

MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD AT COUNTY BUILDINGS, WHITEGATES, WICKLOW TOWN
AND VIA TEAMS

ON MONDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 2:00PM

STENOGRAPHER: Niamh Kelly-Leahy, RMR, MBIVR

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1 PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED ON MONDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY 2026 AT 2:00
2 PM, AS FOLLOWS:

3
4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Good afternoon, Members. You're all very welcome. I
5 would like to welcome also our public in the gallery, members of the press, officials.
6 I am going to hand over now to Helen just to read out the etiquette and do a roll call.

7 MS PURCELL: Good afternoon and welcome to everybody who is present, both
8 remotely and in person. If anybody remote has any issues with their technology, any
9 of the Elected Members, please let me know. I would ask members of the public and
10 staff to keep their cameras and microphones off, and I would ask Elected Members
11 to keep their camera on and microphone off until such time as they raise their hand
12 and would like to speak. I would like to remind all present they are bound by the
13 Code of Conduct for councillors and employees. Our core values of integrity,
14 impartiality and respect underpin all actions in the chamber. I will now proceed to
15 the roll call. Councillor Danny Alvey? Councillor Mark Barry?

16 COUNCILLOR BARRY: Here.

17 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Joe Behan?

18 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Present.

19 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Sylvester Bourke?

20 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Present.

21 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Present.

23 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Avril Cronin?

24 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Present.

25 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Erika Doyle?

26 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Anseo.

27 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Malacháí Duddy?

28 COUNCILLOR DUDDY: Anseo.

29 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Gail Dunne?

30 COUNCILLOR DUNNE: Present.

31 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin?

32 COUNCILLOR FENELOW GASKIN: Present.

33 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Orla Finn? Councillor Pat Fitzgerald?

34 Councillor Tom Fortune?

1 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Present.
2 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Patsy Glennon?
3 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Present.
4 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Pat Kennedy?
5 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Present.
6 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Shane Langrell?
7 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Present.
8 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Peir Leonard?
9 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Present.
10 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Pat Mahon?
11 COUNCILLOR MAHON: Present.
12 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Jason Mulhall?
13 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Present.
14 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Miriam Murphy? Councillor Ian Neary?
15 COUNCILLOR NEARY: Present.
16 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Paul O'Brien?
17 COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN: Present.
18 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Gerry O'Neill?
19 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Present.
20 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Warren O'Toole?
21 COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: Present.
22 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Lourda Scott?
23 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Present.
24 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor John Snell? Councillor Peter Stapleton?
25 Councillor Stephen Stokes?
26 COUNCILLOR STOKES: Present.
27 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Ned Whelan?
28 COUNCILLOR WHELAN: Present.
29 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Caroline Winstanley?
30 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Present.
31 MS PURCELL: Thank you.
32 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Before we proceed I want to congratulate our
33 colleague Peir Leonard on becoming a granny recently. You're online there.
34 Congratulations. I hope everyone is well. I will go on to sympathies. Are there any

1 vote of sympathy from the floor, please? Councillor Shane Langrell.

2 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I would like to pass on
3 my sympathies to the family of Mick Walsh of Roundwood. Mick passed away
4 yesterday. Mick worked in Dublin Corporation and in the waterworks for
5 Roundwood many years and retired only a few years ago, and unfortunately the
6 sickness caught up with him. So I would like to send my sympathies to his wife
7 Phyllis, to his daughter Caroline, to his son Jason and his extended family. Thank
8 you, Cathaoirleach.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin.

10 COUNCILLOR FENELOW GASKIN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I'd like to extend
11 my sympathies to the O'Kelly family in Newtown on the passing of their mother, Ber
12 O'Kelly. Ber was an active member of the St Catherine's School Association and
13 their fundraising, and she did it for donkeys years to enable further services to be
14 available and allow more children avail of its great work. She was also very
15 involved in the Meals on Wheels for Newtownmountkennedy. So I pass on my
16 condolences to her family.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Silvester Bourke. Just bear with me for a few
18 moments because the names aren't actually coming up in order. Councillor O'Neill.
19 MS O'GORMAN: You're on.

20 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Yeah, I'd like to express my condolences to the
21 Richardson family of Lackan, to Tommy and the family on the death of Maureen.
22 Maureen had a shop in Lackan for many, many years and passed away, and was
23 buried in Burgage there only the other day. I would like to express my sympathy to
24 the family. Thank you.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Jason Mulhall.

26 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Thank you. I would like to express my sympathies to
27 the family of Anthony Gilligan in Carnew who passed away yesterday evening after
28 a few years of a pretty serious illness. He's a member of Carnew GAA but for the
29 most part was involved with Carnew FC, a founding member of the club and heavily
30 involved with the club through most of his lifetime in a number of different roles.
31 Thank you.

32 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Pat Mahon.

33 COUNCILLOR MAHON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I would like to be associated
34 with Councillor O'Neill's vote of sympathy for the family in Lackan on the passing

1 of Maureen. Thank you.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Gail Dunne.

3 COUNCILLOR DUNNE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. A vote of sympathy for Freya
4 Keegan Cullinan, the young girl in Wicklow Town who passed away tragically last
5 week. She played for St Patrick's GAA Club. A well-known family within Wicklow
6 Town and the whole town was shocked by her passing. Thank you.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Malachaí Duddy.

8 COUNCILLOR DUDDY: Go raibh mile maith agat, Cathaoirleach. If I could
9 mention Dr Grace Molloy of Giltspur Bray who was a doctor in the University
10 Hospital in Galway who passed away prematurely at a young age. If I could also
11 mention Willy Shortt of Bray who was actively involved in the music scene around
12 the town for many, many decades. If I could extend my condolences to his wife
13 Mary, Joyce, Anne, Helen, Carol, Liam, Yvonne, Margaret, Gwendolyn, and Robert.
14 Much appreciated.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Graham Richmond.

16 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I would just like to be
17 associated with those comments from Gail Dunne --

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Press your mic again.

19 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: -- in expressing my sympathies to the Keegan
20 Cullinan family on the tragic passing of Freya, the daughter of Leona and Ciaran and
21 older sister of Ben, Aaron and Síofra. Her tragic passing has a widespread impact on
22 the community including those involved in East Glendalough School and her fellow
23 students in nursing in Trinity. Thank you.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Joe Behan.

25 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I want to propose a vote of
26 sympathy to the family of Owen Dawson who lived on the Lower Dargle Road.
27 Those of us of a certain vintage will remember that Owen worked in East Coast
28 Radio on the morning show. He was a researcher; someone who contacted people
29 before interviews and so on. He lived a good life, he was in his nineties. A very
30 popular man and a wide circle of family and friends, and I want to offer my
31 sympathy to his wife, family and friends. Thank you.

32 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. And I'd like to just offer the sympathies to the
33 family of Odie Bolger. To the devastation of the community in Enniskerry Odie
34 passed away recently. Our sincere condolences to his mum, Lorna Kelly, who will

1 be well known for her involvement with the uplands council, to his father, Dan
2 Bolger, brothers Ned and Ethan and sisters Amelia and Kitty, and to his wider family
3 and wide circle of friends. I'll go to Helen now for the staff sympathies.

4 MS PURCELL: We extend our sympathies to the family of Mary Bernadette Burke,
5 sister of our friend and colleague Aidan Burke.

6

7 (Moment of silence.)

8

9 MS PURCELL: May their souls and the souls of all the faithfully departed, through
10 the mercy of God, rest in peace.

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Just before we start the meeting, I just want to
12 acknowledge the incredible work that has been done in recent, the last couple of
13 weeks with the huge flooding that we've had in the county. I just want to
14 compliment and acknowledge the staff, the outdoor staff, the roads admin staff, the
15 district staff in all MDs, the communication teams and the volunteers who supported
16 the community through the worst of the flooding. Just to commend them all and say
17 thank you for working night and day being out with sandbags. I think all councillors
18 would concur that they actually done a huge amount of work, and even you know
19 putting messages up, getting messages out to the public what roads were safe and
20 what weren't. It was a very difficult time. I wanted to acknowledge that. I know
21 you will more so when we get into the Chief Executive's Report as well.

22

23 We have two suspension of standing orders which I am proposing we take at half 4.
24 So if everyone is in agreement. Helen is going to read them out.

25 MS PURCELL: So the first suspension of standing orders is proposed by Councillor
26 Joe Behan, seconded by Councillor Lourda Scott and supported by Councillor Peir
27 Leonard and Councillor Tom Fortune.

28

29 "That Wicklow County Council notes with deep concern the Government's decision
30 to ratify CETA and in particular the Investor Court System after trying to rush
31 through the Arbitration (Amendment) Bill 2025 to circumvent the judgment that
32 CETA is unconstitutional.

33

34 This Council believes that ICS risks selling out Irish taxpayers, Irish workers' rights

1 and Irish climate and environmental protections for the sole benefit of multinational
2 big business.

3

4 Wicklow County Council therefore calls on the Government to suspend Ireland's
5 participation in the ICS element of CETA pending a full, independent assessment of
6 its impacts on local authorities, public services, and environmental protections."

7

8 If successful, this motion to be circulated to all Local Authorities, all Wicklow TDs
9 and senators and the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

10

11 That is the first suspension. The second suspension is proposed by Councillor
12 Melanie Corrigan, seconded by Councillor Shane Langrell, and supported by the
13 Fine Gael councillors.

14

15 "That Wicklow County Council ask Minister for Agriculture Martin Heydon
16 to intervene in the Bord Bia dispute and to urges its chairman Larry Murrin --"
17 That's gone out. Okay. Just to intervene with the Bord Bia dispute.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: So is everyone agreed to suspend standing orders for 4.30?
19 Yes. Right. Thank you.

20

21 So we go on to the first item on the agenda today, it is: "To confirm and sign
22 minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 12th
23 January 2026 (copy attached)." Can I have a proposer and a seconder please?
24 Proposed by Councillor Whelan and Councillor O'Brien. Are there any matters
25 arising out of the minutes? Okay.

26 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Yeah, Cathaoirleach. There are matters arising out of the
27 minutes all right, particularly with regard to the Cliff Walk Management Committee.
28 I'm not sure we're going to get time to reach it because of the long agenda, but a
29 decision was made last week, or two weeks ago, at the last meeting of the committee
30 that the media would be invited to attend future meetings. That was agreed
31 unanimously on the day. Subsequently we got an email from the officials saying that
32 the Director of Corporate Affairs had decided that the media can't be invited because
33 councillors need to be told first what's happened at the meetings. Now, as per the
34 instructions of the Chief Executive councillors form the majority of that committee

1 in the first place. We are all here today online or present, and I am asking
2 councillors to agree here that those meetings can be open to the press, because there's
3 huge -- we all know there's huge public interest in what happens with regard to the
4 Cliff Walk, and if Members here agree that the press can be invited well then there's
5 no need to be referring back to the councillors again. I want to propose that,
6 Cathaoirleach. And I wouldn't see why there would be a problem. The SPCs also
7 can invite the media to their meetings and there's no question that councillors have to
8 be told first what happens at those meetings. I respectfully propose that that be
9 agreed today, Cathaoirleach, because the next meeting is on Wednesday and the
10 media may want to know about it. Thank you.

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. I am going to ask the Director to come in on that one.
12 Sorry, I'll take the three speakers that want to come in and then I will let the Director
13 in. Councillor Gail Dunne.

14 COUNCILLOR DUNNE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I actually disagree with that.
15 I think the councillors should know what is going on before anybody else. And we
16 will be asked questions at some stage, and if the media know what they're asking and
17 we don't know what they're talking about that is a problem. So I will not be
18 supporting that motion.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Fortune. It is just not coming up.
20 You'll have to bear with me.

21 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Yeah, thanks, Cathaoirleach. I second what Councillor
22 Behan is proposing. The reason I am seconding it is I for the life of me can't
23 understand what the issue is. This is a very public issue. It's out there, everyone is
24 talking about it. And I think it is constructive and transparent to have the media
25 there. I personally have no problem with them being there.

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Councillor Malacháí Duddy.

27 COUNCILLOR DUDDY: Go raibh maith agat, Cathaoirleach. Yes, I support that
28 proposal as well. I supported it at the committee meeting. And I think the basis of it
29 is that those councillors who are present at the meeting in participating at that
30 committee are likely to hear the news on the spot, and I don't see how councillors
31 who aren't members of that committee could learn about it any sooner. It may be
32 appearing in local media or commentary but I think it is very important that the
33 media have access to that committee. And it was certainly a unanimous decision of
34 the councillors who sit on that that committee that that would be the case. Go raibh

1 maith agat, Cathaoirleach.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Erika Doyle. Sorry, Councillor Paul O'Brien.

3 COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I would like to support
4 Councillor Dunne for a number of reasons. We keep hearing for the last number of
5 years about how our powers are being diminished and how we're not getting the
6 feedback that we should be getting back. Now we're going to devolve it again to
7 reading articles in the paper. And I have to be honest about this, I would have
8 misgivings because in the last number of months I've had to correct articles in the
9 paper because they have been inaccurate and have actually got me into trouble for
10 saying things in the paper that I actually didn't say. So rather than hearing back
11 maybe what could be inaccurate information I think we should wait and get the
12 accurate information. And the last thing I'll say very quickly, no disrespect to the
13 Bray and Greystones Cliff Walk, we're all supporting them, we'll do what we can but
14 here we are taking up time again and yet over the weekend the Murrough has fallen
15 into the sea. Could we have a little bit of respect for the people in the south of the
16 county was well? Thank you.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Erika Doyle.

18 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. So I chair that Cliff Walk
19 Committee and I have to say I have people contacting me now all the time saying
20 that they are sick hearing about it, they're sick hearing about the circus that seems to
21 be attached to it, they want to hear about the work that is being done. I don't involve
22 myself in the circus, I try and stick to the work that's being done. We did agree at the
23 meeting -- look, from my personal perspective if the media is present the media will
24 report on all aspects of the meeting and I think that that would be incredibly useful.
25 Out of respect for my fellow colleagues here who are concerned about hearing
26 second-hand versions ahead of any official communication I completely empathise, I
27 think I have no choice if there is a vote on this but to abstain as chair of that
28 committee. But I really, really would appeal to people, could we try and get
29 consensus on issues and just work towards re-opening the Cliff Walk? That is what
30 everybody wants. We just want to push this ahead for the walk, the work to happen
31 safely and properly and for people to be able to enjoy the Cliff Walk again. People
32 are sick to death of just talking about various different aspects that are important but
33 they should be contained to the committee. That is my opinion. Thank you,
34 Cathaoirleach.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I'll bring the Director.

2 MS EARLS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Members, I think any of you who know me
3 long enough will know I have the utmost respect for the role of the Elected Members
4 and that I will always try and advise them in the best way that I can. My advice
5 wasn't just specifically to the Cliff Walk. It would apply to any committee of this
6 Local Authority where the Members sit on it. And the situation should be that the
7 Members hear first any information, be it at the meeting that they are attending or
8 through a report from this Council or communication from the Executive. So it isn't
9 appropriate I feel that the media have the information out there before the Members
10 of this chamber have had the opportunity to consider it. As I said, it is not just solely
11 to this committee but any committee of the Local Authority. I think the Elected
12 Members in their role should have first access to the information and the accurate
13 information. Thank you.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. So we will go to a vote on that then.

15 MS PURCELL: So the proposal put forward by Councillor Behan, seconded by
16 Councillor Fortune, is that media be allowed to attend the Bray Greystones Cliff
17 Walk committee meetings. Is that correct, Councillor Behan?

18 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Yes.

19 MS PURCELL: Yeah. Perfect. If you are for please vote 'for', if you are against
20 please vote 'against'. Councillor Danny Alvey?

21 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Abstain.

22 MS PURCELL: Abstain. Councillor Mark Barry?

23 COUNCILLOR BARRY: For.

24 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Joe Behan?

25 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: For.

26 MS PURCELL: For. For. Councillor Sylvester Bourke?

27 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Against.

28 MS PURCELL: Against. Against. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Against.

30 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Avril Cronin?

31 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Against.

32 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Erika Doyle?

33 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Abstain.

34 MS PURCELL: Abstain. Councillor Malacháí Duddy?

1 COUNCILLOR DUDDY: For.

2 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Gail Dunne?

3 COUNCILLOR DUNNE: Against.

4 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin?

5 COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: For.

6 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Orla Finn is not present. Councillor Pat

7 Fitzgerald?

8 COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD: Against.

9 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Tom Fortune?

10 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: For.

11 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Patsy Glennon?

12 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Against.

13 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Pat Kennedy?

14 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Against.

15 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Shane Langrell?

16 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Against.

17 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Peir Leonard?

18 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: For.

19 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Pat Mahon?

20 COUNCILLOR MAHON: Against.

21 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Jason Mulhall?

22 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Abstain.

23 MS PURCELL: Abstain. Councillor Miriam Murphy?

24 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Abstain.

25 MS PURCELL: Abstain. Councillor Ian Neary?

26 COUNCILLOR NEARY: For.

27 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Paul O'Brien?

28 COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN: Against.

29 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Gerry O'Neill is not present. Councillor

30 Warren O'Toole?

31 COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: Abstain.

32 MS PURCELL: Abstain. Councillor Graham Richmond?

33 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Against.

