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**TRANSCRIPT OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY, MAY 5TH, 2021:**

CATHAOIRLEACH: Morning, members.

You are all very welcome to our meeting here today.

MS GALLAGHER: Good morn, elected members. Can you hear me? Great. Okay. So, welcome, each member participating remotely has personal responsibility to ensure that there are no persons present who are not entitled to be either hearing or seeing the business being discussed. May I ask you to switch your mobile phones to silent. Please do not leave the online meeting without informing the Cathaoirleach to ensure that a quorum remains. You may use the chat function to send a message indicating you wish to speak or raise the hand. Can I ask speakers to turn their microphones on only when speaking? So, we welcome the press and the public present. I would ask the members to adhere to the instructions and to keep their microphones and cameras off. So, we will just proceed with the roll call first. Cllr Tommy Annesley.

CLLR ANNESLEY: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Vincent Blake. I know you are there, Cllr Blake.

Cllr Sylvester Bourke.

CLLR BOURKE: Here.

MS GALLAGHER: Melanie Corrigan?

CLLR CORRIGAN: Here.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Mags Crean.

CLLR CREAN: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Cronin.

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CLLR CRONIN: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Shay Cullen.

CLLR CULLEN: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Erica Dunne?

CLLR ERICA DUNNE: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Ferris.

CLLR FERRIS: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Pat Fitzgerald, Cllr Pat Fitzgerald.

CLLR FITZGERALD: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Tom Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr M Kavanagh.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Pat Kennedy. Cllr Peir Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Grace McManus.

CLLR MCMANUS: Anseo.

MS GALLAGHER: Derek Mitchell, Cllr Mitchell may be late. Cllr John Mullen.

CLLR MULLEN: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Miriam Murphy. Cllr Murphy will be with us later on. Cllr Jodie Neary.

CLLR NEARY: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR D O'BRIEN: Here.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Paul O'Brien.

CLLR P O'BRIEN: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Rory O'Connor.

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CLLR O'CONNOR: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Gerry O'Neill.

CLLR G O'NEILL: Anseo.

MS GALLAGHER: Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: John Snell.

CLLR SNELL: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Gerry Walsh.

CLLR G WALSH: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Irene Winters.

CLLR WINTERS: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: I will just go back to Cllr Vincent Blake. Okay, Cathaoirleach, thank you. Cathaoirleach, there are two for Susanna O'Dowd and for Lena Elliot, former branch librarian in Carnew.

CLLR S CULLEN: Is the chamber on mute? Does anyone else have a problem.

CLLR SNELL: The chamber is on mute, Lorraine, if you can hear us.

CLLR ANNESLEY: Can't hear nothing, either Shay.

CLLR D O'BRIEN: No sound coming through, folks.

CLLR S CULLEN: No sound, yeah.

CLLR NEARY: I have messaged here as well, no response. Will we all just wave!

CLLR FORTUNE: We are going to have a great meeting.

CLLR NEARY: A great start.

CLLR ANNESLEY: Modern technology!

CLLR LEONARD: Get all of our notices of motion in now.

CLLR SCOTT: We could all do a dance maybe attract attention.

MS GALLAGHER: Elected members can you hear us now.

CLLR D O'BRIEN: We can hear you now.

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MS GALLAGHER: Okay, can you just bear with us for a few minutes, please. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can you hear me now? That is great. Sorry about that, members. That disposal notice, could you hear that when I read that out? No. I will go back. That is fine, I will go back to it. Item number two was to consider the disposal of 0.0106 hectares (0.0263 acres) or thereabouts of land situated in the townland of Kilmacanoge, South Td, County Wicklow to Mr. Seamus Griffin, Beechfield Investments Ltd, 4 Moorpark, Kilmacanogue County Wicklow. Could I have a proposal for that.

CLLR CORRIGAN: I would like to propose it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Seconded by.

CLLR O'CONNOR: I will second it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you.

MS GALLAGHER: Is that agreed by all members?

CLLR MULLEN: Sorry, I didn't hear item one, the minutes either, did anyone hear eye them one on the minutes.

MS GALLAGHER: Just to go back, item one was proposed by Cllr Shay Cullen and seconded by Cllr John Snell. Is item one agreed by all members? Agreed, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Eye them number three on the agenda is to consider the disposal of 0.386 hectares or thereabouts of land situated in the townland of Ballynacarrig, Co Wicklow comprised in Folio, WW2626, plan number 141, property number 13 and part of Folio WW1714, plan for 139, property number 12 to Mr. Eoin Roddy, Sea Winds, Brittas Bay. Can I have a proposer er for that. Proposed by Patsy Glennon and seconded by Cllr Dunne.

