,000 compared to
24 Wicklow's 7,000. I'm just wondering what the
25 explanation is for that? 11:20

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: I asked about that as well. There is
27 an explanation for that. Yes, grand. We'll get that
28 for you now. Cllr. Walsh?

29 CLLR. WALSH: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just in relation

1 to the county development plan and the spatial and
2 economic strategy figures in the draft report that we
3 got there recently, I know it says here we have to do,
4 carry out a review of the development plan in 2018 and
5 2019. I'm just wondering what impact this would have 11:21
6 on our local area plans. I know our one in particular
7 as far as in 2019 we should be working on it at this
8 point in the new term. I'm just wondering what sort of
9 impact the overall situation would have in the local
10 areas? 11:21

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Councillor Nicola Lawless?

12 CLLR. LAWLESS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just one
13 question, just on page 113, unfinished housing estates.
14 I'm just wondering what actually is involved in that?
15 It's quite low so is it just repairs or what it is, 11:21
16 just an explanation on it. Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes, okay. That's fine. That's grand.
18 Sean?

19 MR. QUIRKE: Yes. Now, just to confuse you totally at
20 this stage, in D you could have Michael Nicholson, 11:21
21 Michael Geaney, Tom Murphy and myself, that's just the
22 way it is.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes. There's some issues that Michael
24 Nicholson will answer when he comes up here as well
25 relative to the leisure and swimming pools and stuff 11:22
26 like that. So he'll answer them when he comes up here,
27 okay.

28 MR. QUIRKE: In relation to the planning end of it, I
29 suppose the main questions were, well if you start from

1 the top down, the county development plan will need to
2 be reviewed as a result of the spatial and economic
3 strategy which should be adopted by next --
4 CATHAOIRLEACH: March.
5 MR. QUIRKE: March, April. 11:22
6 CATHAOIRLEACH: March, yes.
7 MR. QUIRKE: Maybe something like that.
8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.
9 MR. QUIRKE: And that we will review our core strategy.
10 That will have a knock on effect for the local area 11:22
11 plans. Some of them will need to be extended where
12 that's possibly so that they could be reviewed in line
13 with the county development plan. So that will affect
14 the time frame. But our major piece of work for next
15 year will be to review the county development plan. We 11:22
16 also have to look at the Wicklow plan because that's
17 the former Council plan which can be extended, and the
18 new town plan we're looking at as well. We'll have a
19 meeting on that today, workshop for anyone that's
20 interested. 11:23
21
22 The completed and taking in charge, we have an
23 excellent enforcement section I have to say and we do
24 refer cases for legal action where no other resolution
25 can be found. The numbers that we have for legal 11:23
26 action are reducing over the years from 15 in 2015 and
27 down to 14 so far in 2018.
28
29 The unfinished housing estates, we do go out and survey

1 them and so on. Where there are bonds, we call in the
2 bonds and spend that money. So we have about six
3 ongoing at the moment in all areas. That takes up a
4 considerable amount of time as well. There are
5 compliance issues that each developer has to, there 11:24
6 would be conditions on the planning application and
7 each developer has to attend those. But in cases where
8 the developer has gone and so on, that leaves legacy
9 issues for us.

10
11 The invalid planning applications, it's -- making a
12 planning application is a very technical operation at
13 this stage. It can be for any number of reasons. But
14 similarly I suppose it's the most challenged area from
15 a legal point of view. We have to be sure that we get 11:24
16 everything right when a planning application comes in
17 because if it doesn't, it will be reviewed or the
18 decision could be overturned. So the number is
19 relatively high.

20
21 We will have some agents that are better than others, I
22 think it's fair to say that. Some that to be honest,
23 some of what comes in can be sloppy, and no matter how
24 many times we corrected it, it continues to happen.
25 I'm not sure what the answer to that is. You know it's 11:25
26 not that they're not aware what the provisions of the
27 Planning Acts are and it's not that they haven't been
28 told, but it does happen. So, yes, I think they are
29 the issues remaining.