34 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Lourda Scott?

1 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Abstain.
2 MS PURCELL: Abstain. Councillor John Snell?
3 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Abstain.
4 MS PURCELL: Abstain. Councillor Peter Stapleton is not present. Councillor
5 Stephen Stokes?
6 COUNCILLOR STOKES: Abstain.
7 MS PURCELL: Abstain. Councillor Ned Whelan?
8 COUNCILLOR WHELAN: Against.
9 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Caroline Winstanley?
10 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Against.
11 MS PURCELL: Against. Thank you. 7 for, 13 against, 3 not present, and 8
12 abstaining. Motion defeated. Thank you.
13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. We will go on to the disposal notices. Number 2
14 item on the agenda is: "To consider the disposal of 0.087 hectares or thereabouts in
15 the townland of Kilmacullagh Td. Newtownmountkennedy being the property
16 known as 10 Ballybawn Cottages, Kilmacanogue, County Wicklow to Eoin Syron &
17 Daniela Boehm (as per notice previously circulated). Can I have a proposer and a
18 seconder for that, please? I can propose, if we have a seconder. Councillor Duddy.
19 Are all agreed? (Agreed)
20
21 Item number 3 is: "To consider the disposal of 0.3520 hectares or thereabouts in the
22 townland of Kilmalum, Blessington, County Wicklow to Kildare County Council.
23 (As per notice previously circulated)." Can I have a proposer and seconder for that,
24 please? Councillor Cronin and Councillor Glennon. All agreed? (Agreed.)
25
26 Item number 4 is: "To consider the disposal of 0.120 hectares or thereabouts in the
27 townland of Gibstown, Donard, County Wicklow being the property known as
28 Gibstown, Donard, County Wicklow to Ms. Claire Keogh (as per notice previously
29 circulated)." A proposer and seconder please? Councillor Cronin and councillor
30 Mahon. All agreed? (Agreed.)
31 MS PURCELL: Can I ask everyone in the chamber to please make sure their phones
32 are on silent? Thank you very much.
33 CATHAOIRLEACH: On to item number 5, which is: "To consider the Second
34 Chief Executive's Report on submissions made to the Proposed Material Alterations

1 to Proposed Variation No. 4 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028,
2 related to the Greystones-Delgany & Kilcoole Local Planning Framework
3 (previously circulated) and to consider making, not making or modifying the
4 Proposed Variation I Local Planning Framework (copy attached)."

5

6 So this item on the agenda relates to the making of Proposed Variation No. 4 to the
7 Wicklow County Development Plan, the Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole Local
8 Planning Framework. And you have all been provided with the Chief Executive's
9 submissions made on the proposed material alterations and today in accordance with
10 the Planning Act we will only be dealing with the proposed material alterations.

11

12 There are 37 alterations proposed for the draft LPF variation. The Elected Members
13 have to decide whether to make the proposed variation with or without the proposed
14 material alterations as published or with minor alterations. I would like to remind
15 the Members that where they are proposing to make a proposed material alteration or
16 a minor modification to one they need to clearly set out their reasons. If your
17 reasons are the same that you already set out at the Council meeting of the 6th of
18 October 2025 please just state that, and if you have any additional reasons please
19 clearly state them also. Each alteration also need to be seconded.

20

21 Two further modifications have been proposed for consideration today in addition to
22 those set out second Chief Executive's Report. They were emailed to you with the
23 agenda for the meeting and you have a hard copy in front of you. Reasons will need
24 to be given for the minor alterations when they are raised. The Members also have a
25 copy of the draft alterations and propose material alterations.

26

27 I am going to go to Helen first to read out the ethics involved.

28 MS PURCELL: I would like to remind the Elected Members that when a matter
29 comes before the meeting for consideration, if they or a connected person has a
30 beneficial interest they must disclose to the meeting the nature of the beneficial
31 interest before discussion or consideration of the matter commences. They must
32 fully withdraw from the meeting until the matter is concluded. They must also
33 inform the Council's Ethics Registrar in writing. The disclosure and absence of the
34 meeting will be recorded in the minutes and when the item is completed the Member

1 will be advised by telephone they can rejoin the meeting. Thank you.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going to hand over to the Director.

3 MS DENNEHY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Thank you, Members. So Proposed
4 Variation No. 4 which is in the Chief Executive's report has indicated 37 proposed
5 material amendments before you today. Initially I would like to thank the members
6 on Greystones on the Forward Planning Team. A number of workshops have been
7 held since the 6th of October in relation to these amendments. Your proposed
8 material amendments are listed in your full Chief Executive's Report on page 6 to 9
9 and secondly in the document given to everybody this afternoon for this meeting.

10

11 I will work through the material amendment numbers, I'll indicate CE
12 recommendation and then I'll move to the nominated councillor that proposed that
13 initial variation.

14

15 So we'll start. So amendment number 1 is: To vary Section 3.5 of Volume 1,
16 Chapter 3 of the Wicklow County Development Plan. The recommendation from the
17 CE is to proceed.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I have a proposer and a seconder for this one, please?
19 Councillor Scott has indicated to come in. Do you want to come in?

20 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Yeah. No, thanks, I'm happy to propose this and just
21 before we continue on just to kind of reiterate what Helena said and just to thank you
22 to the forward planning section for working with us. All of our six Greystones
23 councillors have worked quite hard on this since our last meeting, October the 6th,
24 and we have considered very carefully all the submissions that were received and we
25 read the CE's report very, very carefully, and in reaching our decisions today, just to
26 underline, that we have taken everything on board, we've had a number of workshops
27 and meetings ourselves as well and we are glad to get to this stage in the
28 proceedings. I am happy to propose alteration number 1.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. And seconded by Councillor Fortune. Is
30 everyone in agreement? (Agreed.)

31 MS DENNEHY: So amendment number 2 is: Amend Table 1B of the Wicklow
32 Core Strategy for Kilcoole. The Chief Executive recommends proceed as per report,
33 and it was Councillor Fortune.

34 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, yeah. Yeah, I proposed this at

1 the last meeting. As the chair of the district has said, we considered this very, very
2 thoroughly. I am proposing it today for the same reasons as at the meeting on the 6th
3 of October.

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Have we a seconder? Louise Fenelon Gaskin.
5 All agreed? (Agreed.)

6 MS DENNEHY: Item number 3: Amend opportunity site OP7 at Kilcoole Centre.
7 Again, the CE recommends proceed as per her report. That's Councillor Fortune
8 again.

9 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Yeah, thanks, Helena. Again I proposed this at the last
10 meeting and again all of the reports, as the chair has already said, we really spent an
11 awful lot of time going through this from every aspect. The driving force behind it
12 all was we were looking to see where we could get community gain and the best for
13 the community. Again I proposed it at the last meeting and again I have considered
14 everything, and I am proposing that for the same reasons as outlined on the 6th
15 October and proceeding as at the 6th October.

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Have we a seconder for that? Councillor Louise
17 Fenelon Gaskin. All agreed? (Agreed.)

18 MS DENNEHY: Item number 4. Material Amendment No. 4: Amend Opportunity
19 Site OP8 Kilcoole West at The Molly's. And the CE recommends proceed as per her
20 report.

21 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Yeah, sorry, thanks again. Again I am proposing as at
22 the last meeting. I considered everything and I am proposing for the same reasons as
23 outlined on the 6th of October.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Have we a seconder for that one? Louise
25 Fenelon Gaskin. And all agreed? (Agreed.)

26 MS DENNEHY: Item number 5: Amend Housing Targets and Extant Planning
27 Permission subsection. Again, the CE recommends proceed as per her report.
28 Councillor Scott.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Scott, do you want to come in there?

30 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Yeah, thank you. I am happy to propose this. I proposed
31 it at the previous meeting on October 6th, and taking everything into consideration
32 and reading the CE's report I am happy to propose it for the same reasons as outlined
33 previously.

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Have you a seconder for that? Councillor Louise Fenelon

1 Gaskin. All agreed? (Agreed.)

2 MS DENNEHY: Item number 6: Amend Housing Objective GDK16. And the CE's
3 recommendation is to proceed as per her report. That's Councillor Scott again.

4 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: And yeah, again I am happy to propose this again. I
5 proposed it on October 6th, and again having read the CE's report I am happy to go
6 ahead following the same reasons I previously outlined.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Have we a seconder for that one? Councillor Louise Fenelon
8 Gaskin. All agreed? (Agreed.)

9 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Cathaoirleach.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry. You will have to bear with me because actually it's
11 coming up that I am looking to speak. Did you want to come in on that previous
12 one?

13 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yes.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Is that okay, Helena?

15 MS DENNEHY: Yeah.

16 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. On a point of clarification, and I
17 know it is a long, drawn out process that the Municipal District councillors of
18 Greystones have been through, but where is Wicklow County Council in regards to
19 the process we're going through calling for vacant sites? We know the Minister,
20 Taoiseach, Tánaiste are looking for Priority 2 sites to go to Priority 1. And
21 Greystones is going through the process that we went through in Wicklow which is
22 there will be no Priority 2. I am just looking for clarification in regards to at least
23 75% of Priority 1 residential has to be developed before Priority 2 kicks in. But
24 there will be no Priority 2 if the feedback we're getting from the Department is that
25 Priority 2 sites must go to Priority 1 to meet our obligations to the core strategy
26 figures that's been given to us. While I don't want to interfere with this process, a
27 quick explanation and then we can move on.

28 MS O'GORMAN: A very valid point, Councillor Snell. So this process, as you well
29 know, started months and months and months. Last May I think we advertised. So
30 before the directions came and the change in the regulations came in July. This
31 process has to see its way through. There is a meeting scheduled for the 30th of
32 March which will deal with that phase two to phase one which will then supersede
33 anything on phase two here. As you rightly say, phase two, with the agreement of
34 the Members, will no longer be in play in the County Development Plan, so that

1 amendment at the special meeting on the 30th March if that goes through that will
2 override any decisions made here on phase two and phase one zoning. If you need
3 further clarification Sorcha will be able to do that for you.

4 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yes. Thanks, Chief Executive, for that explanation. Just
5 in regards to the 75%, that also will be superseded by what comes down the line in
6 March/April?

7 MS O'GORMAN: Yes.

8 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Thanks for the explanation.

9 MS O'GORMAN: So there will be a suite of proposals as you have seen I suppose in
10 the call for sites and in that variation number 6 as proposed, when that comes to you
11 that will deal with all of that. It will supersede any decisions around 75%, any
12 percentage planning achieved before you come to phase two because phase two will
13 not be in existence at that point.

14 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just to acknowledge the forward
15 planning team and to the Elected Members in the Greystones area it's very obvious
16 they worked together on this and I am thrilled to see the community gain for the
17 Greystones Municipal District, through the hard work of the Elected Members. So
18 the best of luck with this plan.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor Snell. We'll go back on to number 7.

20 MS DENNEHY: Material amendment number 7: This was amend zoning of lands
21 at Bellevue Demesne measuring circa 0.65 hectares from unzoned/outside the
22 settlement to R Special Residential. The proposed material amendment was
23 proposed by the Elected Members. The Chief Executive does not support the
24 proposals for reasons set out in the report. It was initially proposed by Councillor
25 Finn who is not in the chamber today and I understand Councillor Fenelon Gaskin is
26 taking that in place.

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin.

28 COUNCILLOR FENELOW GASKIN: Yes, Councillor Finn proposed it at the last
29 meeting and I seconded that motion. Today I am proposing this. I considered the
30 CE's report and recommendation, and I wish to propose that we make this proposed
31 material alteration as published for the same reasons outlined at the last meeting on
32 the 6th of October. I do not agree with the CE's recommendation for a modification
33 to the text with respect to the flood risk, however I feel that the County Development
34 Plan will cover any flood issues to do with this development.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. So we need a seconder. Councillor Fortune. All
2 agreed? (Agreed.)

3 MS DENNEHY: Okay. Material amendment number 8: Amend zoning of land at
4 Bellevue Demesne measuring 2.7 hectares from unzoned to Special Residential and
5 add additional housing objectives. Again the CE is not recommending material
6 amendment. However, where Members decide to proceed with the proposed
7 material amendment the CE is recommending a slight modification to the text.
8 That's Councillor Scott.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Scott, do you want to come in on that one?

10 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Yeah, thank you. I proposed this amendment the last time
11 and I would like to propose that we do proceed with the amendment. Again I have
12 read the CE's report and recommendation but I would like to propose that we
13 proceed as published for the same reasons that I outlined at the October 6th meeting.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Do you have a seconder for that? Councillor
15 Barry. Okay. We will go on to the next one. All agreed? (Agreed.)

16 MS DENNEHY: Thank you. Material amendment number 9: The CE recommends
17 add objectives to the housing objectives as listed, and to proceed as per report.
18 Proposer and seconder for that.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor
20 Fortune. All agreed? (Agreed.)

21 MS DENNEHY: Okay. Item number 10 material amendment: Again proposed by
22 the CE to amend objective GDK52, and the recommendation is to proceed as per
23 report. A proposer and a seconder.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposer? Proposed by Councillor Scott. Seconded by
25 Councillor Barry. All agreed? (Agreed.)

26 MS DENNEHY: Material amendment number 11: Proposed by the CE. Amend
27 objective GDK55 at Strawberry Lane, and the recommendation is to proceed as per
28 report. Proposer and seconder required.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed by Councillor Fortune, seconded by Councillor
30 Louise Fenelon Gaskin. All agreed? (Agreed.)

31 MS DENNEHY: Okay. Material amendment number 12: Amend Map No. 5
32 Transport Strategy and amend Infrastructure Objectives. The Chief Executive is not
33 recommending this material amendment. However, where Members decide to
34 proceed with the proposed material amendment the Chief Executive is

1 recommending a modification to text.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: So this was proposed by Councillor Fenelon Gaskin. Do you
3 want to come in on that?

4 MS DENNEHY: Sorry, Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin.

5 COUNCILLOR FENEYLON GASKIN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Yes, I proposed
6 this at the last meeting, and again I have considered the Chief Executive's Report and
7 recommendation and I wish to propose that we make this proposed material
8 alteration as published for the same reasons that I outlined at the last meeting on the
9 6th of October.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Seconder? Councillor Fortune. All agreed?

11 (Agreed.)

12 MS DENNEHY: Okay. Proposed amendment number 13: Amend Map No. 5
13 Transport Strategy and Infrastructure Objective of GDK59. The Chief Executive is
14 recommending proceed as per report.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Can we have a proposer and seconder for this one?

16 Councillor Scott and Councillor Barry. All agreed? (Agreed.)

17 MS DENNEHY: Okay. Material amendment number 14: Amend Map No. 5
18 Transport Strategy and Infrastructure Objectives for GD60. And again, the Chief
19 Executive recommends proceed as per her report. A proposer and seconder.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed by Councillor Fortune. Seconded by Councillor
21 Louise Fenelon Gaskin. Are all agreed? (Agreed.)

22 MS DENNEHY: Item number 15. Proposed amendment number 15: Amend
23 Infrastructure Objectives and specifically GDK64 Drainage Area Plan. And the
24 recommendation of the Chief Executive is proceed as per report. This was originally
25 Councillor Fortune.

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Fortune.

27 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Thanks. Again, yeah, I proposed this at the 6th of
28 October meeting and we have considered all of the inputs, had lots of discussion
29 around it, so I am proposing as of the 6th of October.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Have we a seconder? Councillor Scott. All
31 agreed? (Agreed.)

32 MS DENNEHY: Okay. Proposed amendment number 16: Add Infrastructure
33 Objective in the Local Transport Plan. And the recommendation of the Chief
34 Executive is to proceed as per report. A proposer and seconder required.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Scott and Councillor Barry. All agreed?
2 (Agreed.)

3 MS DENNEHY: Material amendment number 17: Add the Infrastructure
4 Objective. And again, recommend to proceed as per report. A proposer and
5 seconder required.

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Barry and Councillor Scott. All agreed?
7 (Agreed.)

8 MS DENNEHY: Proposed amend number 18: Amend Introduction and Specific
9 Local Objectives. The Chief Executive recommends to proceed as per report. A
10 proposer and seconder required.

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Scott and Councillor Barry. All agreed?
12 (Agreed.)

13 MS DENNEHY: Proposed amendment number 19: Amend Map No. 1 Land Use
14 Zoning and amend Specific Local Area Objective SLO4 for Coolagad. Further
15 modifications are proposed to the material amendment and the Chief Executive
16 recommends that these are considered by the Members. Councillor Scott.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Scott, do you want to come in on that one?
18 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Yeah, thank you. I proposed this one at the October the
19 6th meeting, and I have read all the submissions very thoroughly and the Chief
20 Executive's report. I would propose we still make this propose alteration, however I
21 have also proposed some alternative minor modifications which have been circulated
22 with the agenda prior to this meeting. My reasons for proposing the alternative
23 proposed alterations are on the back of considering submissions, considering what
24 was put in on those submissions and also just considering the practicalities of
25 delivering the projects. I would propose this alteration be made but with my
26 alternative minor modifications that have been circulated.

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: Have you a seconder for that? Councillor Stokes, are you
28 seconding that one?

29 COUNCILLOR STOKES: Yes, happy to second that.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Are all agreed? (Agreed.)