MS GALLAGHER: That agreed by all members present? Thank you, all.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number 4 is to review Standing Order Number 6 place of meeting and address of principal office. The copy was attached. So, I need a proposer for that and a seconder.

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MS GALLAGHER: If I could come in there for a few minutes. Just to say that members were circulated with a letter dated the 5th of May. It outlines that our standing orders were amended to provide for the holding of remote meetings as set out in the standing orders for six months, ending the 10th of June. So, if the members were agreeable to extending that for another six-month period to the end of December 2021, reviewable on a monthly basis by the elected members. Can I have a proposer and seconder for that, we will have to go for a roll call?

CLLR FERRIS: I will propose.

MS GALLAGHER: Proposed by Cllr Ferris seconded by. Cllr Neary.

CLLR BEHAN: Can I ask a question on that?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes, Cllr Behan, yes.

CLLR BEHAN: I am not clear at the moment what level of restrictions we are currently operating under. Could we have clarification as to when we are going to be back in the council chamber for meetings? I think that is something that would be important for us to know today.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Behan. Lorraine, can I bring you in on that?

MS GALLAGHER: We are still operating on the basis that there is the legislative basis is there for elected members to hold meetings remotely or to hold meetings by hybrid. Now this is a decision for the elected members, how they wish to proceed. But, for example, if we were to meet in a physical space, we are still tied to the one hour and 55 minutes, the HSE public guidance states that you should spent no more than one hour and 55 minutes in a physical space, or if anyone tested positive for COVID-19 those members present would be classed as a close contact. So, at the moment we are not holding any face-to-face meetings. All of our statutory meetings are being held either online or by Zoom, but what, this extension provides that we can review it on a monthly basis through the CPG.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Does that answer that question for you, Cllr Behan? Are you happy with that response?

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CLLR BEHAN: Well, I am not going to delay the meeting, but I don't really, it doesn't really answer the question. What level of restrictions are we operating under?

MS GALLAGHER: Well, Cathaoirleach, we are following the path ahead that is set out by the Government. At the moment still our buildings are closed by appointment only. Everyone is aware of the openings, what the Government's announcements are. So, it hasn't changed in terms of customer services or anything like that, face-to-face meetings, etc, etc.

CLLR BEHAN: Okay. All right, thanks, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Behan, thank you, Lorraine. Can I have, that was a proposed and seconded, so we have to take a vote on this.

[ Vote taken]

MS GALLAGHER: Okay, that is 28 for and four not present. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number five on the agenda is to note the Annual Financial Statement 2020 to approve by resolution a net expenditure in accordance with Section 106 (7) of the local Government Act, copy attached. I think our director, Brian Gleeson the head of finance is with us. Brian, are you there? Are you there, Brian? I am just waiting for Brian, are you there with us, Brian? Sorry, members, I am just waiting for Brian to join us. Cllr Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Just while we are waiting, I will ask Brian when he comes, but what is the basis for the additional net expenditure in excess of budget?

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will just wait for Brian.

BRIAN GLEESON: Just on the AFS. We have, given the financial circumstances of last year, the financial statements were quite positive given what we received last year. The revenue account generated a surplus of 406,000 which has brought our overall cumulative deficit down below the two million mark to 1.6 million. We have received 150 million in revenue last year, which included one-off Government

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supports of 13.3 million for the rates waiver, 16 million for the restart grant and 2.8 million in compensation for losses on goods and services income and the additional COVID expenditure that we incurred. Under Section 104 (7) of the Local Government Act 2001, the members need to approve the additional net expenditure in excess of budget. These are outlined on page 4 of the AFS document. Division One is housing 3.3 million, that was as a result of clearing our pre-letting excess expenditure. Roads division B833,000, that was mainly as a result of the drop in parking income this year. Expenditure, ow division E, environment, 613,000 due to additional expenditure on fire service operations and Division F recreation and amenities, nearly 91,000 that was in relation to the full implementation of the Library Workforce Plan and some additional expenditure on community support schemes in response to COVID-19. Then, finally division G, agriculture, education, health, 156,000, that was due to the reduction in harbour fees and income in relation to that. So, if I can get a proposer and seconder for those net expenditure?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Just before I go to that, Brian, Cllr Timmins had a question, I don't know, Cllr Timmins did you get the answer in that?

CLLR TIMMINS: I did.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So, you are happy to propose it.

CLLR TIMMINS: I am happy to propose it.

MS GALLAGHER: Proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Cllr Gerry Walsh, I think.

MS GALLAGHER: That agreed by all members present? Agreed.