1 CATHAOI RLEACH: Okay.

2 MR. CURRAN: I just mention the library staff, there is
3 a workforce plan agreed with the unions and with the
4 Department. So the plan is to bring it up to that
5 level. So I think they will be any issues like we had 11:25
6 in the past. A few of them are first fillings and they
7 will be internal competitions. The rest will be
8 advertised.

9

10 Just on the building control, yes, we now have a full 11:25
11 complement, a senior executive engineer and a
12 technician in place. So again it's self-compliance
13 through the B card, the Building Control Amended
14 Regulations. People apply online. They have
15 responsibility themselves and we obviously make sure 11:25
16 everything is in order. Again a few teething problems
17 with agents and we have provided training for them so
18 that the number of invalid applications will decrease.

19 MR. GLEESON: Just in relation to Cllr. Cullen's query
20 regarding the economic development figure for Arklow, 11:26
21 that actually relates to the Roundabout Sponsorship
22 Scheme that they have in place. So it's actually money
23 they're bringing in themselves. There's 21,000.
24 They've sponsored out all eight roundabouts in Arklow
25 and they're bringing in 21,000 in relation to that 11:26
26 particular scheme. So they're not being favoured and
27 getting additional money. They're actually bringing in
28 the money themselves, okay.

29 CATHAOI RLEACH: Cllr. Dunne and Walsh, you should have

1 been in earlier there. Honestly, honestly Cllr. Dunne
2 briefly and then Cllr. Walsh.

3 CLLR. DUNNE: Just on the point what Sean said there
4 about some of the applicants coming in, some of the
5 agents working on, the only people this is costing is 11:27
6 the people who are applying for planning permission,
7 and some of it leaves a lot to be desired. I think
8 it's terrible to think that they have to come back in.
9 So it's a terrible situation. Thank you, Chairman.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Cllr. Walsh? 11:27

11 CLLR. WALSH: Sorry, Cathaoirleach, I should have
12 mentioned earlier, the development contributions and I
13 see that over 4.7 million was collected on the 30th
14 September 2018, but there's also a reference there to
15 individuals who haven't or haven't paid and they're 11:27
16 monitoring, I think, 826 individuals prior to, on
17 developments prior to 2018. I'm just wondering where
18 we are with that? There's also a significant amount of
19 money still outstanding.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Cllr. Annesley and then we're 11:27
21 moving on.

22 CLLR. ANNESLEY: Yes, thank you, Cathaoirleach. I just
23 recommended that other Districts look at the
24 sponsorships. This is a great initiative that started
25 in Arklow, so that's where all the extra funding is 11:27
26 coming from. But I recommended to the Wicklow District
27 to have a look at that because in fairness a lot of the
28 Wicklow people said to me, why can't Wicklow look after
29 their own like the Arklow? So maybe you might look

1 into that.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr, Cllr, well done on that because I
3 enquired about that too because it stuck out like a
4 sore thumb and that was the answer I got, so well done
5 in regard to getting that anyway, okay. Okay, now 11:28
6 we're moving on. The last three I'm going to take
7 together, F, G and H, Recreation Amenity, Agriculture,
8 Health, welfare and Miscellaneous Services. Michael?
9 MR. CURRAN: Sorry, the outstanding development
10 contract -- 11:28
11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, sorry, go ahead. Go ahead.
12 MR. CURRAN: No, again we have people in Planning
13 following that up all the time. Again there's various
14 developers. We look at payment plans so that people
15 pay us, houses are being occupied. Ultimately it will 11:28
16 end up in the courts if people don't pay, but, you
17 know, there is, there is people on that all the time.
18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, grand. All right. Brian?
19 MR. GLEESON: As Cathaoirleach said we'll take the last
20 three divisions together. The first one, Recreational 11:29
21 Amenity. Planned expenditure, 8 and a half million;
22 income of approximately a million, and the pages in the
23 booklet, 89, 109 to 110. Agriculture, education,
24 health and welfare, expenditure 1.7 million. Income of
25 just over 800,000, and in the report the reference 11:29
26 pages 90 and 111 to 112. Miscellaneous Services, the
27 last one, expenditure, 12.7 million, income of 8.3 and
28 the booklet reference 91 and pages 113 to 115. Thank
29 you.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Anyone want to come in there?
2 Nobody? Okay. I'll let in Michael in regard to, I
3 think there was a query in regard to swimming pools and
4 stuff like that. Outdoor leisure.