31 MS DENNEHY: Material amendment number 20: Amend zoning of land in
32 Kilcoole measuring 6.1 hectares from RN2 New Residential, Priority 2, to RN1 New
33 Residential, Priority 1, and SLO5, Bullford and boundary. There's two elements to
34 this. So Part A of it is that the Chief Executive is not recommending to proceed with

1 the zoning element and part B is to further modify and proceed. So further
2 modifications are proposed to the material amendment and the Chief Executive
3 recommends that these are considered by the Members in the review. So that's again
4 Councillor Fortune.

5 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Thanks. Again on section A, I proposed this at the last
6 meeting. Again I have considered all of the inputs, including the Chief Executive's
7 report, and I am proposing it proceed as decided on the 6th of October.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: And have you a seconder for that? Councillor Scott.

9 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: And then on the second part, on the slight
10 modification. The slight modification involves the centre going from 600 metres to
11 500, so I am proposing we reduce it to 500.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Have you a seconder for that? Councillor Barry. Okay. We
13 just want to clarify that.

14 MS WALSH: Just to clarify. The Chief Executive had recommended some minor
15 modifications to this amendment and if I understand correctly Councillor Fortune is
16 now proposing an alternative set of minor modifications which is in the pack that has
17 been circulated. The change essentially is to reduce the required size of the
18 community centre from 600 metres to 500 metres. I would suggest that Councillor
19 Fortune add a reason for that and then that will be a complete proposal.

20 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Yeah. Well, it's very simple the reason. Again in
21 considering the whole thing thoroughly we have had one or two similar situations in
22 different proposals and we collectively deemed that the 500 size was adequate.
23 Other than that we don't support any other modifications.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. All agreed? (Agreed.) Seconded by Councillor Barry.
25 So all agreed? (Agreed.)

26 MS DENNEHY: Thank you. Material amendment number 21: Amend SLO6 and
27 zoning and land at Ballydonarea from 0.35 hectares zoned Natural Areas to Existing
28 Residential and New Residential, Priority 2, and amend SLO6, Ballydonarea. So
29 again, this is in two parts. The Chief Executive is recommending not to proceed with
30 the zoning element and there is a further modification to the text. So further
31 modifications are proposed to the material amendment and the Chief Executive
32 recommends that these are considered by the Members. That's Councillor Stokes.

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Stokes.

34 COUNCILLOR STOKES: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I proposed this at the last

1 meeting and it received widespread support, majority support. I have considered the
2 Chief Executive's Report thoroughly and the recommendation, however I wish to
3 proceed -- or sorry, I wish to propose that we make this proposed material alteration
4 as published for the same reasons outlined at the last meeting on October 6th, 2025.
5 I do not agree with the Chief Executive's recommendation for a modification to the
6 text with respect to trees and hedgerows, because I believe that the area is suitably
7 protected under the County Development Plan. Go raibh maith agat, Cathaoirleach.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Scott, are you seconding that?

9 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Yeah, thank you. I don't support -- I agree with the Chief
10 Executive on this, as I did in the meeting on October 2nd, and I don't support making
11 this amendment. The Chief Executive has made it very clear in the report that these
12 lands have been surveyed and the open space area contains habitats of high
13 biodiversity value, and I would prefer to have the additional comfort that comes with
14 correct zoning in addition to the directives in our CDP on this so I won't be
15 supporting making this amendment or alteration.

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. So, councillor, we need a seconder for your proposal.
17 Councillor Barry. Then I think we will have to go to a vote.

18 MS PURCELL: So we are going to go to a vote in relation to amendment number
19 21. Is everybody clear what they're -- as published. Is everybody clear on what
20 they're voting on?

21 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: We're voting for Councillor Stokes.

22 MS PURCELL: As proposed by Councillor Stokes and seconded by Councillor
23 Barry.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Is everyone clear on that?

25 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah.

26 MS PURCELL: Okay. So if you are in favour as published please vote 'for' and if
27 you are against please vote 'against' vote for or against. Councillor Danny Alvey?

28 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: For.

29 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Mark Barry?

30 COUNCILLOR BARRY: For.

31 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Joe Behan?

32 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: For.

33 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Sylvester Bourke?

34 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: For.

1 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: For.

3 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Avril Cronin not present. Councillor Erika Doyle?

4 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Against.

5 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Malacháí Duddy?

6 COUNCILLOR DUDDY: For.

7 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Gail Dunne?

8 COUNCILLOR DUNNE: For.

9 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin?

10 COUNCILLOR FENELOW GASKIN: For.

11 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Orla Finn is not present. Councillor Pat

12 Fitzgerald? Not present. Councillor Tom Fortune?

13 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: For.

14 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Patsy Glennon? Not present. Councillor Pat

15 Kennedy?

16 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: For.

17 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Shane Langrell?

18 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: For.

19 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Peir Leonard?

20 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Against.

21 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Jason Mulhall? Not present. Councillor Jason

22 Mulhall?

23 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Against.

24 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Miriam Murphy?

25 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: For.

26 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Ian Neary?

27 COUNCILLOR NEARY: For.

28 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Paul O'Brien?

29 COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN: For.

30 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Gerry O'Neill? Not present. Councillor Warren

31 O'Toole?

32 COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: Against.

33 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Graham Richmond?

34 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: For.

1 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Lourda Scott?

2 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Against.

3 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor John Snell?

4 COUNCILLOR SNELL: For.

5 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Peter Stapleton?

6 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: For.

7 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Stephen Stokes?

8 COUNCILLOR STOKES: For.

9 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Ned Whelan?

10 COUNCILLOR WHELAN: For.

11 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Caroline Winstanley?

12 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: For.

13 MS PURCELL: Sorry, was that against?

14 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: For.

15 MS PURCELL: For. Thank you. So 20 for, 5 against and 6 not present. Thank you.

16 MS DENNEHY: Okay. Material amendment number 22: Amend zoning land at Delgany Convent lands and a change in zoning from Open Space to Existing Residential. So this recommendation, the CE recommendation here is to proceed. A proposer and seconder required.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Barry and Councillor Scott. All agreed?

18 (Agreed.)

19 MS DENNEHY: Material amendment number 23 is in two parts, A and B. So Part A: Amend zoning of land at Kilcoole measuring 0.8 hectares from unzoned/outside the settlement to New Residential, Priority 1, (5.69 hectares), OS1 Open Space (1.7 hectares), and OS2 Natural Areas (0.6 hectares), and add new Specific Local Objective SLO9. This proposed material amendment was proposed by the Elected Members. The Chief Executive does not support the proposal for reasons as set out in the report. That's 23A. And that's Councillor Fortune.

20 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Thanks again. On the first part of this, yeah, I proposed this at the last meeting and we gave this great discussion and considered everything that has been submitted on it but I am proposing we proceed as decided on the 6th of October.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Have you a seconder for that? Councillor Fenelon Gaskin.

1 MS DENNEHY: Sorry, councillor, we need a reason for that proposal, A.

2 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Well, can I deal with the second part and then I'll give
3 you the reasons why? Do you want the reasons now? I'll give the reasons now. The
4 reasons for it is: This is probably -- and I said this on the 6th of October. This is
5 probably the best project that's come to Kilcoole for years and years. It's a gateway
6 project into the village. It's very important for the added value for the village and the
7 community gain that we're going to get from it, so from the point of view of the
8 community it is literally a no-brainer and something that should have to happen.

9 MS WALSH: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Can I just come in there for a second?
10 What I understand Councillor Fortune is proposing is to not accept the Chief
11 Executive's recommendation for a minor modification. And the minor modification
12 the Chief Executive was recommending related to the location of community
13 facilities on the land. The Department of Local Housing, Local Government and
14 Heritage had raised concerns about the impact of locating community facilities to the
15 front of Darraghville House. I understand that Councillor Fortune doesn't agree with
16 that submission and doesn't want to support it, and just in relation to that aspect in
17 particular I believe he needs to set out his reason for that just to make it a complete
18 proposal.

19 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Yeah, the reasons I have already said are the reasons.
20 There's very unique community gain for the community. The whole front of that site
21 will become a public park. So really the way the proposal has been put forward by
22 us on the 6th of October, and it has the full support of all the Members, I am strongly
23 proposing that we proceed as of the 6th of October.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Are all agreed? We have a proposer and a seconder and we
25 are agreed. Okay.

26 MS DENNEHY: 23B. Sorry, 23B: Amend zoning of lands at Kilcoole measuring
27 1.5 hectares. And again as set out in the report, the recommendation from the CE is
28 to proceed as per the report. I need a proposer and seconder for that one, please.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposer and seconder, please. Proposed by Louise Fenelon
30 Gaskin, seconded by Councillor Barry. All agreed? (Agreed.)

31 MS DENNEHY: Material amendment number 24: As set out in the report. So in
32 this case the recommendation of the Chief Executive is to not proceed with material
33 amendment. However, where Members decide to proceed with the proposed
34 material amendment the CE is recommending a modification.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposer and seconder.

2 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Again, Cathaoirleach, I proposed this at the last
3 meeting. Again I and others have fully considered the CE's report and we wish to
4 make the proposal as published for the same reasons as outlined on the 6th of
5 October.

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Have we a seconder for that? Councillor Barry. All agreed?
7 (Agreed.)

8 MS DENNEHY: Okay. Material amendment number 25: Details as set out in the
9 report. And in this case the proposed material amendment was proposed by the
10 Elected Members. The Chief Executive does not support the proposal for reasons as
11 set out in the report. Councillor Fenelon Gaskin.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Fenelon Gaskin.

13 COUNCILLOR FENELOW GASKIN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Yes. I proposed
14 this at the last meeting and again I have considered the Chief Executive's report and
15 recommendations, and I wish to propose that we make this proposed material
16 alteration as published for the same reasons outlined in our meeting on the 6th of
17 October.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Have you a seconder for that? Councillor Scott. All agreed?
19 (Agreed.) Did you want to come in, Councillor Scott?

20 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: No.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Barry.

22 COUNCILLOR BARRY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Due to a potential conflict of
23 interest I need to excuse myself for the next proposal.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Thank you. We're all agreed on number 25? Okay.

25 MS DENNEHY: Material amendment number 26: So amend zoning of lands at
26 Bellevue Demesne measuring 12.5 hectares from unzoned/outside of the LPF
27 boundary to AOS Active Open Space and add new Specific Local Objective SLO12.
28 The Chief Executive is not recommending this material amendment. However,
29 where Members decide to proceed with the proposed material amendment the Chief
30 Executive is recommending a modification. And that was Councillor Finn, so
31 Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin, please.

32 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Scott.

33 MS DENNEHY: Councillor Scott.

34 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Yeah, thanks. I'd actually like to propose that we do not

1 proceed with this alteration in agreement with the Chief Executive. We had some I
2 suppose disagreement within our councillors in the October the 6th meeting on this
3 proposed amendment, and I suppose since then, taking into account and reading very
4 closely the submissions that have come through on this amendment, we have sat as a
5 group on the Greystones district, considered them very carefully and we're all in
6 agreement that we do not proceed with making this alteration.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: So we need a seconder for that then. Councillor Stokes. Are
8 all agreed? (Agreed.) Councillor Snell.

9 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Again, just clarification. I'm not sure what we're agreeing
10 on. My understanding is that's the land that Éire Óg Greystones had purchased with
11 the assistance of the Tánaiste to much fanfare. I am wondering what are we agreeing
12 to? I understand Councillor Scott's arguments but October was a long time ago. Just
13 for the Members who are not from the Greystones electoral area, what are we
14 agreeing to? Are we agreeing that there's nothing on these lands or what are you
15 talking about?

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: We will get that clarified now. Councillor Louise Fenelon
17 Gaskin, do you want to come in?

18 COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: Yeah, thanks, Cathaoirleach. I can clarify a
19 little bit more on that because I was the one who seconded that the last time, very
20 much supporting Éire Óg on that, but since that they're not proceeding with that site.
21 And I should add to it the site is not suitable for the grounds for several reasons and
22 also for access.

23 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Thanks for that clarification.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: So we are agreeing with the Chief Executive's
25 recommendation not to proceed. Okay.

26 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah, thanks.

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: All agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

28 MS PURCELL: We will bring Councillor Barry back in.

29 MS DENNEHY: Material amendment number 27: Amend zoning of lands at
30 Coolagad from RE Existing Residential and RN2 New Residential, Priority 2, to
31 AOS Active Open Space and RN1 New Residential, Priority 1, and add new Specific
32 Local Objective, SLO 13. This again is in two parts. So Part A, the Chief Executive
33 is recommending to proceed with the zoning piece; and part B, not to proceed with
34 the remainder. So the Chief Executive is not recommending the material amendment

1 part B. However, where Members decide to proceed with PMA the CE is
2 recommending a slight modification. And that is Councillor Stokes.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Stokes.

4 COUNCILLOR STOKES: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I actually proposed this at the
5 last meeting back in October. I have considered the Chief Executive's report and
6 recommendation, and I wish to propose that we make this proposed material
7 alteration as published for the same reasons outlined at the last meeting on October
8 6th of last year. I believe that this is a relatively compact site and it will be suitable
9 for a housing development.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Have you a seconder for that one? Councillor
11 Fenelon Gaskin. Are all agreed? (Agreed.)

12 MS DENNEHY: Okay. Material amendment number 28: So amend zoning of land
13 at Priestnewtown measuring 0.14 hectares from unzoned/outside settlement LPF
14 boundary to RN1, New Residential, Priority 1. The proposed material amendment
15 was proposed by the Elected Members. The Chief Executive does not support the
16 proposal for reasons as set out in the report. And that was Councillor Fortune.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Fortune, sorry.

18 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Yeah, I proposed this at the
19 October meeting, and I have considered all of the commentary around it and all of
20 the details from the CE and I am proposing that we proceed for the same reasons
21 outlined on the 6th of October.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: And have you a seconder for that? Councillor Scott. Are all
23 agreed? (Agreed.)

24 MS DENNEHY: Material amendment number 29: Amend zoning of land at
25 Farrankelly measuring 0.24 hectares from a partially unzoned/outside settlement and
26 partially RE Existing Residential to New Residential, Priority 1. The proposed
27 material amendment was proposed by the Elected Members. The Chief Executive
28 does not support the proposal for reasons as set out in the report. And that was
29 Councillor Finn originally proposed, so Councillor Fenelon Gaskin.

30 COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: Thank you. Yes, this was proposed by us at
31 the last meeting, and we've considered the Chief Executive's report and
32 recommendation, and I wish to propose that we make this proposed material
33 alteration as published for the same reasons that were outlined at the last meeting on
34 the 6th of October.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Seconded by Councillor Fortune then. Are all
2 agreed? (Agreed.)

3 MS DENNEHY: Material amendment number 30: Amend zoning of land at
4 Killincarrig measuring 0.5 hectares from AOS Active Open Space to RS Special
5 Residential. Again the proposed material amendment was proposed by the Elected
6 Members. The Chief Executive does not support the proposal for reasons as set out
7 in the report, and that was originally Councillor Scott.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Scott.

9 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Yeah, thank you. Yeah, I proposed this in the meeting on
10 October the 6th, and having considered the Chief Executive's report and
11 recommendations I would like to propose that we continue to make this alteration as
12 published for the same reasons that I outlined previously.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Have you a seconder for that? Councillor Barry.
14 All agreed? (Agreed.)

15 MS DENNEHY: Material amendment number 31: Amend zoning of land at
16 Bellevue Demesne measuring 0.6 hectares from unzoned/outside the LPF boundary
17 to Existing Residential. The proposed material amendment was proposed by the
18 Elected Members. The Chief Executive does not support the proposal for reasons as
19 set out in the report. Councillor Scott.

20 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Yeah, thanks. Yeah, and again I proposed this at the
21 previous meeting and I wish to propose that we make this alteration as published.
22 Again, having read the Chief Executive's report and sat down and considered it I just
23 maintain to make the amendment following the same reasons that I outlined on
24 October the 6th.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, and have you a seconder for that? Councillor
26 Fenelon Gaskin. All agreed? (Agreed.)

27 MS DENNEHY: Material amendment number 32: To amend the zoning lands at
28 Sea Road measuring approximately 0.42 hectares from unzoned/outside the LPF
29 boundary to New Residential, Priority 1. The proposed material amendment was
30 proposed by the Elected Members. The Chief Executive does not support the
31 proposal for the reasons as set out in the report. That was originally Councillor
32 Fortune.

33 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Thanks again, Cathaoirleach. I proposed this on the
34 6th of October, and I have considered all of the submissions and I am proposing that

1 we proceed as outlined at the meeting on the 6th of October.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Have we a seconder for that? Councillor Scott. All agreed?

3 (Agreed.)

4 MS DENNEHY: Material amendment number 33: So that is to amend Map No. 3 to
5 add amenity routes listed in Objective GDK55. The recommendation of the Chief
6 Executive is to proceed as per the report. A proposer and a seconder.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Fortune and Councillor Scott. All agreed?

8 (Agreed.)

9 MS DENNEHY: Material amendment number 34: Update Appendix 3, the
10 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. And again, the Chief Executive is recommending
11 to proceed as per report. A proposer and a seconder.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: A proposer and a seconder, please. Councillor Scott and
13 Councillor Fenelon Gaskin. All agreed? (Agreed.)