CLLR CORRIGAN: Agreed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, members. Item to consider the disposal of 0.0106 hectares (0.0263 acres) or thereabouts of land situated in the townland of Kilmacanogue 6 is to consider the proposed draft County Development Plan under Section 11N5 of the as amended. Consider any proposed amendments to the same as previously circulated. Just before we get into item number 6, I would like to say can I thank everyone for all the work they have done to date. I want to thank Sorcha,

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Breege and all in the planning office. Thank them for their engagement with the members. I know first-hand the work they have been doing in the last week trying to get it typed up and get it out to members. Can I also thank the members, especially the members for all the work they have done, for your engagement? We all know how important the County Development Plan is. We are going to, there is 120 amendments in, so we will take our time, we will get through them. One by one and we will work our way through all 120. Is that all right? Before I go to and propose amendment number one, I would like to bring in the Chief Executive, please.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I might join with you there in complementing Sorcha and Breege and all the staff...

CLLR MULLEN: Sound is very low, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Just one second.

CLLR D O'BRIEN: No sound or video.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, apologies members. I would like to join with the Cathaoirleach in thanking Sorcha and Breege and all the staff for preparing the proposed draft and the members inquiry courtesy and how they presented it in the last few weeks. Really appreciate that and it bodes well for the future on how we can work together. As the Cathaoirleach said we are at the stage of the proposed draft has been considered by the members. We have something like 117 amendments which we will now start to go through. The plan will be that the public consultation process will start following adoption or otherwise of the proposed amendments. It will be on public consultation for ten weeks. There will then be a Chief Executive's report on the Draft Development Plan prepared over a 12-week period. That will be considered by the members for a further 12 weeks and then, in January 2022 the members can accept or amend the draft plan. So that is the process. So, I think, Cathaoirleach, we might just start and go through the amendments one by one, that is okay.



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CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Chief Executive. I would like to bring in the director of planning, Breege Killkenny for a minute.

BREEGE: Good morning, members. This is an important day on our journey to adopting the new County Development Plan for county Wicklow. I want to thank you for your engagement and participates in the process so far. You have all worked very hard with the forward planning team. This was very evident at the attendance and the interest shown at the numerous workshops the team held with you. Also, with the level of homework that is also evident with the number of proposed amendments that we are hoping to work through today. Am I out?

Just to reiterate what Frank has said: The team has been tasked, with preparing a plan that is in line with national and regional policy outlined in the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. Navigating through those policy documents and trying to accommodate the issues raised by ourselves as members has been a tough job for the team. But I would join in with both the Cathaoirleach and the Chief Executive to take this opportunity to thank the team and I am sure you will agree that they could do no more with regard to engagement and encouragement of you and in facilitating and trying to assist you. We have a lot of work to get through now, so without further ado I will hand you back to the Cathaoirleach to proceed with the consideration of your proposed amendments. Thank you very much, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I would like to bring in Lorraine Gallagher now.

MS GALLAGHER: Just to remind elected members in relation to the requirements under the ethics legislation. So, when a matter comes before the meeting for consideration, where you or someone or a connected person to you has a beneficial interest, you must disclose to the meeting the nature of the beneficial interest before discussion or consideration of the matter commences. You must withdraw fully from the meeting until the matter is concluded. The disclosure and your absence from the meeting from the matter will be recorded in the minutes. You must inform the

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Council's ethics register in writing after the meeting of the nature of the beneficial interest so your register of interests can be updated. Elected members have my mobile number, so for anyone who needs to leave the meeting, just advise the meeting, clearly that you are going to leave and leave the remote meeting and then when the item has finished being discussed we will telephone you and you can rejoin the meeting. Just in relation to voting, Cathaoirleach, there are a large number of amendments to be vote on this morning.

So, what we are asking the Cathaoirleach, we are asking elected members to keep their microphones and cameras on during the process. Once the amendment is proposed and seconded the Cathaoirleach will ask the elected members to clearly indicate, vote verbally and by way of your show of hand on the screen if you are in agreement with the amendment as put forward. Elected members are asked to respond clearly by way of hand and verbally if in agreement. The response will be followed by a brief pause following which the Cathaoirleach will ask the members to verbally indicate if there is disagreement or dissent among the member as to the proposal put forward. If one or more elected members indicates they are not in agreement with a proposal a roll call sheet should be taken. If there is no dissent it should be agree as passed. This is the time that it will be considered.

Again, Cathaoirleach, where a member loses connectivity during a statutory vote, every effort will be made to re-establish a connection. If a connection cannot be restored within a reasonable period of time, being three minutes, every effort will be made to allow the member to vote by an alternative means, as agreed set down in standing orders and the vote will be recorded accordingly. So, where connectivity cannot be restored within a period of three minutes, the elected member will telephone the meeting's administrator and you have my number or answer immediately a call from the meeting's administrator and the vote will be played aloud into the microphone. Again, leaving a meeting. Any elected member leaving the

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meeting should make every effort to inform the Cathaoirleach by the appropriate means if they are exiting the mean to ensure that a quorum is present. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Lorraine. Cllr Joe Behan, you want to come in.