11:30

6 PRESENTATION BY MR. NICHOLSON

8 MR. NICHOLSON: The question was asked by -- it's on
9 page 109 under the programme F03. It covers parks,
10 open spaces, playgrounds, things like that. Page 109
11 under the F03.

11:30

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, any other queries?

13 CLLR. BLAKE: Just can I ask on that?

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, yes, Cllr --

15 CLLR. BLAKE: The parks and open space 1.26 million and
16 the playgrounds as well, where is that money being
17 actually spent? Where is the form to spend it on?

11:30

18 MR. NICHOLSON: Chairman, I don't have parks, open
19 space myself. It was spent in each Municipal District.

20 As regards to the pay accounts, there's an allocation
21 given for each playground. Roughly €5,000 per

11:30

22 playground in each District, so if you've got 10
23 playgrounds you'll have 50 grand. There's also capital
24 contribution there where we built up capital reserve
25 for new playgrounds. There's the beaches expenditure
26 also in that, the money spent on having lifeguards et
27 cetera.

11:31

28 CLLR. BLAKE: So there is roughly about 5,000 for each
29 playground for maintenance.

1 MR. NICHOLSON: 5,000 roughly for each playground in
2 each.
3 CLLR. BLAKE: For maintenance?
4 MR. NICHOLSON: Yes.
5 CATHAOI RLEACH: Okay. 11:31
6 MR. CURRAN: Can I just come in there? A lot of that
7 expenditure would be staffing costs that would be
8 charged towards the maintenance, the local district
9 staff working in those areas.
10 CATHAOI RLEACH: Okay. All right. Anything else there? 11:31
11 No. That's completes our budget. In regard to this, I
12 think it's fair to say that it's been a fairly decent
13 budget. I want to thank the financial staff that have
14 worked really hard to provide this.
15 11:31
16 Like all budgets, it's not that easy. Everyone wants
17 to do a lot of things and various cuts, not cuts but
18 efficiencies had to be made over the last few weeks as
19 well to bring in the budget that we have together.
20 Also the fact is that there's significant increases in 11:32
21 services in provision of employment in the libraries in
22 the fire services as well in this budget as well.
23 There has been no cuts in it whatsoever, and certainly
24 from my point of view I think it's been, it's been a
25 very good budget and it's been well put together and I 11:32
26 want to thank on all our behalf the finance staff that
27 was worked extremely hard the last couple of months in
28 regard to this.
29

1 I want to put it to the floor in regard to anyone that
2 wants to make a proposal in regard for, to the adoption
3 of the budget. Nobody?
4 CLLR. BLAKE: Can I come back, sorry, Chairman --
5 CATHAoir LEACH: Yes. 11:32
6 CLLR. BLAKE: -- I have no problem proposing it but can
7 I just go back to the questions I asked at the outset
8 in terms of the revaluation of where we are.
9 CATHAoir LEACH: Oh yes. Well, we'll be getting that
10 now. 11:32
11 CLLR. BLAKE: You said that before --
12 CATHAoir LEACH: Well okay, if we want to get that
13 before. I was going to take that after the vote fore
14 the --
15 CLLR. BLAKE: I've no problem. 11:33
16 CATHAoir LEACH: Okay, no, that's fine. I'll ask Brian
17 to come in on that. Then if nobody wants to, I will
18 make a proposal. I'll make a proposal myself in regard
19 to this, all right.
20 CLLR. BLAKE: Sorry, do you want the proposal for the 11:33
21 adoption of the budget?
22 CATHAoir LEACH: No, no, no because I just want one
23 small adjustment to it. I'm prepared to put it up to
24 Members if I can get agreement on it, and then I'll --
25 if you want Brian to come in first. 11:33
26 CLLR. BLAKE: Yes, can I ask about, just the
27 revaluation, Brian.
28 CATHAoir LEACH: Yes, if Brian comes in first and we'll
29 query that and then I'll make a proposal, or maybe