14 MS DENNEHY: Material amendment number 35: Update Appendix 6
15 Infrastructure Assessment and Implementation Programme to include additional
16 Delgany Footpaths Map. Again, the Chief Executive is recommending to proceed as
17 per report. A proposer and seconder required.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Fortune and Councillor Fenelon Gaskin. All
19 agreed? (Agreed.)

20 MS DENNEHY: Material amendment number 36: Update Appendix 6,
21 Infrastructure Assessment and Implementation Programme to amend Implementation
22 and Infrastructure Delivery Schedule Table. The recommendation of the Chief
23 Executive is to proceed as per the report. And a proposer and seconder required.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Fenelon Gaskin and Councillor Scott. All agreed?
25 (Agreed.)

26 MS DENNEHY: Material amendment number 37: Again, update Appendix 6,
27 Infrastructure Assessment and Implementation Programme to amend Infrastructure
28 Assessment and Requirements for Key Development Areas Identified as SLOs. The
29 recommendation of the Chief Executive is to proceed as per report. And a proposer
30 and seconder required.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Fenelon Gaskin and Councillor Fortune. All
32 agreed? (Agreed.)

33 MS DENNEHY: I will just hand back now to the meeting's administrator for the
34 final piece.

1 MS PURCELL: Now we have our vote. It's on the County Development Plan
2 2022-2028, Variation No. 4, Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole Local Planning
3 Framework Proposal.

4

5 "Having considered the Variation/Local Planning Framework, the Proposed Material
6 Alterations, the Chief Executive's Reports on Consultations and
7 - The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report for the
8 Draft LPF/Variation;
9 - The Appropriate Assessment (AA) Natura Impact Report and associated AA
10 Screening Determination for the Draft LPF/Variation;
11 - The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for the Draft LPF/Variation;
12 - The SEA Environmental Report for the Proposed Material Alterations and
13 associated SEA Screening Determination (Addendum 1 to the Draft SEA
14 Environmental Report);
15 - The Appropriate Assessment (AA) Natura Impact Screening Report for the
16 Proposed Material Alterations and associated Appropriate Assessment Screening
17 Determination (Addendum 1 to the Draft Natura Impact Report);
18 - The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for the Proposed Material Alterations
19 (Addendum 1 to the Draft SFRA);
20 - Written submissions relating to SEA, AA and SFRA made during the
21 LPF/Variation preparation process;
22 - Ongoing advice on SEA, AA and SFRA from the Council's agents/staff;
23 - The final, consolidated Appropriate Assessment (AA) Natura Impact Report;
24 - The final Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination

25

26 in accordance with the provisions of Section 13(6) of the Planning and Development
27 Act 2000 (as amended), the members agree, by resolution, to make Variation No. 4
28 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028/the Greystones-Delgany &
29 Kilcoole Local Planning Framework

30

31 - with those proposed alterations that have been agreed today;
32 - with those proposed alterations that have been agreed to make with minor
33 modifications today;
34 - without those proposed alterations that were not agreed today;

1 - with any changes consequent required as result of the agreed alterations and with
2 any minor data or document updates that have arisen during the adoption of the
3 planning framework/Variation

4

5 and to proceed in accordance with Section 13(8) of the Planning and Development
6 Act 2000 (as amended) to publish notice of the making of the Variation."

7

8 I need a proposer and a seconder, and then there will be a vote.

9 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Proposed.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Fenelon Gaskin, you've indicated to speak.

11 COUNCILLOR FENEYLON GASKIN: No, sorry.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: No. So Councillor Fortune and seconded by Councillor
13 Louise Fenelon Gaskin. All agreed? (Agreed.)

14 MS PURCELL: We go to a vote. So are you all clear on what you're voting for? So
15 if you are in favour please vote 'for' and if you are against go 'against'. Councillor
16 Danny Alvey?

17 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: For.

18 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Mark Barry?

19 COUNCILLOR BARRY: For.

20 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Joe Behan?

21 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: For.

22 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Sylvester Bourke?

23 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: For.

24 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: For.

26 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Avril Cronin is not present. Councillor Erika
27 Doyle?

28 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: For.

29 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Malachaí Duddy?

30 COUNCILLOR DUDDY: For.

31 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Gail Dunne?

32 COUNCILLOR DUNNE: For.

33 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin?

34 COUNCILLOR FENEYLON GASKIN: For.

1 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Orla Finn is not present. Councillor Pat Fitzgerald
2 is not present. Councillor Tom Fortune?

3 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: For.

4 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Patsy Glennon?

5 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: For.

6 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Pat Kennedy?

7 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: For.

8 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Shane Langrell?

9 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: For.

10 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Peir Leonard?

11 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: For.

12 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Pat Mahon?

13 COUNCILLOR MAHON: For.

14 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Jason Mulhall?

15 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: For.

16 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Miriam Murphy?

17 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: For.

18 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Ian Neary?

19 COUNCILLOR NEARY: For.

20 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Paul O'Brien?

21 COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN: For.

22 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Gerry O'Neill? Not present. Councillor Warren
23 O'Toole?

24 COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: For.

25 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Graham Richmond?

26 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: For.

27 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Lourda Scott?

28 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: For.

29 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor John Snell?

30 COUNCILLOR SNELL: For.

31 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Peter Stapleton?

32 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: For.

33 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Stephen Stokes?

34 COUNCILLOR STOKES: For.

1 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Ned Whelan?

2 COUNCILLOR WHELAN: For.

3 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Caroline Winstanley?

4 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: For.

5 MS PURCELL: For. 27 in favour and 4 not present. Thank you.

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: We will bring the Chief Executive in on that.

7 MS O'GORMAN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I just want to say, express my sincere
8 thank you to all the Members of Greystones Municipal District, to Helena and
9 Sorcha and all the forward planning team, the staff for their work. I know we have
10 been doing an awful lot of work on the planning area and it is going to continue for
11 the next number of months, so your forbearance is greatly appreciated, Members,
12 and we will try and get through the next series of processes as we have done today.
13 Thank you very much, Members.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Chief Executive. Yes, I think I'd just echo those
15 comments to commend the Greystones councillors on all their work together and the
16 forward planning team and everybody on their work on it. So we will go onto the
17 next item on the agenda which is item --

18 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Cathaoirleach.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry. Councillor Snell. Sorry, it's coming up as a different
20 name.

21 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I think someone has took the bulb
22 out of that up there! It's not flashing. But again just to say well done to everybody.
23 But could we have a ballpoint figure in regards to the land that's been brought into
24 residential now, a rough account of how much extra land is being brought into the
25 residential for the folio of the Greystones Municipal District? And also, is the
26 figures based on 50 units per hectare or is it less? Like, so in other words, how many
27 extra residential units is going into the Greystones Municipal District after today's
28 decision? And also, just in regards to the land mass we're talking about, hectares
29 wise, per hectare? If the figures are readily available or to hand I'd appreciate if we
30 could have the figures now, if they're not could they be sent out to us? I just want to
31 get a -- obviously the general public will want to know how many units are we
32 talking about extra in regards to housing? We hear a lot about housing crisis. How
33 many more units are we bringing into the Greystones, Kilcoole, Delgany area? And
34 also is it based on 50 units per hectare or is it based 30 units or 35 units per hectare?

1 And that's important because if it's 50 per hectare it is high density, it is duplexes,
2 apartments. There is a strategy that's clearly outlined from the Department as
3 regards to close proximity to the likes of the DART, bus routes and everything else.
4 I know you're dealing with a village, you're dealing with a very large town, but just a
5 rough guide on after today's decision by the 32 councillors what are we talking about
6 in regards to a ballpoint figure in regards to residential units? Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor Snell. I am going to bring in
8 Councillor Scott as well, and then I will go back to the Director.

9 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. And I don't want to take up too
10 much time but I just wanted to thank my fellow Elected Members of the Greystones
11 district again for working so closely and for putting in innumerable hours in working
12 to get what I think is a very fair and reasonable Local Area Plan. We worked hard
13 together to get as much community gain for our constituents as we possibly can and
14 we appreciate the hard work that the forward planners put in with us to try and get
15 what we could in that. I think Councillor Snell is hitting on a good point, because I
16 am very aware that as we have made our decision today, we have made our plan,
17 we're immediately into further discussions of different issues around zonings and
18 housing numbers, et cetera, which we will be going back and putting our heads
19 together and discussing over the next few months. But as of today, as I said, I want
20 to underpin that we have worked very hard listening to the needs of our community
21 in particular around the community gain and infrastructure as well as delivering
22 much needed housing.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor Scott. Councillor Stokes.

24 COUNCILLOR STOKES: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, and just to say briefly a big
25 thank you to the planning team, you know, for all of their hard work. They were
26 always available for us, and to all of my councillor colleagues. It was a great
27 pleasure to work with everybody together, and in particular to the Cathaoirleach of
28 the Greystones district Lourda Scott who took point on a lot of things. I said in
29 October, it was very true, that I think I saw the other councillors more often than my
30 mother, you know, for quite a number of weeks, but it was a very good exercise
31 coming together. Thank you to Councillor Finn who even cooked us dinner one
32 night, you know, when we had a long meeting. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin.

34 COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Yeah, I'm just

1 echoing what my fellow councillors have said and to thank Sorcha, Michael and all
2 the planning team who any time we wanted they were on hand and gave us great
3 advice, even though they didn't agree with us on a lot, on some things, but they were
4 always listening to us and explained everything. It was my first Local Area Plan, so
5 I had a lot to learn. So they were more than helpful, so I really appreciate the time
6 they gave. And also to the Chief Executive for giving her reasons for everything,
7 because it's an important exercise. And we did put a huge amount of time into it and
8 gave it up, and through what was meant to be our summer holidays we all gave our
9 time up for that.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Fortune.

11 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I would like to extend
12 thanks to the planning team, headed up by Sorcha and Helena. I must say the
13 process was very intense and detailed. There was a lot of thought put into the whole
14 thing. I would like to thank Cathaoirleach Lourda and my fellow councillors. The
15 whole driving force, and we said this to the planners, was to try and get some real,
16 proper community gain for the communities we represent. Because it's the only
17 option open to public reps now to try and get proper infrastructure the way the
18 system seems to operate. I think it was a great exercise and I think the outcome has
19 been very good, and hopefully we'll see the benefit over the next number of years.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Barry.

21 COUNCILLOR BARRY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. And I would just like to echo
22 the words of my fellow councillors as well and thank the entire planning team for the
23 tireless work they put in supporting us through the process. It was a very valuable
24 process; it gave great knowledge of our area and a look forward into the potential
25 that there is in Greystones and Kilcoole, and where we could find gain for our
26 community organisations which was very important as they had been in making
27 representation to us at a number of our meetings and have highlighted the dire need
28 for more facilities and this was an opportunity for us as councillors to come together
29 to try and meet those needs. I'd also like to thank our Cathaoirleach Lourda who
30 brought us together and who took the lead and it was great for us all to work
31 together. So thank you very much.

32 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. And I am going to ask the Director just to clarify
33 those queries that you have.

34 MS DENNEHY: We don't have that data in front of us today in relation to the

1 number of hectares, the number of residential units, et cetera. So following today's
2 amendments, adopted amendments, we will put all that information together and we
3 will do a report and issue it to all the Members in relation to same.

4 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Thank you.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. We will move onto the next item on the agenda
6 which is item number 6: "To note Wicklow County Council Audit Committee end
7 of year report 2025 (copy attached)." So if any of the Members have any queries for
8 Director Brian Gleeson. Okay. Well, that's just for noting. We don't need a
9 proposer or seconder. We will just take that as noted. Thank you.

10

11 The next item then is: "To consider and approve the policy on the sale of Council
12 owned void stock (copy attached)." I am going to go to Director Michael Nicholson
13 on that.

14 MR NICHOLSON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Members will probably be aware we
15 have been selling the occasional vacant/derelict house for the past number of years
16 from our social stock. These came before you under the normal disposal procedure.
17 We also sell around ten to 15 social houses every year under the tenant purchase
18 schemes as well. So it is normal practice for a housing authority to dispose of former
19 social stock. The Housing SPC have been very anxious for some time to formalise
20 the disposal of particularly derelict properties. The feeling of the SPC was that the
21 absence of a formal procedure wasn't good governance and they decided they would
22 come up with one. So over a number of meetings the Housing SPC gave
23 considerable thought to the policy under the leadership of our chair, Councillor
24 Graham Richmond. And while it may seem somewhat counterintuitive to be
25 disposing of Council stock in the middle of housing shortage there are very strong
26 social and economic reasons for doing so. Firstly, the stock in question would be in
27 a very dilapidated condition and incapable of being returned to a habitable condition
28 without spending significant sums of money, money we don't have. And it wouldn't
29 even make sense if we had the money because the properties are so bad that it would
30 cost more to make them right than the property is probably worth. In fact, I sent the
31 Members out some photographs of the types of properties we have in mind, and you
32 can clearly see most of them are very, very isolated, very derelict, and would cost an
33 awful lot to put right.

34

1 So the following are the advantages of disposing of such dilapidated stock on the
2 open market: The Council won't have to spend money from its housing maintenance
3 budget on turning these properties around; the properties will also be available to
4 purchase for those currently priced out of the housing marked as the properties due
5 to their condition will more than likely be very inexpensive; the purchasers of the
6 properties will be able to avail of a myriad of grants to furnish the property, in some
7 cases up to €80,000, which we cannot avail of, thereby reducing the cost of
8 refurbishing the property; and then the proceeds from the sale of the properties can
9 be used by the Housing Directorate as part of its Internal Capital Receipts
10 Programme. As you all know, the sale of all council houses under the Tenant
11 Purchase Scheme go into this fund and this will then be used to top-up that fund.
12 Then we can use that fund for things like disabled person's grants, energy efficiency
13 works, planned maintenance of a capital nature, such as windows and door
14 replacement programme, et cetera, et cetera. We have a number of projects planned
15 for 2026 and these projects depend on internal capital receipts. In Greystones MD,
16 for example, we have the Farrankelly Window and Doors Programme. In Bray MD
17 we have an expensive attic conversion to complete. In Wicklow MD we have
18 Hillview estate to remediate hopefully with grant aid also from the Department. And
19 then in Baltinglass and Arklow MDs we are trying to carry out conditional surveys
20 on a number of estates in these MDs that also require planning maintenance.

21
22 If the policy is agreed, it's the intention to review it after 12 months and to make a
23 report back to the Housing SPC to consider how it worked in practice and to make
24 changes to the policy if any issues arose during the 12 months. We consider this also
25 to be a prudent approach. And I suppose the most important point is, it is entirely a
26 matter for the Members of this Council at plenary to dispose of any property. So the
27 SPC make recommendations, it is entirely a matter for you at the end of the day to
28 sell or not to sell any Council property. So I would ask the Members for their
29 support in agreeing with this policy. Thank you.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Gail Dunne.

31 COUNCILLOR DUNNE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. And thank, Michael, for the
32 presentation. I agree with this. I think an empty house is no good to anyone. Many
33 years ago we used to have a crew of people who used to go around doing up houses,
34 building houses, under Brian Grennon. I suppose any of us who are here long

1 enough will remember that. I think this is a good idea. You're bringing property
2 back into stock that normally wouldn't be done, probably be left there, and there's so
3 many grants now going with ESB here, everywhere there's grants going. I think give
4 an opportunity to people to go and build their own house. I always say, some of the
5 best schemes, the affordable housing we have, I know it is not affordable housing but
6 it is something that you could mirror towards that sort of thing. I am fully in support
7 of this so I will be supporting it. Thank you, Director.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. There's a few speakers, so I am going to take
9 them three at a time. Councillor Warren O'Toole.

10 COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, and thanks, Michael. Can we
11 get clarification on some of the things there, because going around the district you
12 can see plenty of derelict houses and I am just wondering how many properties are
13 currently on the Council's books as stock? Also, how long has each of these
14 properties been vacant? What kind of cost or threshold is used to classify a
15 property? I know looking at the units that they are in a dilapidated state, but is there
16 a certain threshold? If these properties are to be sold on the open market can we
17 prioritise that they're sold to local people, or I know it's said without any kind of
18 obstructions but can we concentrate on maybe local people? The proceeds of the
19 funds, saying it's ring-fenced for housing repairs in each MD, will that be -- you did
20 say that was going into a central pot, so will that be kind of split out over the whole
21 county? So if there's certain areas being sold off will they see any of the benefits of
22 that? That's it. Thanks.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Silvester Bourke.

24 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I am generally supportive of
25 this. I think I support it the last time we did some disposals but problems can occur,
26 and I'd just caution that it's not simple and straightforward especially with title. And
27 I think there's a complaint from somebody who did get to buy one of these near
28 Aughrim before, a couple of years ago, still hasn't got possession of it. I think maybe
29 their deposit has been sent back to them, I think. So it's not simple and
30 straightforward. And I would just echo what Councillor Warren O'Toole said there,
31 that it is important that people who get access to these are local people, preferably on
32 the housing list and have the means to be able to remedy the houses because it could
33 be expensive. And it could leave itself open to abuse. For example, there is a
34 scheme out there that if somebody offers a house, a dilapidated house to the Council

1 to rent, they can actually get a grant from the Council to do it up first and the Council
2 give them a reduced rent for a longer period of time, and could it be left open to
3 abuse in that sense? I just pose the question, that's all.

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Do you want to come back in on those three
5 comments, queries?

6 MR NICHOLSON: Yeah, sure. Councillor O'Toole, at the moment we have the
7 three properties, the three I sent you out in the photographs. I don't imagine we'll
8 have very many any one year because most the properties we get back we turn
9 around very, very quickly. It is only when we get a property back that's in such a
10 poor state it's going to cost. A lot of these have been vacant for quite some years and
11 we weren't quite sure what to do with them, to be honest with you. We didn't have
12 the money to fix them up and that's why the SPC have come up with this
13 recommendation that we dispose of them. We don't have a set financial threshold,
14 but a lot of these houses would cost in the region of a hundred grand to put right and
15 that's a huge amount of money to take from our scant resources in relation to our
16 maintenance. I have checked the position with the law agent; we can't restrict -- it's a
17 free market, we can't restrict to any particular. But we have agreed to review it after
18 a year and bring the report back to the SPC and to see who actually did buy them,
19 and we can make amendments at that stage if we feel it isn't targeting the right
20 people. The money will be ring-fenced for capital projects in the county. We won't
21 be ring-fencing it for a particular MD, but it will be for all the MDs. So as I
22 mentioned, we already have projects lined up in the MDs as it happens.

23

24 That Aughrim issue, Councillor Bourke, has been resolved. That house has been
25 sold. There's no issue there. Yeah, we are conscious of the fact that of course it
26 could be open to abuse and we watch that very carefully. That's not the intention.
27 And we can react very quickly if we see that problem arising. So that's it.

28 MS O'GORMAN: Just to add, just on the local need piece. Our planning restrictions
29 around local need and if somebody is going to get planning permission to do
30 anything to modify a house, if it's a one-off rural house, which most of these are,
31 they need to be from the local environment as you know through our Development
32 Plan. That is kind of copper fastened in that. So there is an element of protection
33 through the planning process anyway, but as Michael said the prudent thing would
34 be review any policy within the year and look and see if there's any issues arising

1 from that.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Peter Stapleton.

3 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Yeah, I'm hugely
4 supportive of this policy and indeed I expressed my frustration before that it is taking
5 so long in us getting it from the SPC to here. Just for the Members' benefit, we
6 discussed this policy at the Housing SPC in November 2024. So long over a year
7 ago. And in that time when you're talking about these derelict houses, I actually
8 didn't see the houses in the report because I had issues with a laptop, but it's for
9 another day, but I assume a house within Barton Street in Tinahely was within that
10 pack and that house has been sitting idle for over four years now. I literally about
11 half an hour ago got a WhatsApp message from the people living beside it with three
12 dead rats on a shovel that have been running throughout the building in all that time.
13 Any steps we take within this policy to make sure that we get that house off the
14 Council's books and get someone living in it is a positive step. And just following on
15 that, I actually think we should be going further, and I raised this before, that I know
16 in Wexford County Council they have been quite successful in buying up derelict
17 houses that are owned privately and selling them back to the public that way as an
18 extra set to get vacant stock into use again. So no, fully support the motion, but
19 notwithstanding the disappointment I have that it took this long to get it here.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor John Snell.

21 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, and thanks to the Director of
22 Housing for not just his explanations today but also what he sent out during the week
23 prior to this meeting. I do have to say though the optics of this is not great, that as a
24 Local Authority we're selling off housing units to pay for to carry out repairs on
25 windows and doors on some of our own stock. And I have no doubt there'll be
26 people out there trying to make headlines out of that, but I fully understand where
27 the Director is coming from and the difficulties that he has, and also through the
28 SPC. I know they would have discussed it at length but for me I do think that despite
29 the law agent's interpretation of, you know, who we can and can't sell to, I think we
30 can put in a couple of options, and we should have options in there, if it's done on a
31 point system that people who are on the housing, social housing list, are people who
32 are trying to avail to try to get on the property ladder who intend in living these
33 houses themselves should be given priority, and we could have specified that in how
34 we advertised it and how we judge what comes back. I think a lot of people will be

1 opposed to speculators, builders coming in, putting in low bids for property from the
2 Local Authority, turn around and making vast sums of money. I suppose there is the
3 other side: people will say, well, they took a gamble on it. To me it's not a gamble.
4 To me, these houses -- and we've proved it in the past. If you look at what happened
5 when Wicklow County Council decided to make an appeal to the Department on a
6 similar house that we advertised for sale we got very little interest from it, and
7 Ballinabarney, the Blackhill, it's between Rathnew and Glenealy, we actually got
8 funding from Central Government to knock the house and we built two bungalows
9 there to meet people's needs from the rural area who otherwise wouldn't have been
10 able to live in the rural area and rear their families where they came from. Another
11 example is Knockrow which is between Kilcoole and Greystones. Sites there was
12 utilised, maximised, and we have special units in there to meet families' needs that
13 ordinarily we couldn't achieve that through our natural housing stock. I would ask
14 the question in regards to -- and thanks to the Director for sending out the couple of
15 examples of houses that could potentially be up for this scheme, and I would ask for
16 clarification in regards to the Mill Road. If it's the Mill Road in Greystones, and I'm
17 only assuming it's Greystones because I don't know of another Mill Road, but sites in
18 Greystones alone, irrespective of the house, the house is knocked, sites in Greystones
19 achieve an awful lot of money. So I for one would be scrutinising all of these that
20 come before us under section 183 that we as the Local Authority decide on whether
21 you sell or you don't sell. And we're maximising the best return for the taxpayer.
22 And I think these will have to be utilised and looked as they come in front of us, and
23 the Director says that's what will happen. It's not good enough just to say that we
24 don't have a say in this, that the law agent is implying that we cannot sell it to
25 specific people. I think we can. And I think we can put in safeguards there.
26

27 There is young families out there trying to get on the property ladder who might have
28 the expertise within their family circle or their wider community circle to turn these
29 houses around, and it's very, very difficult for the Local Authority to do that. So I
30 agree with what the Local Authority is proposing because I've seen it in the past in
31 regards older units where they don't have the proper damp proof course underneath
32 the foundations, but yet some houses that have been sold can't be turned around.
33 There is families out there purchasing older houses all the time, older Local
34 Authority houses built in the 1930s, '40s and '50s, and indeed I'm sure there's people

1 in this chamber have been reared in houses like that, and their families probably still
2 live in houses like that, with modern building regulations and the materials that are
3 available out there you can bring a house up to a very, very good standard and
4 liveable, but unfortunately through lack of support from Central Government this
5 Local Authority can't do that.

6

7 I don't concur with the line that was in the report that we got that we're trying to
8 maximise our in-house technical people who want to develop a vast amount of units
9 rather than developing one and two units. Because the one and two units that we're
10 talking about with families with special needs, with people from the rural area with
11 members of the travelling community who want to live in a rural community where
12 they can put in multiple sites, we should be -- as a Local Authority our obligation is
13 to everybody who's on the social housing list and we can't pick and choose. We
14 want to go for multiple units, we want to go for the site with a hundred houses as
15 opposed to the houses who are out there on our social waiting list with kids with
16 special needs who might need bungalows, and some of these sites might be ideal for
17 that. I'd ask you to be mindful of that.

18

19 I will support this. The Director of Services, I think you know you're doing an
20 excellent job there but as I say I do think that we have options in regards to the
21 selling of these sites and we should look at it a little bit more closely and perhaps
22 maybe run it back to the SPC to take it on board. I'm not saying they haven't already,
23 but I do think there should be clauses in this.

24

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Peir Leonard online.

25

26 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Yes, look it, I would be
27 supportive of this. Anything that can get more houses brought in, even in the private
28 realm. But I would have concerns over, as mentioned previously, about prospectors,
29 and you know it would be important for me that these houses go to people from the
30 local area and not just people that looking to sit on another site for years. Like, for
31 instance, Arklow Main Street has just become a bank basically at the detriment of the
32 community really. So it would be important to safeguard that they aren't left vacant
33 once they're sold, and just maybe I don't know whether some policy can be put into
the provisions that they have to be regenerated within a certain period of time.

34

1 Then also I don't know whether I can propose that any money that is made from
2 these properties in each MD should be retained for that MD. Because we have older
3 housing estates and a lot of them actually have timber windows, Woodbrook for
4 instance, there's a lot of housing stock there that really do need -- and it's probably on
5 the Director's list, but I would really urge some immediate action on those houses
6 because they're in an awful state and the mould and damp are coming in because of
7 the windows and doors, they all need to be replaced. So if you can ring-fence any
8 vacant units that are being sold in the Arklow MD to go back into the houses in
9 Arklow that would be great if you could propose that. Thank you.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I will go back to the Director on those three.

11 MR NICHOLSON: It has taken a while to get it from the SPC to this. Obviously it
12 is not something that we were going to rush through. We had to give it an awful lot
13 of thought. And we have given it an awful lot of thought. The first thing we had to
14 do was see was there any interest from my colleague in the Housing Capital
15 Programme because obviously we won't bring the houses for sale if we have any use
16 for them ourselves. We also had to go through the LDA to make sure they weren't
17 interested. So we have done all that due diligence before we even brought it here.
18 Now we have done all that we're now at a stage to bring it to yourselves for
19 recommendation.

20

21 Barton Street, Tinahely, is on the list. It wasn't one of the photographs sent out but it
22 is definitely on the list, I can assure you of that.

23

24 The buying of derelict properties, that's a different matter completely. That's our
25 capital side. And I know they occasionally do that. That is a matter for Joe and his
26 team.

27

28 Councillor Snell, he'll be watching this carefully. I'm delighted to hear that, because
29 I want the Members to watch this carefully. That's your job. I want you to explore
30 all the disposals and make you are happy before we sell any property, and all that's
31 exactly what I would expect from all the Elected Members. Mill Road, Greystones,
32 is on it. That's in particularly bad condition. It is a very difficult site. Again we
33 have no interest in developing the site because of its particular size and topography.

34

1 So prospectors. I mean the reason why I am suggesting bringing it back to the SPC
2 after a year is to look and see what actually happened with the houses we did sell,
3 who bought them.

4

5 I didn't say that the law agent said we couldn't sell them to anybody. We can't
6 restrict the sale to a particular cohort of people. Because of the free market we can't
7 specify that they can only be bought by a certain person or certain types of people.
8 Although we will obviously keep a very close eye when they go to market.

9

10 As regards time limit, that's a very good idea. We will see can we put a time limit,
11 that someone can't buy the house and sit on it for a long time. That's not a bad idea.

12

13 As regards the proceeds. We have an internal capital receipts, capital code and all of
14 these sales of tenant purchase houses goes into that code. This will simply
15 supplement this code. We don't restrict a particular house in a particular area to that
16 area. It all goes into the internal capital receipts. But as I mentioned earlier, we do
17 have projects in each of the five MDs as it happens and no doubt we will have more
18 projects in each of the five MDs as we go forward. And I will certainly look at those
19 houses you mentioned, Councillor Leonard. Thank you.

20 MS O'GORMAN: Just on the conditions that Councillor Leonard mentioned about
21 properties being developed. I have certainly drafted sections 183s in the past when
22 they come before the Elected Members that we've had the condition that they must
23 apply for planning consent within six months and then must develop within X period
24 of time. So that can all be written into any disposal notice that comes to the
25 Members to give that measure of assurance that they won't lie idle, that they will be
26 developed, and it has a buyback clause in it that if it isn't developed within that
27 period of time the Council has first right to recover the property. So I will be
28 proposing that if we get to that stage that we build that kind of security in for the
29 Members. Thank you.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. There's a few more speakers now. Councillor Pat
31 Kennedy.

32 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, and thanks, Director, for
33 bringing this to us today. Just on the email that you did send us out and the type of
34 houses that are for sale, I want clarification on two houses, the two houses that are in

1 Aughrim, one on the Annacurra Road and one on the Rednagh Hill. Those young
2 families did pay a deposit about two and a half years ago, they were returned six
3 months ago. Can I have clarification that those two houses are still going to be sold
4 to those two families, that they are not going to the open mark? Thank you.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Graham Richmond.

6 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I suppose I will just
7 come in here as chair of the SPC. There's a little bit of frustration it has taken so
8 long to get to the full Council, but it is because we have discussed a lot of the options
9 here, but the key thing is it's the benefit and what these properties which generally, if
10 the Council kept them on they wouldn't cost. You know they weren't effectively
11 economically viable, but it is also what can be done with the funds relating to that. I
12 think that process, but just in relation to obviously as Councillor Snell brought up, it
13 is important that we check with how these are passed on, but it is something, and that
14 was why we brought it back and said we would review it within a year, and I think
15 that is key, that we look at it and don't just take it as written in stone. Thank you.

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Stephen Stokes.

17 COUNCILLOR STOKES: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. And I would like to broadly
18 welcome this proposal and commend the Director and the SPC on their work. I
19 would also share, you know, some concern that Councillor Snell rightly raised that
20 we have to look at it very carefully. We don't want people coming in and making
21 massive profits. I have no problem with people working hard on the free market
22 making an honest buck, you know, but within reason. But one critical thing for me,
23 why I am very supportive of this is that I am a big believer in the broken windows
24 theory, which is where in essence you know if something is derelict or you know
25 windows are broken it disproportionately brings down the whole area. I think this is
26 a very important point that communities would love to see derelict properties given a
27 new lease of life, you know, and they probably weep when they see something just
28 left abandoned or derelict for years. So I think this is a great opportunity for the
29 community. So that is why I am very supportive of this.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. There's just one more speaker to bring in.
31 Councillor Behan.

32 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. And thanks to Mr Nicholson and
33 the Members of the SPC for the consideration they have given to this issue. I
34 suppose the hard reality though for a minute is I just looked at the latest figures of

1 numbers on the housing list according to the CE's report. In January there were
2 4,314 people on the housing list at the moment in the county. And when people
3 read -- and you could add probably another 10,000 people who are in the age bracket
4 of 20 or 30 or maybe 40 with families who cannot afford to buy their own house or
5 even a simple house, and they read that Wicklow County Council is now putting up
6 on the open market some of its housing stock, I think they'll be upset. I would be
7 upset if I was in that position. I don't blame the Council staff. I don't blame the
8 Director. I don't blame the Chief Executive. I don't blame the SPC councillors.
9 Effectively I blame the fact that we as a county are not getting enough funds to
10 provide the housing that we need and to deal with the voids that we have on our
11 hands at the moment. And therefore I understand why this particular proposal is
12 coming forward, but I do think it needs -- and I also want to welcome and
13 particularly welcome the fact that we're getting an opportunity to give feedback on
14 this before it becomes policy, and we're getting a good opportunity to consider it here
15 today, and I do want to welcome that. Because ultimately it will be our decision
16 both in terms of the policy but also the sale of the particular units. And on that basis
17 I would completely reject a law agent telling us what we can and cannot do with
18 regard to these properties, because we ultimately decide whether we're going to sell
19 them, how we're going to sell them, on what basis, what conditions. As the Chief
20 Executive has said, we can put in conditions on this. And I want to propose that in
21 accepting the principle of the scheme, and I also welcome that the Director said this
22 is a work in progress and can be amended and it can be changed and so on, that there
23 would be a number of provisos in it. And the first one would be that whoever buys
24 them must be a first time buyer. Now, people may say, well, how can you do that?
25 Well, we do that with the affordable housing schemes all the time. The affordable
26 housing schemes we have had in the county that is one of the conditions. It rules out
27 any property developer or speculator right from the start. It could be somebody who
28 is in a council house who would vacate a house if they got it, and secondly it could
29 be somebody who is desperately trying to buy a house but they're not on the housing
30 list. That's the first point I would make. The second point I would make is that there
31 must be a condition that the person who buys it must live in the property for ten
32 years unless a mortgager calls in the mortgage because of inability to pay the
33 mortgage. We have this when it comes to giving one-off planning permission. I
34 don't see any legal difficulty with us putting in a condition that the people who must

1 buy it live it in for ten years subject to having a problem with their mortgage. And
2 that if there's any capital gain if it is sold that the gain is split between the Council
3 and the owner so that we're not losing out on the potential value of the sites. To all
4 intents and purposes I see these as sites now, not houses. Looking at them it seems it
5 is going to be very difficult to do anything with them only knock them. In fact,
6 Mr Nicholson mentions that possibility in the report. In the past we have advertised
7 private sites certainly in Bray, in Glenthorn in Bray, at Ballywaltrim Heights, where
8 people who are in council houses already or on the housing list had the opportunity
9 to buy those sites. What I am really saying is that we have the tools available to us
10 and before this scheme is finalised I would urge the Director and the SPC Members
11 to refine it to include those conditions. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Director Nicholson, do you want to come in on
13 those?

14 MR NICHOLSON: Yeah, there's a couple of things. In relation to Councillor Pat
15 Kennedy, yes, those two properties are in the process of being sold already outside
16 the scheme, they're being done. As you rightly say, deposits were paid and they're
17 being sold.

18

19 I agree the community will thank us the fact that we've cleaned up properties, I agree
20 with Councillor Stokes on that.