1 c1lr. Fitzgerald might. Okay, grand.
2 CLLR. BLAKE: And the staffing levels --
3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, grand.
4 MR. GLEESON: Okay. Well the new valuations that,
5 under the Revaluation Scheme will issue next September 11:33
6 2019 and then will come into force for the following
7 year in January 2020. The first quarter, there will be
8 an indicative valuation that will be issued to all rate
9 payers early next year. The valuation office have
10 indicated that they are going to come down and organise 11:34
11 walk-in clinics in each of the Municipal Districts,
12 that rate players can come in and look for an
13 explanation of the changes. They're also planning on
14 coming down probably in the first quarter as well to
15 give an overview to the Councillors here in the chamber 11:34
16 in one of our monthly meetings.
17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.
18 CLLR. BLAKE: Chairman, I certainly do welcome the
19 walk-in, where people can walk into it. What does that
20 actually entail? Do you make an appointment or do you 11:34
21 --
22 MR. GLEESON: No, it's basically, they just come here.
23 They'll be here for the day. They'll obviously,
24 they'll have their figures at that stage and if they
25 don't understand it or they want rationale behind 11:34
26 whether it's, I suppose most people that will be coming
27 in it will be people whose rates will have gone up,
28 their valuation will have gone up rather than the ones
29 that had a decrease. So it will be giving an

1 explanation explaining the rationale behind the
2 increase.

3 CLLR. BLAKE: I do welcome it but our experience from
4 other counties, there has been serious issues in other
5 counties where it has been done so I do welcome the 11:35
6 actual walk-in where people are engaged in that regard.
7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

8 CLLR. BLAKE: The other question then is about the
9 staffing. What extra outdoor staff are we going to
10 actually have? 11:35

11 MR. CURRAN: Okay. Cathaoirleach, the plan is to, to
12 bring the outdoor staff up to the level that they were.
13 There's no change essentially, well a few extra.
14 There's 15 GSSs that will remain. We want each GSS to
15 have a (inaudible) at the moment. So some of the GOS 11:35
16 will be upgraded there and we'll have an internal
17 competition for that.

18

19 We have 15 craft workers. We're looking for one extra
20 there in relation to that. 24 drivers, plant 11:35
21 operators, that will remain the same. No change to the
22 general operatives. We'll be taking on three
23 apprentices, at least three. One apprentice fitter for
24 machinery yard and possibly two stonemasons, and maybe
25 a (inaudible) as well. The non-national crews will 11:36
26 remain the same. But in order to bring it back up,
27 we'll have to advertise. So we will be advertising in
28 the coming weeks for a panel for general operatives.
29

1 Now, we will be able to use that as a temporary panel
2 as well, so if any of the area engineers have funding
3 that they'll get through say a town or village
4 enhancement or outdoor recreation or discretionary
5 funding, they will be able to take on people on a 11:36
6 temporary basis to do that work, to do it by direct
7 labour rather than by contract, so we will have that
8 panel in place as well. So back up to the existing
9 numbers and the panels in place then for temporary
10 staff as well. 11:36

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Fox?

12 CLLR. FOX: Chairman, well in relation to budgets,
13 there has been a trend towards, more funding towards
14 the Municipal Districts. Can I ask is that to continue
15 as the same level of discretionary funding been 11:36
16 allocated to the Municipal Districts because it really
17 is a good way of money being spend locally because
18 people now have an expectation when they pay their
19 property tax that they will see real benefits on the
20 ground in their local areas. So can I get an 11:37
21 assurance, I think the levels last year were up to 2
22 million, I could be wrong on that.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: No, 1.94 million, yes.

24 CLLR. FOX: Okay.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: You needn't worry, we'll be up to 2 11:37
26 million very shortly I can tell you.

27 CLLR. FOX: Can I get an assurance that that type of
28 level of funding will be given as discretionary funding
29 in Municipal Districts.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Cllr. Thornhill.
2 CLLR. THORNHILL: Go raibh maith agat.
3 CATHAOIRLEACH: And then Cllr. Bourke.
4 CLLR. THORNHILL: Okay. It's just a question here for
5 the Chief Executive in relation to outdoor staff. I 11:37
6 would particularly like to ask in relation to the
7 outdoor staff in Bray because an awful lot of work is
8 not being done and there is talk about, you know the
9 work process over the years. I mean are there any
10 plans to increase workforce? 11:38
11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Cllr. Bourke?
12 CLLR. BOURKE: Yes, Cathaoirleach, this has been an
13 excellent budget. I must say I haven't identified any
14 (inaudible) and one that I'd be very happy to propose
15 if you're proposer. But one item that I see omitted 11:38
16 and I'd like the manager to make a statement on it.
17 Maybe I've missed it now, but there's nothing there
18 about out policy for coastal protection and what we're
19 doing to mitigate coastal protection. I wonder could a
20 statement be made on that for the coming year. 11:38
21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Cllr. Snell and Cllr. Behan?
22 CLLR. SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just in regards
23 to the commercial rates and the harmonization process,
24 could we get Brian to elaborate a little bit.
25 Obviously there's good and bad news in this. This was 11:38
26 the process that was adopted in 2015. It just seems
27 that while there's going to be a decrease of 2% next
28 year for the broader Co. Wicklow area, the towns of
29 Arklow, Wicklow and Bray will suffer an increase, 3% in

1 Arklow and Wicklow and 2% for the town of Bray.

2

3 Brian was talking earlier in regards to the corporate
4 policy group and the rates and central scheme for new
5 businesses and that, and I think that's the type of 11:39
6 information that maybe the general public would be
7 looking for. If he could elaborate a little bit
8 because there is a lot of businesses out there that
9 will find it hard to take on board this increase.

10 While it's a national policy, it is something that's 11:39
11 forced on us. I do think it's important to let people
12 know if there is incentives there for new businesses
13 down the line.

14 CATHAOL RLEACH: Okay. Okay Cllr. Behan?

15 CLLR. BEHAN: Thanks, Chairman. Just two quick points. 11:39
16 In relation to the question I asked at the beginning
17 about the increase in rents --

18 CATHAOL RLEACH: Yes.

19 CLLR. BEHAN: -- I want to be clear on this. What the
20 Housing Director said was, it isn't an increase, it's a 11:40
21 review. What I took him to mean, and I want to know am
22 I correct in this, it's a review to see are people's
23 income details up-to-date et cetera rather than an
24 actual rate increase, okay.

25 CATHAOL RLEACH: Yes, okay. 11:40

26 CLLR. BEHAN: Because if that is the case, I can
27 understand that's a kind of a, you know kind of a
28 renewal process, or a review process. If that is the
29 case, my concern as I said was the people who are on

1 HAP, I presume that people's details who are on HAP are
2 pretty much up-to-date anyway. So is it the case that
3 this may not result in a rent increase for people who
4 are on HAP and RAS? I just want clarification on that.
5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. 11:40

6 CLLR. BEHAN: The second point is, Chairman, people
7 have mentioned about other priorities they have and
8 I've mentioned footpaths and (inaudible) having an
9 increase in the level of money available to the
10 Municipal District. Everybody here knows, and those of 11:41
11 us who have been here at more than one Council over a
12 five-year period know that when the officials present a
13 budget they always present a budget that has fat in it
14 that we haven't identified or that it's open to us to
15 identify now. I certainly think Cllr. Snell has 11:41
16 mentioned it, Cllr. Fox has mentioned it. We're all
17 Member of Municipal Districts. I don't think anybody
18 in any of the Municipal Districts would be the happy
19 for people who live in them that we're not, that we're
20 spending enough in those Districts. So I would urge 11:41
21 the Executive and yourself, Chairman, to look at what
22 additional funding can be given to the Municipal
23 Districts on the phase whether it's for footpaths or
24 something else, that the Councillors would actually
25 decide themselves. But I do want to know in relation 11:41
26 to the effect of this rent review on people on HAP and
27 RAS.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, fine. Brian, and then I'm going
29 for a vote on this. I'm going for a proposal and a

1 vote on this.