21

22 As regards Councillor Behan, I think it's a bit disingenuous of Councillor Behan.
23 The Housing SPC have worked on this for quite a number of meetings. They did the
24 job they were tasked to do and brought a report here to you. I think to try and
25 change the whole scheme at this meeting I think I would be a bit unfair on the SPC.
26 We did look at all the suggestions you made for first time buyers only, about living
27 in the property for ten years. I'm not even sure that's feasible. Capital gain split, I
28 think it's complicating things. We're trying to offload properties we can't afford to
29 fix up and give people a chance who can't otherwise afford to buy a house to avail of
30 it house, to avail of grants and make a family home that couldn't otherwise have done
31 so. I agree with the point you made, the reason we're doing that is because they can't
32 afford to buy properties on the open market because they live in a county where
33 properties are very expensive. Again the legal advice, don't misinterpret that, it was
34 simply to say that it is very, very difficult to restrict the sale of any property on the

1 open market to a certain cohort of people. With all due respects I don't think it is fair
2 to come in here and rewrite policy, the SPC spent over a year looking at. Thank you,
3 Cathaoirleach.

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Graham --

5 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Hold on a minute, Chairperson. I felt I was giving credit
6 to the SPC and the Director for the work done.

7 COUNCILLOR SNELL: His light is not on.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Give me a second now.

9 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: If we're coming to discuss it surely we can make points
10 without being told we were being disingenuous to somebody. I thought I was
11 actually trying to be positive and making suggestions that would make the scheme a
12 worthwhile scheme. That's all. I didn't mean or intend to criticise anyone. I thought
13 that was the point of this discussion, Cathaoirleach. Am I wrong in that?

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: No. I think we are having an open discussion. Councillor
15 Graham Richmond.

16 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. And sorry, Councillor
17 Behan, I took a lot of what you said as being complimentary to the SPC, the work of
18 the SPC.

19 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Thank you.

20 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: And I suppose the key thing, we're looking at
21 reviewing the scheme in a year, that's where we're going to see how it works and in
22 that respect I'd like to propose that the Council adopts this scheme.

23 COUNCILLOR PAUL O'BRIEN: I second that.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Seconded by Councillor Paul O'Brien. Councillor Peter
25 Stapleton.

26 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Yeah. Mine is more of a follow-up comment that
27 was somewhat covered off by the Director of Services there. I do think we are
28 potentially in danger of way overregulating and overcomplicating this scheme.
29 Notwithstanding that there are a lot of really good discussions made there, when we
30 did discuss it at SPC the most important thing is getting these houses back into use. I
31 fear the more you put terms and conditions applied to it -- the sole goal should be is
32 this property back up and running as a house and is someone happily living in it? I
33 think as many councillors point out the contribution that will make to the town
34 villages and people who live in that house is immeasurable. That's why I am happy

1 to support this motion.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. There's no other speakers. We have a proposer
3 and seconder. Are we agreeing to approve the policy then, that it can be reviewed in
4 one year? Yeah. Is there any dissent on it? Councillor Snell.

5 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. No, as I said at the outset, I will
6 support it. I did make my feelings known. But I am conscious that, you know,
7 there's three photographs were given, two are actually not going to be part of this
8 scheme. I'm sure the councillors are familiar there's a lot of vacant units in the Bray
9 area, for example, in older estates. And just because they're dilapidated it doesn't
10 mean that they'll be highly -- they really will be highly sought after, they really will
11 be, and they should demand the price that they pay on the open market. We all know
12 when Wicklow County Council go to get quotes for relets, for example, you know
13 the cost went up by 11 and a half thousand in just over 14 months. We only got
14 11,000 off Central Government for relets. It's up over 46,500 currently in 14
15 months. So my point is that when Wicklow County Council go to get people to do
16 work for them it's overinflated. People come in with higher expectations of what
17 they can achieve because it's the Local Authority. When Wicklow County Council
18 go out to sell something people think they can get it for half nothing. And I think
19 that's not a good return for the taxpayer and for us as 32 councillors. It's really
20 important that we make sure that we get a good return for the taxpayer, and that's
21 why I share the concerns of the Director of Service in regard to his job, and I fully
22 understand what he's trying to do but I do think that it's possibly too late to come
23 here on a full Council meeting to give us a disposal order on a Thursday that we're
24 going to then read over the weekend and come in here and decide on the Monday. I
25 would like more time to look over it. I would like to see how we got to the decision
26 of the price. So how many people tendered for this, who were actually -- obviously
27 the detail of who was looking to buy it. Because there's been excellent suggestions
28 here. There's no one trying to pull the wool over anyone's eyes. But certainly we
29 don't want Wicklow County Council, the taxpayer and the people on the social
30 waiting list to suffer because of this. So I fully support it but, as I say, there's a lot of
31 valuable land out there, a lot of valuable houses and I for one are not prepared to
32 come in here and support them being gifted for little or nothing. That's just my
33 point.

34 MR NICHOLSON: Sorry, there are a couple of things. First of all, yeah, it will be

1 entirely a matter for the Members to decide if we sell or don't sell. Those three
2 photographs sent out, they are on the list, they will be sold. Deposit agreed. They
3 are -- the three will be on the list. The properties referred to by Councillor Kennedy,
4 they are different properties, they are not on the list. Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

5 MS O'GORMAN: Sorry, Cathaoirleach, if you don't mind, in relation to disposal
6 notices we can get those out earlier. They don't have to be the Thursday beforehand.
7 We will have whatever is agreed subject to contract, that is not a problem. We can
8 certainly do that.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Thank you. So as I say we have a proposer and
10 seconder, and there was no dissent, so all agreed on that policy being approved.
11 Thank you, Members.

12 MR NICHOLSON: Thank you Members. Appreciate it.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: So we move on now to the Chief Executive's monthly report.
14 I am going to be strict on the three-minute rule on this. If you keep your
15 contributions brief and your questions and we will try and get as many through as
16 possible. The first one is Councillor Gail Dunne.

17 COUNCILLOR DUNNE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. And I will be brief. I just
18 want to thank the staff in the Wicklow Municipal District area for all the hard work
19 they carried out during the recent storms. As it was said by yourself, they were out
20 night and day, bank holiday weekends, everything. And I don't think we appreciate
21 how hard the outdoor workers work and I want to put it on record here how much I
22 am appreciating it. I am sure my fellow Members in the Wicklow Municipal District
23 will be the same.

24
25 The next thing I want to talk about is the Murrough in Wicklow. We spent a lot of
26 time talking about the Bray walk but the Murrough in Wicklow has basically been
27 falling apart. And there's this Facebook campaign out there as far as I can see that
28 are putting the blame on the local councillors and putting the blame on the Executive
29 of Wicklow County Council for not doing anything to protect the Murrough, and I'd
30 like the Council to put a press statement to say that that's not true. And in fact it's not
31 true. We all know the chief authority is Iarnród Éireann. They have got the money
32 and it is up to them to get their act together and start doing the work that's badly,
33 badly needed on the Murrough. Councillor O'Brien has raised it on a number of
34 occasions and I am sure anyone in the area would agree with me that something

1 badly needs to be done. Every time there's a storm more of the Murrough goes into
2 the sea. Please don't think I'm blaming the Council here because I'm not, but I feel
3 the Council are getting a bad rap over something they've nothing to do with. It needs
4 to get out there while they are doing their best, they're encouraging Iarnród Eireann
5 to start the work, that this work is not being carried out at the moment for whatever
6 reason. And nobody understands what the reasons are. But surely to protect the
7 coastline is the most important. I would ask again for the Chief Executive to come
8 out with a statement to let the people of our area know what's going on. Thank you,
9 Cathaoirleach

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Shane Langrell.

11 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just a couple of things
12 Cathaoirleach. Just to the Chief Executive, I brought it up at last month's meeting
13 and I left a message on your phone there last week, and thank you, someone got back
14 to me about the shambolic of a state of these houses in Ashford Village. I'd like to
15 know where we are with it. I have been inundated with calls and messages about it,
16 about rats coming out of the buildings. And I believe that the Council do share my
17 concerns. Like we can write all the letters we like to this, the guy that owns these
18 premises, I can assure you one thing he will not engage. That's firstly.

19
20 Secondly, Chief Executive, last month we discussed the Greystones -- the Wicklow
21 to Greystones Greenway, and we had the landowners in here in the gallery. A lot has
22 happened since that. We have had a public consultation in the Greystones Library
23 where the landowners attended and they asked questions but they were not happy
24 with the answers, and really a lot of the questions they asked they didn't get an
25 answer. Over the last few weeks you can see the weather. I got a lot of footage on
26 my phone, Chief Executive, where the plan for this greenway to go is actually in a
27 floodplain. I have it all on my phone. A landowner sent up a drone and there's 2 to 3
28 foot under water. Again I stressed last month that the landowners are totally opposed
29 to this. They are just so against it. And I did ask John Bowes after our last meeting
30 is there a possibility that this land could be CPOed. I spoke to the Tánaiste Simon
31 Harris, and once again I have a video on my phone where he stood in the Dáil and
32 spoke that he would be totally against landowners' land being CPOed for a
33 greenway. Again there's been more money put into this. Councillor Gail Dunne is
34 just after speaking about the Murrough being washed away. Can we not please stop

1 wasting money on consultants? I actually should have been a consultant myself
2 because the money that's been spent on this. I heard a figure upstairs what is being
3 spent on consultants already on this. You'd be blown away by it. And now another
4 300,000 being pumped into it. Finally, there was a landowner that is being affected
5 by this greenway asked for a meeting with Wicklow County Council and Irish Rail.
6 Wicklow County Council did not get back to him. But this landowner did have a
7 meeting with Irish Rail. So it is a bit disappointing. I'm getting it in the neck why
8 Wicklow County Council did not get back to this guy in any kind of way and why
9 did they not attend the meeting.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Three minutes.

11 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Thank you very much, Cathaoirleach.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Patsy Glennon.

13 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I will be very brief. The
14 first thing I want to raise is with the Chief Executive the park and ride at Hollywood.
15 The bus stops are supposed to be open at the end of March. The whole purpose of
16 the thing was that people could use their car and get the bus but there's nowhere to
17 put your car currently. Now, I have spoken to John Bowes and he's working on it,
18 but I would ask you to get behind it and get it moving.

20 The second thing I'll raise is the fire stations in both Baltinglass and Dunlavin, where
21 are they at? They're going on for years. They were announced when Pat Kennedy
22 was Cathaoirleach of Council some years back. Where are they now at? I have been
23 asked by staff to raise that here. It is just not fair on them.

27 And the other thing I want to ask the Chief Executive is: Any progress to report on
28 your communication with your fellow other chief executives in respect of the N81
29 and progressing same? Thank you.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you want to come in on those three?

31 MS O'GORMAN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, and thank you, Members. Yeah, I
32 would reiterate what Councillor Dunne has said about the municipal district staff
33 across the county, and I know the Cathaoirleach did say that. I know we certainly
34 had staff out at 3 and 4 in the morning cutting trenches into the roads to alleviate

1 flooding. The work that they do, we don't always see it but we see the impact of it
2 and they are absolutely unbelievable.

3

4 In relation to the Murrough and the point you make about Iarnród Eireann, it is a
5 point well made. They have all the funding under the ECRIPP project. There was a
6 presentation here a number of months ago where they outlined the steps in the public
7 consultation and where they're at with that. We can certainly make a statement along
8 the lines that you're suggesting.

9

10 Councillor Langrell, I'll ask Helena to come in on the derelict site. In relation to the
11 greenway, I suggest we might have a meeting with the specific landowners in the
12 greenway section, sit down and have an out and out discussion about it.

13 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Absolutely, yeah.

14 MS O'GORMAN: And where we can go from there. Councillor Glennon, on the
15 bus stops in Hollywood, yeah, I'll certainly push that from my point of view
16 certainly. You're dead right, there's no point in having bus stops if there's nowhere to
17 park the car. The park and ride, I'll look at that. On the fire stations, I'll get Jackie to
18 come in on that for. Joe might give an update on the bus stops, he might have more
19 information on it than I do.

20

21 In relation to the N81, I have had a discussions with my colleague in South Dublin
22 County Council and my colleague in Carlow County Council, and a very quick
23 conversation with my colleague in Kildare on the matter. South Dublin County
24 Council are looking doing a traffic and impact study on the N81 as it leaves South
25 Dublin into Wicklow, and I said we would be very happy to be part of that. They are
26 looking to develop part of the South Dublin county for economic development
27 purposes and the road is not fit to support that, never mind the issues that the
28 members here have been raising for years. So we are working on that. What I would
29 suggest is that when he has worked up his kind of proposal we'll input into it, I'll
30 share that with the Members when I have it. We might have a joint meeting with
31 Elected Members in South Dublin that are in the same area and have a discussion
32 with that.

33

34 I might go first of all to Jackie on the fire stations, please.

1 MS CARROLL: Thanks, Chief Executive. Yeah, Councillor Glennon, I am
2 delighted to say that we have prepared the tenant documents for both fire stations.
3 We were asked by the Department to see if we could take a value engineering
4 approach and look at some cost savings which we are incorporating into the
5 documents at the moment, and we are getting very positive feedback from the
6 Department. So I'll keep you posted as soon as we can publish and go out to tender
7 on that.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: And Helena, if you want to come in, please.

9 MS DENNEHY: Yeah, Councillor Langrell, following the January meeting where
10 you raised about the Ashford site our senior engineer has been out, he has done an
11 inspection on site. We understand he did have a conversation with you last
12 Wednesday in relation to proposing our next steps. So it is probably a little bit more
13 than derelict, there's probably other sections that might need to be pulled in in
14 relation to that as well, but I will follow up with the senior engineer after this
15 meeting.

16 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Thank you.

17 MR LANE: Yeah, there's currently no suitable site identified for the park and ride in
18 Hollywood, however we are working with the local municipal district, but I have no
19 news on that.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Councillor Stephen Stokes.

21 COUNCILLOR STOKES: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Firstly, can I just find out
22 what the latest is on the parking bye-law review? I know that it is reasonably
23 imminent. I know it is going through the Bray office. I just want to get the latest on
24 that.

25

26 The second item: I would just like to get a bit more information on how an estate
27 would be taken in charge. I have had some correspondence from a resident in the
28 Glenkeane estate in Kilcoole who has advised me that they have been waiting 11
29 years for it to be taken in charge and they don't seem to be able to make any
30 progress. I am wondering if I can get a little bit of clarity on that.

31

32 Finally, I'd just like to say on the Eastcoast Greenway, I am a big supporter of the
33 concept of the greenway but I do think Councillor Langrell correctly makes an
34 important point on behalf of landowners, you know, that they do need to be

1 consulted and engaged with. And I'd welcome the Chief Executive's comments on
2 that. You know, it's very interesting because you know there is a large public
3 campaign in favour of the Arklow to Shillelagh greenway, and it's something that we
4 discussed, you know, in our Transport SPC meetings, which I chair. And so, I am
5 very supportive of active travel and promoting tourism. I think there's a huge
6 amount of benefits here. We need to make sure there is buy-in from the community.
7 So I commend Councillor Langrell for correctly raising these important issues
8 because we want to have these wonderful projects but it has to be in partnership with
9 the community. So thank you.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Pat Kennedy. Councillor Pat
11 Kennedy.

12 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Thanks, Chair. I've a few things I'd like to bring up.
13 The first one I'd like to bring up Chief Executive is the 6th of October last year I
14 brought up about the car park in Baravore, and I believe there was a feasibility study
15 to be done there, and I am just wondering what is the update on that? And I did
16 leave it for four months before I brought it back here.

17
18 The second thing I'd like to bring up, Chief Executive, is the community land in
19 Rathdrum. We did get a concept design done early last year and it was presented to
20 the councillors in Arklow. All were in favour of that design. That design then was
21 supposed to be brought to detailed design and brought on then to Part 8. Chief
22 Executive, the community in Rathdrum need this. Rathdrum is a growing town. If
23 you take some of the clubs, like Avondale GAA Club, it is just literally bursting at
24 the seams, but they're not the only club that needs this land. There are many other
25 clubs in the town that need this. The way I see this is, this is an investment in the
26 children. We need to move forward. I would like an update on that.

27
28 The other thing, I'd like to bring, Chief Executive -- and I don't believe in bringing
29 things to this chamber that should be brought to the municipal district but on many
30 occasions I have brought up by the rural roads, and I'm not talking about the roads
31 that were damaged over the last ten days. I'm specifically talking about the L6202 in
32 Kilpipe just off the regional road 747. This road is not currently on the roads
33 programme. The road is currently not fit for purpose. It also is the road that's used
34 when there's an issue on the main R747 where the Council divert all the traffic off

1 that N747 when they have to in the case of an emergency. The school buses refuse
2 to go that road. And I want that road reassessed. It is not just an important road for
3 the residents. It is an important road for the emergency services. It needs to be
4 reassessed and I am asking for it to be reassessed. Because at one time you could
5 drive the last 200 metres to the left-hand side of it, now you can't drive any of it. I
6 want that reassessed, Chief Executive, because in my opinion it is dangerous to be
7 honest with you.

8

9 And the fourth thing I'd like to say, and I think you've already commented, I am very
10 concerned about the Murrough and I agree with Councillor Dunne. The Murrough is
11 very important to the people of Wicklow, all of the county. Thank you, Chief
12 Executive.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Jason Mulhall.

14 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just a couple of things here.
15 First of all, just to thank the Director for clarity on the Blessington RRDF
16 application. The feedback is not what I'd hoped for, or that I thought would be the
17 case, but at least it's clear now. And I thank them for that and look forward to seeing
18 how it will progress. Just around funding in general. I want to highlight I was
19 disappointed with the low approvals for Wicklow on their town and village renewal.
20 I think we ranked number one or two as regards lowest, either ourselves or Kildare,
21 so that was very disappointing for the communities involved and I just wanted to
22 know if Wicklow County Council had been able to get any feedback at this stage
23 from the Department on those failed applications and why it was the case? If I could
24 get an update on the ten age-friendly housing units in Mountain View in Blessington
25 and the 108 units in Burgage, Blessington as well. Just clarity on those and timelines
26 as we've had a number of requests for info following some recent updates. And then
27 finally just around lighting in the county. So specifically on the Baltinglass district.
28 We've 72 units out, they're not working for various different reasons, which is about
29 3% overall. A number of them have ESB either required or ESB notified. So that's
30 42 out of 72, so about 60% of them. And I am just wondering what does that mean?
31 Because I keep on hearing back that the issues are really with the ESB now, it's not
32 really with Wicklow County Council or the public lighting contractor. If the ESB
33 are the problem what are we doing about it and is there any way to force something
34 to happen because some of these lights have been out for over a year, maybe longer

1 in some cases, depending how many times they have been reported? Thank you.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you.

3 MS O'GORMAN: Thank you, Members. Councillor Stokes, in relation to parking
4 law bye-law review, that is getting underway. It will come back through the SPC. It
5 is about having resource allocated to drive it on. But you're right, it will be led
6 through Bray and Jackie will be leading that. So we will be back to the SPC as soon
7 as we possibly can on that. In relation to taking in charge, if you want to give
8 Helena the specifics of the estate in question we will certainly look into that. It
9 shouldn't take that length of time but sometimes developers don't leave an estate.
10 We can certainly look at that.

11

12 Councillor Kennedy, the car park I might get Leonora -- Teresa car park, okay. And
13 concept design in Rathdrum, Teresa might come in on that. Certainly the rural road
14 LC202, I will ask Michael Flynn and Joe to have a look at that and see what we can
15 do around that road. I welcome your supportive comments on the Murrough.

16

17 Councillor Mulhall, on Blessington RRDF, yeah, look, the update is what it is
18 unfortunately. On the village approvals, we haven't had anything yet from the
19 Department on it but when we do get feedback from them we will certainly circulate
20 that with the Members. And I am going to get Joe to come in on the age-friendly
21 units and the Burgages. Teresa might go to you first, please.

22 MS O'BRIEN: Thank you, Chief Executive. Councillor Kennedy, with regards to
23 Baravore car park first. There is a tender prepared and we are hoping to go out to
24 consultants with that just to have a look at a scope and feasibility study for the
25 appropriate use of the site, and we will keep you updated on that. With regard to
26 Rathdrum, yeah, look it, we're very committed, fully committed to the clubs in
27 Rathdrum, and I have been out with yourself and met the clubs. The master plan, as
28 you said, is complete and it has been passed by the Members of Arklow MD. The
29 next steps are to do the detailed design and go for Part 8. And then at that point we
30 will have to look for funding. The LLSIF is probably the most appropriate funding
31 but obviously there's a lot of projects that would be in that. We will also look for
32 sports capital but it is just not as big. I suppose in the meantime with some of the
33 clubs that have just nowhere to go we did come up with a lease for one of the fields
34 for the athletics club, which is a hugely successful club in Rathdrum, I am sure

1 everyone is aware of it, to give them use of the pitch or one of the fields. They
2 obviously don't need to do any major ground works in order to make full use of the
3 field, so we were delighted to be able to do that. But I just wanted to reiterate we are
4 committed to moving this forward. Thank you.

5 MS O'GORMAN: Joe, you might comment on Burgage.

6 MR LANE: Okay. In both cases in Burgage and Mountain View they're currently
7 out to tender. So we're seeking tenders and we will be getting tenders in. They're
8 both due at the end of February. So based on scheduling they will be on site this
9 year assuming there's no issues.

10 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: ESB?

11 MR LANE: The ESB, you will have to give me a location because I can give you a
12 generic for the ESB but there can be a whole lot of problems, some are easier and
13 some are not, they're subject to the ESB. If you give me the locations and you
14 obviously with the numbers have them, we'll get more comprehensive answer on the
15 particular issue of whether they are an easy solve. Sometimes they may not be an
16 easy solve. Give us a list and we'll take a look.

17 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Yeah.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Gerry O'Neill.

19 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. There's just two items. The
20 concern and the lack of cooperation with the ESB as regards the reservoir and the
21 level of water. As I talked before here about the three overbridges which their
22 lifespan was 80 years and we've gone way over that now. It is a concern to the
23 people of the area, Blessington, the levels of water there. We don't really get any
24 reading back to the municipal districts from the ESB. And it is just, not to be
25 alarmist or whatever, but if we had some information back from the ESB. There
26 seems to be a very small level of communication with them. The situation there
27 being at the moment that they are very high, all we hear is statements from the ESB
28 now and then that they are afraid of the flooding on the Liffey and elsewhere in
29 Dublin, but I can tell you that there is concern in the area of three old bridges that
30 cross the reservoir and if they are able for the volume of water. I am on the side of
31 the lake myself and it is scary, you know. So maybe if we could get some dialogue
32 going that we'll even get some response back to the municipal district from the ESB.
33 Up to now it's been very difficult.

34

1 There's a second issue I'd like to raise, Cathaoirleach. I tried it with a motion here
2 and I got nowhere. I tried it with suspension of standing order. All I'm simply
3 enquiring about is the procedure in place for St Patrick's Day and how people
4 are -- my motion there was that we don't have people travel to America this year
5 anyway, the US, because of the amount of Irish people that are being deported and
6 also the amount of people who are being detained there, Irish people being detained
7 over the last 12 months is huge through the Trump administration. And I thought it
8 would be an idea if we just ignored this trip, the annual trip to America, and I am
9 only getting bits and pieces of it. I don't know what procedure is in place. I think the
10 Corporate Policy Group, they inform us here later on how it happens. Now, we
11 could be sending people to a ruin and you hear about it later on. I think that you
12 know where there's thousands of pounds being going I fully understand -- I'm on
13 record here before, I fully understand people within the Council here and trips
14 abroad can bring in income, there can be maybe jobs created, but I think it's a bit rich
15 of Wicklow and Ireland to be sending people out --

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor, three minutes is up now.

17 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Cathaoirleach, just a second there, I have been here --

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: I did ask Members to keep it to three minutes.

19 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: If we could get some clarification on how this
20 procedure -- I mean I have been to America, I have been grand marshal in the Omaha
21 a parade in Nebraska, I did that on my own bat. But I think you know there's going
22 to be huge increases here in Council properties there on rent allowance.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor, I am going to let the Chief Executive respond to
24 that and then we're going to go to notice of motions.

25 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Now we're sending. And who is going? I would like to
26 know who is going to the US and is it for the taxpayer?

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: That can be answered.

28 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Any time I have ever gone there I've gone there on my
29 own steam and I think that should be the way here. If we could get clarity on who is
30 going, what method was used.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Will you let the Chief Executive respond to that, Councillor
32 O'Neill, and then we'll go to the notice of motions?

33 MS O'GORMAN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, and thank you, Councillor O'Neill.
34 Just to deal with your ESB query first of all. Absolutely I'll reach out to them. We

1 got an awful lot of information from them around Poulaphouca and the information
2 around that. We will get a more formalised line of communication between the
3 district and ESB, given that it is such an integral part of the district area.
4

5 In relation to St Patrick's Day or any other visits to the US by Elected Members of
6 this Council it's generally by way of invitation. So there's a twinning arrangement
7 between Bray Municipal District and California - Dublin, California - and an
8 invitation is issued by the Members of the Dublin, California Council to Bray
9 Municipal District. In relation to New York, an invitation comes from the Wicklow
10 Association who look after the participation in the St Patrick's Day Parade. No more
11 than the winning with Würzburg, an invitation comes from the council of Würzburg
12 inviting officials and Elected Members to attend. All of those invitations or twinning
13 requests, or anything like that, go to the Corporate Policy Group for approval before
14 any arrangements are made, any travel arrangements are made. That's the way it has
15 happened. That's the way it's always happened. My only comment would be that in
16 a time of great difficulty for the diaspora living abroad it is important that we support
17 our Irish-American colleagues and people of the Wicklow Association and those in
18 Dublin, California that have such strong links to Ireland. But the decision gets made
19 at the Corporate Policy Group as it does for all twinning requests and visits by
20 Elected Members to anywhere in the world. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

21 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Cathaoirleach, just --

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: We're going to go straight to notice of motions now. Sorry,
23 suspension of standing orders.

24 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: This is the usual thing there where you cut me off. But I
25 want an answer on that. I'm asking a question here. Who is going to new work? I
26 fully understand.

27 MS O'GORMAN: The chairperson of the Council has been invited and the
28 chairperson of the municipal district of Bray Municipal District has been invited.

29 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: -- I have never been cut off.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor O'Neill, would you please listen to the response
31 from the Chief Executive, please?

32 MS O'GORMAN: An invitation comes to the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County
33 Council to attend in New York and an invitation to the Cathaoirleach of Bray
34 Municipal District to attend in California.

1 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Can you tell us who is going? I don't know.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Well, who is the Cathaoirleach of the Council? It's myself.

3 So I am going. And the Cathaoirleach --

4 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: There's only one going then. That's all I asked.

5 MS O'GORMAN: And the Cathaoirleach of Bray is not attending so another
6 member of Bray MD is going to attend on their behalf is my understanding.

7 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Is the Cathaoirleach of Bray --

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: No, Councillor O'Neill.

9 MS O'GORMAN: The Cathaoirleach of Bray is not travelling to California.
10 Another member of Bray Municipal District will attend in the Cathaoirleach's place.

11 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: A Another?

12 MS O'GORMAN: Councillor Winstanley is attending. I honestly didn't know the
13 name. And Councillor Corrigan.

14 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: New York this year, if I went I'm going on my own bat.
15 I'm just wondering who we're paying.

16 MS O'GORMAN: The official invitations are afforded to the Cathaoirleach of the
17 Council and the Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District. I can't be any clearer than
18 that.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: I will be going attending and so will councillor -- I will be
20 attending the New York --

21 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: I can't see anything wrong with officials. But this
22 particular year and with women being shot in the face, the carry on, the treatment of
23 Irish people in America, you know it would be a little -- it'd be something that we
24 could do here.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: There are also -- and I accept there are challenges in the US,
26 but I feel it's more important than ever this year we show our support to our diaspora.
27 We have been invited -- well, I have been invited by the Wicklow Association, and
28 we need to keep our channels of communication open with them, show our support
29 with them, and I feel very strongly about that. That is why I have accepted. Can we
30 go on to the notice -- sorry, the suspension of standing orders. I am going to ask
31 Helen to read out the first one.

32 MS PURCELL: So the first suspension of standing orders is proposed by Councillor
33 Joe Behan, seconded by Councillor Lourda Scott, and supported by Councillor Peir
34 Leonard and Councillor Tom Fortune.

1

2 "That Wicklow County Council notes with deep concern the Government's decision
3 to ratify CETA and in particular the Investor Court System after trying to rush
4 through the Arbitration (Amendment) Bill 2025 to circumvent the judgment that
5 CETA is unconstitutional.

6

7 This Council believes that ICS risks selling out Irish taxpayers, Irish workers' rights
8 and Irish climate and environmental protections for the sole benefit of multinational
9 big business.

10

11 Wicklow County Council therefore calls on the Government to suspend Ireland's
12 participation in the ICS element of CETA pending a full, independent assessment of
13 its impacts on local authorities, public services, and environmental protections.

14

15 If successful, this motion to be circulated to all Local Authorities, all Wicklow TDs
16 and senators and the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment."

17

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Behan, would you like to come in on that?
19 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. CETA is a comprehensive
20 economic and trade agreement that was signed between the EU and Canada back in
21 2016. A lot of it there's no problem with but there is one element of it which is the
22 element that causes concern to a lot of people in this country. There's an investor
23 court mechanism that if there is a dispute between Canada and let's say our
24 jurisdiction here over a trade rule or some kind of issue or disagreement, the decision
25 is taken out of the hands of the Irish courts and it's resolved through mediation
26 outside of this country. So it's a loss of our sovereignty. And a former Green Party
27 TD very courageously in 2022 took a court action about this, and he actually
28 succeeded in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court found that it was
29 unconstitutional because it was effectively affecting the legal jurisdiction of this
30 country. So the Government recently have been rushing through kind of an
31 Arbitration Act which is allegedly supposed to deal with this but in fact if it goes
32 through the Dáil as it is it will effectively mean ceding our sovereignty.

33

34 So the request here, and this is a motion that basically has been put to a number of

1 other councils around the country, Sligo and Leitrim, it is basically asking that just
2 this element, the investor court element, be paused until further discussion happens
3 as to what the impact of allowing an outside body to make court decisions for us is,
4 the impact of that will be actually really discussed and investigated. And all we're
5 doing here, if you agree to the motion, is calling on the Government to pause that
6 element of it. The rest of the elements of CETA are actually already in force.

7

8 So I would just ask Members if they would consider backing the motion and if it is
9 agreed just that we notify the Minister and we also notify the TDs and the other
10 councils. Thank you.

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor Behan. I have a note of everyone who
12 has requested to speak on the Chief Executive's Report, so I am asking if anyone
13 who wants to speak to please have it on this motion. Councillor O'Brien, were you
14 Chief Executive's Report? Councillor Scott is on this motion? Thank you.

15 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Yeah, thanks, Cathaoirleach. And thanks to Councillor
16 Behan for bringing this motion forward. It's not the first time we've discussed CETA
17 here, and I think you explained it very, very well. I just want to kind of reiterate
18 because I know it's slightly complex and can get caught up in a misconception that
19 we're, you know, discussing something that's against trade. This isn't anything to do
20 with trade per se. This is really about who is holding the power and the concerns
21 about the Investor Court System, and that system potentially can give international
22 companies special rights within our country, and it potentially allow them to
23 challenge decisions made by our Government legally, lawfully and democratically,
24 and also decisions made by our councils that we're working for here which upholds
25 our national law. And more concerningly, these cases wouldn't go through our
26 normal court system which we are all familiar with but they would be decided in a
27 separate tribunal-type system outside of public view. And that's what I have deep,
28 deep concerns about. As Councillor Behan rightly pointed out, a former TD Green
29 Party actually challenged the ICS piece as unconstitutional, and it was upheld by the
30 Supreme Court. So the highest court in our land stated that bringing in ICS in this
31 country is unconstitutional.

32

33 Now, I would expect the Government to take heed of that and pause and use that
34 decision to reflect on what exactly an ICS would bring to our country, but instead we

1 have a system where they're rushing through arbitration law, trying to really
2 circumvent that decision and push through the ICS system into the country without
3 taking pause and reflecting and figuring out, you know, the potential disadvantages
4 really for us all. And again, I just want to say it's not good democracy. It's not how
5 good democracy should work. And it may seem as something a little bit esoterical to
6 be talking about in this chamber but again decisions we are making at council here,
7 particularly environmental decisions, are based on national law, and we don't want to
8 have a system where there's an outside court system overturning our
9 democratically-made laws that we are working to uphold here. So that's why I think
10 this is a good motion. We want to take pause, take heed, have a proper reflection
11 about this, protect our Constitution, protect our own laws and ultimately protect the
12 public interest. So I would encourage everybody to support this motion and thank
13 you again to Councillor Behan. We don't see eye to eye on a lot of things but I am
14 very much thankful to him for bringing this forward.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Anybody else like to come in and speak on this? Is
16 there any consensus against it or -- Councillor Leonard.

17 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Thank you. Sorry, I have a problem with my hand I
18 think online. Yeah, no, look it, I'm not going to repeat Councillor Behan and
19 Councillor Scott have said, but this is really important. I think it could have an effect
20 on our environmental policy, Irish farmers and agriculture fundamentally. So often
21 we see a lot of policy coming from the top-down and, you know, if this goes ahead
22 and if it goes ahead without any research to look at the impact of the policy on
23 Ireland I think it's so important to pause as Lourda says and really do a good analysis
24 on what the potential impact of this will have on our future generations. Thank you.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Bourke.

26 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: This does raise a lot of questions, Cathaoirleach. I'd
27 like to see maybe some examples of how it could negatively impact society in
28 Ireland. It might be helpful if we were to make an informed decision.

29 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: If I could answer that, Cathaoirleach. That's the whole
30 point of the motion. We're asking that the Government pause that element so we
31 study the impact before it's rushed into law, that in fact the impact, potential impact
32 would be studied. That's the point. It's like a prevention mechanism at the moment
33 to see. And if there isn't going to be an impact that's fine but the Government seem
34 to be rushing ahead, and that's the difficulty. We know about how important trade is,

1 as Councillor Scott has said, and it's not about stopping trade. It's about ensuring
2 that our own legal integrity is maintained.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Scott.