2 MR. GLEESON: Just to confirm that rent review is a
3 review of incomes so it is.

4 CLLR. BEHAN: So it's not an increase? What about
5 people on HAP and RAS? 11:42

6 MR. GLEESON: Obviously if people's income increases
7 obviously they might end up paying more rent. But then
8 obviously that, that extra expenditure will be
9 ring-fenced within the housing area for pre-letting
10 repairs. 11:42

11 MR. CURRAN: You see traditionally that would have been
12 done every year, that you'd write out to people, see if
13 there's any change in their details, and because it
14 hasn't been done in a number of years there's going to
15 be a bounce because people's incomes would have gone 11:42
16 up. But there's no change in the rent scheme
17 whatsoever. It's just getting the details.

18 CATHAOI RLEACH: Okay.

19 MR. CURRAN: I mean you're quite right, people who are
20 on HAP would have recently applied, or applied in the 11:42
21 last few years so unlikely to be a change from their
22 point of view.

23 CATHAOI RLEACH: Okay. Right, move back to proposal.
24 Any proposals? No. Yes Cllr. Fitzgerald?

25 CLLR. FITZGERALD: Yes. Cllr. Fox mentioned there that 11:42
26 funding discretionary was (inaudible) and I'm proposing
27 that. As per page 3 there, it is increased to the
28 figure we had previously, 1.9 million.

29 CATHAOI RLEACH: 2 million, yes.

1 CLLR. FITZGERALD: I think we've be extra -- in the
2 Planning Section.

3 CATHAOI RLEACH: Yes. Do we have a seconder for that?

4 CLLR. BLAKE: I'll second that.

5 CATHAOI RLEACH: Okay, grand. Brian, in regard to that, 11:43
6 how this could be financed an extra 60,000. I've
7 talked to the, to the Finance man about this. Brian,
8 go ahead.

9 MR. GLEESON: Rather than the planning area, I would
10 identify maybe the parking ahead. 11:43

11 CATHAOI RLEACH: Sorry. Go ahead.

12 MR. GLEESON: I'd identify the parking area D9.
13 There's possibly sufficient funding within their, in
14 relation to increased income on the parking side and
15 possibly additional savings with the new countywide 11:43
16 contract. So if the Members are in agreement with that
17 particular area?

18 CATHAOI RLEACH: Agreement with that? Okay. Grand, and
19 a proposer and a seconder? Okay. I'm going for a vote
20 on this, I'm going for a vote on this. Thank you. 11:44

21 MS. GALLAGHER: Okay. Proposed by Cllr. Fitzgerald and
22 seconded by Cllr. Blake.

23 CATHAOI RLEACH: Yes.

24 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Tommy Annesley?

25 CLLR. ANNESLEY: For.

26 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Joe Behan?

27 CLLR. BEHAN: For.

28 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Vincent Blake?

29 CLLR. BLAKE: For.

1 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Sylvester Bourke?
2 CLLR. BOURKE: For.
3 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Shay Cullen?
4 CLLR. S. CULLEN: For.
5 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Tommy Cullen? Cllr. Pat Doran?
6 CLLR. DORAN: For.
7 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Gail Dunne?
8 CLLR. DUNNE: For.
9 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald?
10 CLLR. FITZGERALD: For.
11 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Tom Fortune?
12 CLLR. FORTUNE: For.
13 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Christopher Fox?
14 CLLR. FOX: For.
15 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Mary Kavanagh? Cllr. Pat
16 Kennedy?
17 CLLR. KENNEDY: For.
18 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Nicola Lawless?
19 CLLR. LAWLESS: For.
20 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Stephen Matthews?
21 CLLR. MATTHEWS: For.
22 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Mary McDonald?
23 CLLR. McDONALD: For.
24 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Grainne McLoughlin? Cllr. Derek
25 Mitchell?
26 CLLR. MITCHELL: For.
27 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Miriam Murphy?
28 CLLR. MURPHY: For.
29 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Daire Nolan?