4 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Yeah, no, and that's a good point, Councillor Bourke, and
5 it is an important point to raise because the ICS system is already in place in other
6 countries. So I can give you a specific example. In Germany, a Swedish energy
7 company used the international court system to query environmental conditions that
8 were attached to a proposed coal power plant in Germany, in Hamburg. So the
9 Germans had their own environmental set of laws to protect air and water quality
10 which the coal plant should have abided by but the company argued that these extra
11 protections around the environment, including say stricter water standards for
12 example, made its investment less viable and therefore sought compensation from
13 the Germans under the ICS system. What happened in reality was they weakened
14 the environmental protections rather than incur the costs of going to court. That is a
15 concrete example. Laws that have been democratically made by democratically
16 elected representatives in Oireachtas, that an outside company could challenge those
17 based on loss of profits. So costing the State and taxpayer money and ultimately
18 weakening what we have put in place. So that's the risk. And that's what's happened
19 in other countries, which really underpins why we need to be looking at this very,
20 very carefully in our country before inviting it in.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. So do we need to go to a vote or is everyone in
22 agreement?

23 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Unanimous.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Unanimous? All agreed? (Agreed.) Okay. We will go on to
25 the second suspension of standing orders then.

26 MS PURCELL: The wording of the second one has been amended.

27
28 "That Wicklow County Council calls on the Minister for Agriculture and all
29 stakeholders involved to engage in dialogue to resolve the issues relating to Bord Bia
30 as a matter of urgency." And that is proposed by Councillor Corrigan, seconded by
31 Councillor Langrell and supported by Councillor Bourke.

32 CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going to ask Councillor Langrell just to speak on that.

33 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Yeah, I'll just brief the
34 Members. I'm going to put the farming boots on, the farming and IFA hat on me

1 here. I'm not sure if you are up to speed with it, what has gone over the last 12
2 days. IFA have been protesting up at Bord Bia headquarters for the last 12 days.
3 And the reasoning is our Chair Larry Murrin of Bord Bia has brought Brazilian beef
4 into our country. And you might say, well, what's the big deal? Well, an IFA
5 member, farmer, a Bord Bia member, when you're in Bord Bia the paperwork that's
6 involved while you're in Bord Bia, and that comes down to your food, where it
7 comes from, the farm, to the plate, and it's down to traceability. And the work and
8 the stress when you have a Bord Bia audit coming up, it's tough going. So the IFA
9 and farmers are upset with this. It is totally not acceptable what has happened. And
10 when you have Brazilian beef coming into this country there's no traceability like
11 what we get from the Irish farm. So, Members, I'd like you to support my motion
12 and, yes, thank you very much, Members. Thank you.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Gerry O'Neill.

14 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, yeah. I'd like to support that
15 motion all right, but I mean it's crazy that Larry Murrin, you know, could be as
16 chairman of Bord Bia and also his own business in the food company. You know it's
17 double standards there to the highest degree. But I ask a question where they say
18 there's only a million -- or rather, 1% of his imports from abroad that's coming from
19 Brazil. 1% but there's no tracking there of what that meat is or what it is. So I think
20 it is scary business. I am delighted to hear Fine Gael actually supporting this
21 because the Government, your Government, Fine Gael Government, are very, very
22 supportive of Larry Murrin. So I wish you all the best of luck that you might get the
23 better of your own Government there. But I absolutely fully support it. I also want
24 to pay tribute to Denis Halpin there, our man in West Wicklow, who is doing trojan
25 work to expose this issue not only in West Wicklow but in Kildare, and there's a
26 meeting organised this evening at 7 o'clock, and an IFA emergency meeting. So I
27 would be fully supporting them. Go raibh maith agat.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Behan.

29 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Yeah. Cathaoirleach, I would be very happy to support
30 this motion but I am disappointed that you haven't added one other sentence which is
31 that this Council calls for the resignation of Mr Murrin, because that, as I understand
32 it, is the demand of the IFA. And they're absolutely right to make that demand as far
33 as I am concerned. I have listened to what they have said and read what they have
34 said. This is complete hypocrisy, that the person who is in charge of food safety and

1 Bord Bia promoting safe Irish food to not only the people in this country but abroad
2 has admitted he's importing Brazilian beef as part of his operation. He's still sitting
3 there as chair of Bord Bia. And the Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil Ministers and the
4 other silent independent ministers all seem to be backing him. Fair play to the Fine
5 Gael Members in this chamber; they have shown courage. I would like to propose
6 an amendment that Mr Murrin be asked to resign his position of Bord Bia. If that
7 amendment could be made I would like to put that in.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Silvester Bourke.

9 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Cathaoirleach, I'd second Councillor Behan's proposed
10 amendment to the motion. And I would also like to say that the optics of it are
11 shockingly bad from a food producing point of view. The objective of Bord Bia is to
12 promote Irish food and to have the chairperson of it wilfully importing Brazilian beef
13 at the time when Mercosur is so topical is just not on. And I don't think the farmers
14 would have confidence in Bord Bia in the future unless this issue is resolved. So I
15 support Councillor Behan's amendment.

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Peter Stapleton.

17 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Chair, and thank you, through the
18 councillors, for listening to this motion that was proposed by Councillor Langrell and
19 seconded by Councillor Silvester Bourke. I have really enjoyed engaging with some
20 farmers on this topic, and this issue. But however I don't think I'd support an
21 amendment to the motion calling directly for Larry Murrin's resignation for the sole
22 purpose that we can come back from here. I don't think that necessarily if we just
23 call for a head and he falls on his sword and we get someone else to replace them
24 that you have fundamentally restored the trust in Bord Bia. I think there's been
25 widespread acknowledgment that Larry Murrin is a capable person, capable chair
26 and has done good for Bord Bia. I would be hoping that if there is a way around it,
27 where they can engage in dialogue, where perhaps there is an admission that what he
28 did wasn't right -- you know, it wasn't right to stand over being chair of a board that
29 is responsible for quality assurance and nailing your colour to the mast and saying
30 we should accept nothing less than the EU standards made out there while at the
31 same time importing beef which is most likely of a lower standard. But for those
32 reasons I wouldn't support the amendment to the motion but really do welcome the
33 motion as it is currently drafted.

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Paul O'Brien.

1 COUNCILLOR PAUL O'BRIEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. And I wholeheartedly
2 support this motion and I wholeheartedly support Councillor Behan's amendment to it
3 because there has to be consequences to your action. I am the chair of the KWETB,
4 if I went out and start advocating, for example, for Educate Together I would have to
5 stand up and say I got it wrong and fall on my sword. There has to be consequences
6 to people's action. And at that level, you know, people should know better. Larry
7 Murrin should know better. And unfortunately whether he's a nice man who has
8 done a good job in the past he has made a huge error here in judgment and
9 unfortunately he's going to have to pay the price. That is why I wholeheartedly
10 support Councillor Langrell's proposal provided that Councillor Behan's amendment
11 is added to that as well. Thank you.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Thank you. We're going to go to a vote on that now.
13 Helen is going to read it out. Sorry, Councillor Doyle, I didn't see you there?

14 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I just wanted to say as somebody
15 with no skin in this game just on a kind of procedural note that for those of us who
16 haven't been following this very closely this came before us today, no background
17 information and we were just handed a piece of paper a couple of minutes ago in the
18 chamber which, you know, procedurally again I'm kind of not that comfortable with.
19 I don't know if it is allowed. Sometimes it is very useful information. Does that
20 mean anybody is free to come in and hand us pieces of information? I would have
21 loved some time to consider this. I don't know. I have just heard Councillor
22 Stapleton to speak. I don't know enough about this to vote on it. It is of national
23 relevance, you know, but I understand it has local significance here but I have
24 a -- I'm not comfortable with voting on something I don't know enough about and I'm
25 not afraid to say when I don't know enough about something. You know, we can't all
26 be experts on everything all of the time. So just procedurally I really think that we
27 should be given the consideration to have time to consider a subject before we
28 expected to vote on it one way or another because it does get publicised and people
29 do form an opinion based on your vote. Thank you.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

31 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: I fully support Councillor Doyle there. I don't think
32 anyone should be allowed run around the chamber with sheets of paper two minutes
33 before a vote.

34 MS PURCELL: Just to clarify, in accordance with standing orders a suspension of

1 standing orders can actually be proposed right up to the time that the request is -- as
2 long as it is in advance of the Council meeting, so that brings it up to 2 o'clock when
3 the meeting starts. So the suspension of standing orders is valid and can be accepted.
4

5 And then, in relation to what we are actually voting on, the amendment comes first.
6 So the amendment as proposed by Councillor Behan. Now, I had Councillor O'Neill
7 as seconding it. So I want to clarify that between Councillor Bourke and Councillor
8 O'Neill who is seconding that? I had Councillor O'Neill down first. That's fine. So
9 what we're now saying is: "That Wicklow County Council calls on the Minister for
10 Agriculture and all stakeholders involved to engage in dialogue to resolve the issues
11 relating to Bord Bia as a matter of urgency and that Mr Murrin be requested to
12 resign." So that's in addition to the original suspension request. So if you're in
13 favour please vote 'for' and if you are against please vote 'against'.

14 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Sorry, Helen, I wanted to come in there.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, Miriam, we didn't see you there online. If you want to
16 come in before we vote.

17 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Yeah, sorry. I just want to say I think -- I have looked
18 at it very closely for lots of reasons, but I would like to ask what clout -- Is that the
19 word I would use? What power this would have? I think there is major issues there
20 in that situation and is it beyond Wicklow County Council for that?

21 MS PURCELL: The motion is calling for it be a letter to issue to the Minister for
22 Agriculture.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: So what we're doing, Councillor Murphy, is we're asking,
24 we're writing as a body, as a Council, showing our support and asking exactly what's
25 being read out in the notice of motion.

26 MS PURCELL: Okay. Are we all clear? Will we go ahead with the vote?
27 Councillor Danny Alvey?

28 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: For.

29 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Mark Barry? Not present. Councillor Joe Behan?

30 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: For.

31 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Sylvester Bourke?

32 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: For.

33 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: For.

1 MS PURCELL: Councillor Avril Cronin?

2 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: For.

3 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Erika Doyle?

4 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Abstain.

5 MS PURCELL: Abstain. Councillor Malacháí Duddy?

6 COUNCILLOR DUDDY: For.

7 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Gail Dunne? Not present. Councillor Louise

8 Fenelon Gaskin?

9 COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: For.

10 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Orla Finn is not present. Councillor Pat

11 Fitzgerald? Not present. Councillor Tom Fortune?

12 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: For.

13 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Patsy Glennon?

14 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: For.

15 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Pat Kennedy? Not present. Councillor Shane

16 Langrell?

17 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: For.

18 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Peir Leonard?

19 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: For.

20 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Pat Mahon?

21 COUNCILLOR MAHON: For.

22 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Jason Mulhall?

23 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: For.

24 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Miriam Murphy?

25 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Abstain.

26 MS PURCELL: Abstain. Councillor Ian Neary?

27 COUNCILLOR NEARY: For.

28 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Paul O'Brien?

29 COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN: For.

30 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Gerry O'Neill?

31 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: For.

32 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Warren O'Toole?

33 COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: For.

34 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Graham Richmond?

1 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: For.
2 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Lourda Scott?
3 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Abstain.
4 MS PURCELL: Abstain. Councillor John Snell?
5 COUNCILLOR SNELL: For.
6 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Peter Stapleton?
7 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Abstain.
8 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Stephen Stokes?
9 COUNCILLOR STOKES: Abstain.
10 MS PURCELL: Abstain. Councillor Ned Whelan?
11 COUNCILLOR WHELAN: Abstain.
12 MS PURCELL: Abstain. Councillor Caroline Winstanley?
13 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: For.
14 MS PURCELL: For. So we have 20 for, 5 not present, 6 abstaining so the motion as
15 amended is carried. Thank you very much.
16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I would like to acknowledge the members of the
17 IFA that we have here in the gallery as well today. It might not have been the best
18 idea to have handed out the leaflets beforehand but again, look, it's something we all
19 feel passionate about and the motion has been carried. So thank you, members.
20
21 We have probably time for one or two more queries on the Chief Executive's Report.
22 So the next one was Councillor Graham Richmond.
23 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I am just glad I wrote
24 down what I was going to ask beforehand. The first thing was just to echo
25 Councillor Dunne's comments on the Murrough. In that regard I believe as a Council
26 we need to make representations directly to Irish Rail because it dragged on for too
27 long.
28
29 I suppose my second point is more general. It's in relation to the bad weather. And
30 given the unprecedented and also probably continuing annual rainfall that we've had
31 it's the pressure that is being put on sports clubs. Like in the past month I have
32 been -- the amount of sports clubs looking where can we train? The pitches are
33 closed. My own daughter's team, I coach the team, I get a message after the meeting
34 the pitch is closed again. And this will continue. And it highlights the need for all

1 weather training facilities both for sports clubs and that's why I think we need to
2 encourage the sport capital grant system but also if we have land from a Council
3 point of view, and there is a couple of sites, it has to be looked at in investing in
4 all-weather training facilities, because if nothing else the impact on both young
5 children, teenagers, adults, on mental health without actually being able to get out
6 through the week is causing bigger issues. Okay. Thank you.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Peter Stapleton.

8 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: I can't come in.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Somebody will have to knock themselves off.

10 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: I can come in after someone. Thank you. My
11 question was going to relate generally to kind of the state of rural roads after the
12 recent floods, in particular in my area I know the devastation and upturn in a lot of
13 roads around the Shillelagh-Carnew area. And I suppose the question is: Have we
14 had engagement with the Department? I know there's been lots of talk of flood relief
15 schemes but that just business as usual in terms of our road repair won't suffice
16 unfortunately. So if there is something there. And then just a small follow on point
17 to Councillor Mulhall's earlier about lighting. I know of a specific light in Tinahely
18 in Ballyconnell, one in Kelly's Hill in Tinahely that has been out for over a year, and
19 it's the same sitting with ESB. To be fair, the recent engagement I heard from TDs
20 talking to ESB liaison is they're a number of weeks away, but it's kind of like nuclear
21 energy, numbers of weeks away forever now at this stage.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Next I had on my list previously was Councillor
23 Paul O'Brien.

24 COUNCILLOR PAUL O'BRIEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I will be as brief as I
25 can because I know you are up against the clock. I want to thank Councillor Dunne
26 and Councillor Richmond. I feel like I am fighting a lone battle at times with the
27 Murrough, much like the weather. I want to thank them for their support. It does
28 mean a lot to me. Again third time lucky with the task force maybe it's something
29 we can discuss at an MD meeting but it's something I think we need to look at very
30 quickly. Can I also just say, Cathaoirleach, that -- and thank you, Chief Executive
31 for the report, sorry, I'm rushing a bit here now. But we had great news last year in
32 terms of the acquisition of Maghermore, and it has brought a lot of positivity into the
33 area. And they're not trying to be negative but they're looking to the future, some of
34 my constituents in that area, is there any plans for facilities? I know it doesn't seem

1 like summer weather and we shouldn't be talking about swimming and lifeguards but
2 it is going to be coming up very soon where we're going to be recruiting our
3 lifeguards, we're going to have facilities on the beach, because with success will
4 bring success and it will be busier. Is there any plans for Maghermore in terms of
5 lifeguards and facilities. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

6 MS O'GORMAN: Thank you, Members. I will be as quick as I can. Thank you,
7 Councillor Richmond, again for the comments on the Murrough and, Councillor
8 O'Brien, yeah, I do certainly think we can take it up with the MD around looking at a
9 task force and what that might involve.

10

11 Yeah, your point is well made about sports clubs, Councillor Richmond. It's
12 disastrous at the moment. It's all over the eastern seaboard, there are no pitches
13 available at all. Some counties do provide municipal training facilities, we're not
14 quite in that space yet but it is a situation we're likely to get to, or even shared
15 facilities between a number of clubs which we have seen in the past.

16

17 Councillor Stapleton, on the rural roads. We have done an initial assessment of the
18 damage caused by the storm, initial, and you're talking north of 16 million for repairs
19 to the rural road infrastructure. We did have the Taoiseach down with us in Aughrim
20 there on the bank holiday Monday and we did make that point to him, and to be fair
21 the district engineer from Arklow made the point very, very well, that the normal
22 roads programme is not sufficient to keep the roads at a decent standard let alone the
23 severe weather event on top of that. That point was very well made to the Taoiseach.
24 So I am hopeful we will get an additional allocation for our roads. Joe has taken a
25 note on the roads you've mentioned.

26

27 On Maghermore facilities. Certainly we would like to enhance the facilities at
28 Maghermore. We do approve lifeguards every year. I don't know if it's been
29 designated a bathing spot as yet in terms of lifeguards being allocated. We can look
30 at that. We want to capitalise on that.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Okay Members. It's 5 o'clock now. It's just gone
32 past. Can I ask you to email if there's any queries, just email them into the relevant
33 directorates and they can be answered. That was an awful lot that we actually
34 covered today. It is unfortunate we can't cover everything. But thank you for your

1 cooperation and have a good month.

2

3 (Meeting concluded at 5:03 pm)

4

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