1 CLLR. NOLAN: For.
2 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Oliver O'Brien?
3 CLLR. O. O'BRIEN: For.
4 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Dermot O'Brien?
5 CLLR. D. O'BRIEN: For.
6 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Gerry O'Neill?
7 CLLR. O'NEILL: For.
8 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Jim Ruttle?
9 CLLR. RUTTLE: For.
10 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. John Ryan? Cllr. John Snell?
11 CLLR. SNELL: For.
12 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Brendan Thornhill?
13 CLLR. THORNHILL: For.
14 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Edward Timmins? Cllr. Pat Vance?
15 CLLR. VANCE: For.
16 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Gerry Walsh?
17 CLLR. WALSH: For.
18 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore?
19 CLLR. WHITMORE: For.
20 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr Irene Winters?
21 CLLR. WINTERS: For.
22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.
23 MS. GALLAGHER: That's 27 For, and five not present.
24 CATHAOIRLEACH: There's two more items then. I'll let
25 you in in a minute, Cllr. Thornhill. We have to vote
26 on the base year adjustment as well. I think that's
27 been explained by Brian there, and the vacancy relief
28 as well. This is to give the relief to vacant
29 properties that were recommending that a stay at 100%.

11:45

1 Okay, Brian, do you want to --

2 MR. GLEESON: Okay. The first task is approving the
3 base year adjustment for 2019. As mentioned earlier
4 the harmonized ARV rate of 72.04 was adopted back in
5 2015. The base year adjustment provides for the 11:45
6 phasing in of the increases and decreases on the annual
7 rates, and 2019 is Year 5 and the final year of this
8 harmonization process.

9
10 As such all rate payers will now have the same ARV of 11:46
11 72.04 applied in 2009, and therefore the base year
12 adjustment will be zero in respect of 2019. As Cllr.
13 Snell pointed out, these are the last adjustments as
14 part of the harmonization process. 3% increase will be
15 in relation to the former Arklow Town Council and 11:46
16 Wicklow Town Council areas. The former Bray Town
17 Council area we'll see a 2% increase to bring it up to
18 the 72.04. The remaining County Council areas will see
19 a 2% decrease bringing it back down to that harmonized
20 ARV rate. 11:46

21 CATHAoir LEACH: Okay. Do we have agreement on this?

22 Cllr. Fox?

23 CLLR. FOX: I propose it.

24 CATHAoir LEACH: Proposed it. Seconded by Cllr. Walsh.
25 Do we have agreement on this? 11:47

26 MS. GALLAGHER: No, we'll go for a vote, Cathaoirleach.

27 CATHAoir LEACH: Go for a vote, okay, grand.

28 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Tommy Annesley?

29 CLLR. ANNESLEY: For.

1 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Joe Behan?
2 CLLR. BEHAN: For.
3 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Vincent Blake?
4 CLLR. BLAKE: For.
5 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Sylvester Bourke?
6 CLLR. BOURKE: For.
7 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Shay Cullen?
8 CLLR. S. CULLEN: For.
9 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Tommy Cullen? Cllr. Pat Doran?
10 CLLR. DORAN: For.
11 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Gail Dunne?
12 CLLR. DUNNE: For.
13 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald?
14 CLLR. FITZGERALD: For.
15 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Tom Fortune?
16 CLLR. FORTUNE: For.
17 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Christopher Fox?
18 CLLR. FOX: For.
19 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Mary Kavanagh? Cllr. Pat
20 Kennedy?
21 CLLR. KENNEDY: For.
22 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Nicola Lawless?
23 CLLR. LAWLESS: For.
24 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Stephen Matthews?
25 CLLR. MATTHEWS: For.
26 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Mary McDonald?
27 CLLR. McDONALD: Against.
28 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Grainne McLoughlin? Cllr. Derek
29 Mitchell?

1 CLLR. MITCHELL: For.
2 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Miriam Murphy?
3 CLLR. MURPHY: For.
4 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Daire Nolan?
5 CLLR. NOLAN: For.
6 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. oliver O'Brien? Cllr. oliver
7 O'Brien?
8 CLLR. O. O'BRIEN: For.
9 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Dermot O'Brien?
10 CLLR. D. O'BRIEN: For.
11 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Gerry O'Neill?
12 CLLR. O'NEILL: For.
13 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Jim Ruttle?
14 CLLR. RUTTLE: For.
15 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. John Ryan? Cllr. John Snell?
16 CLLR. SNELL: For.
17 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Brendan Thornhill?
18 CLLR. THORNHILL: For.
19 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Edward Timmins? Cllr. Pat Vance?
20 CLLR. VANCE: For.
21 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Gerry Walsh?
22 CLLR. WALSH: For.
23 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore?
24 CLLR. WHITMORE: For.
25 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr Irene Winters? Cllr. Irene
26 Winters?
27 CLLR. WINTERS: For.
28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.
29 MS. GALLAGHER: That is 26 For, 1 Against and 5 not

1 present.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: The vacancy relief is, the vacancy
3 relief is, that's a 100% in regard to this. Could I
4 have a proposer and seconder for this, and do we have
5 agreement on this? Proposing Snell and -- yes, and 11:48
6 Cllr --

7 MS. GALLAGHER: Cllr. Bourke, is it?

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes, Bourke, yes. Do I have agreement
9 on this?

10 FROM THE FLOOR: Yes. 11:48

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Right, okay. That's fine. That's it.
12 Thank you very much. Oh sorry, Councillor Thornhill?
13 Sorry, my fault. Councillor Thornhill?

14 CLLR. THORNHILL: Cathaoirleach, go raibh maith agat.
15 Just one small point. I asked the, this is a question 11:48
16 in relation to outdoor staff in Bray.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Oh sorry, sorry.

18 MR. CURRAN: No, sorry, as I said earlier, with the
19 outdoor staff, we're advertising shortly for a panel
20 for general operatives. So we're going to bring it up 11:48
21 to the existing levels, right, the levels that we've
22 agreed in the workforce plan. So that will be the
23 first thing.

24

25 The second thing we'll have then is a panel of staff 11:49
26 that we can draw from on a temporary basis so we get
27 funding for outdoor recreation or town or village, that
28 the area engineer will be drawing on those, rather than
29 going to (inaudible), to do it by direct labour. So

1 that ad is going in very shortly.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Lorraine wants to come in here
3 with an announcement.

4 MS. GALLAGHER: Yes. No, Cathaoirleach, just to say
5 that I did email the elected Members on the 21st 11:49
6 November. Members will be aware that the Minister for
7 State for Local Government and Electoral Reform is
8 conducting a review of the role and the remuneration of
9 elected members, probably notified of this through the
10 AILG. The Minister has appointed Sarah Morehead, 11:49
11 Senior Counsel, to conduct this review, and a copy of
12 the terms of references was circled to all elected
13 Members.

14

15 So the Department and the Minister through Senior 11:49
16 Counsel, it has extended an invitation to the elected
17 Members to make a submission through this review using
18 the guide guiding, being guided by the terms of
19 reference. Also the Department will be issuing a
20 survey to elected Members in the next probably two 11:50
21 weeks about the role of remuneration of elected
22 Members. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Just also the Greystones and the
24 Wicklow Members, will they stay in the chamber here.
25 Sorcha wants to, to obviously meet with them in regard 11:50
26 to the local area plans and in regard to that area if
27 you stay in the meeting.

28

29 There's obviously dinner at half past 12 to 1, okay,

1 grand. Listen, I want to thank all the Members for
2 their help and cooperation. Thank you very much
3 indeed. Okay, thank you.
4

5 THE MEETING CONCLUDED
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