CLLR BEHAN: Yes, just a quick clarification. Obviously after today's proceedings, or whenever this particular part of the process is completed, it goes out to the public for their comments. Can I just clarify that all of the 32 members are entitled to submit amendments at the next stage as well as today? Whether or not they come in as part of suggestions from the public, if members having reviewed the draft plan decide that they want to put forward an amendment at the next stage of the process, that that will be in order. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Behan. I am going to bring in Sorcha Walsh here.

SORCHA: It was always my understanding and reading of the planning act that at the next stage, the amendment stage that any amendments proposed by the Chief Executive other the members are those that are on foot of submissions made by the public. But we can get some legal advice from you if it's the case that you want to know if you can make, submit a proposal that is not on foot of that, that was my reading of it, that your further amendments were supposed to be based on what your constituents have put forward for changes in the proposed plan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

CLLR O'NEILL: Cathaoirleach, I just want to be fairly clear; I had a submission in on the Baltinglass Town Plan and the introduction, or the rezoned land for a supermarket. It's not on, it didn't go through on to our today. I have been assured that it would go on to the draft, which I am very anxious that that would be the case.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you, Cllr O'Neill.

CLLR O'NEILL: I am clear on that, although I had it in last Monday, I talked to some planners and agreed the maps would be included and they would go on the draft. That is my understanding, that I can put it in on the draft plan in a few weeks' time.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. I will come back to you on that in a second. Cllr fortune has his hand up.

CLLR FORTUNE: I just have a general question to the executive. Like in light of what is going on at the moment nationally with housing and the issues all around that, have you received any indication from the department or anywhere within Government that this whole CDP process may be revisited later this year or stalled or changed because of the circumstances pertaining out there at the moment in regard to homes and the way homes are being built and acquired and various things like that? I read something about it there over the last few days and I just did a little bit of delving into it. I am led to understand that that might happen. Now maybe it's just a rumour, but I am just wondering, Frank, have you any insight or knowledge that that could happen and therefore the process we are going through today will be null and void at some stage later this year.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Fortune. Maybe I will bring in the Chief Executive and get clarity for Cllr O'Neill second.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just in relation to the department, I know they are looking at legislation in relation to delays that some local authorities have had in relation to COVID, in relation to planners being out, planners working on development management, etc. You know, there is a 99-week programme for development plans that are looking at legislation that could extend that by six months if local authorities needed it because of delays due to COVID or because of delays of amendments that have been sent out at late stage. I know they are very concerned about investors at the moment, and they are looking at ways of dealing that around housing policy and planning policy, etc. But nothing I think that will affect the development plan process. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Chief Executive. Sorcha, can I bring you back in in relation to Cllr O'Neill's query?

SORCHA: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Cllr O'Neill had interacted with members of the planning team. They had discussed his proposal but weren't able to reach an end

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point with him where it was formed into an actual proposal. That is why it does not appear on the list today and unless it's proposed and it's a complete proposal today and the Cathaoirleach is happy to take it, not having seen it or circulated it, then otherwise it won't be in the draft plan, but what Cllr O'Neill was told is if this is an issue that is brought up by the member was the public in Baltinglass, as part of the public submissions then at the next stage it will be on the table for discussion and proposals and so on.

So that is what we mean by that there is a second stage so if the public and your constituents want to make a proposal for something new that isn't in the draft plan, if they wish to propose something or like to see something changed that is all then on the table at the next stage.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr O'Neill.

CLLR O'NEILL: I am not really happy with this. I was led to believe in discussions with the planning that I can put that into the draft plan. My motion as regards low-cost supermarket and the rezoning involved would be part of the draft plan. Now I am being digged out. The planning had my submission in since last Monday, the same time as any other councillors submitted, so I want to be absolutely clear on this, I would be, I wouldn't be happy, I would be disgusted if I have been led up the wrong path here. I have been assured, in talking to planners over the last week that I could submit that to the draft plan. Now I think I am being told something different.

SORCHA. Cathaoirleach, if I could come in on that. Cllr O'Neill was looking to zone a piece of land for retail in the Baltinglass area. He asked the planners to pick a site. He didn't indicate a site, he said, "You pick a site." So that is not something that we were able to do for him. The proposal has to be his proposal. That is what I mean by we got to a point where we didn't have a complete proposal from him.

CLLR O'NEILL: I absolutely reject that. I indicated on my submission, I pointed out two different sites, I just want to make it very clear, Cathaoirleach. One site on the N81 at the Castledermot Junction is within the town plan of Baltinglass. The other

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one is just outside the town plan on the Hospital Road. I left it to the planners to decide on which would be the better site. This was the conversation I had with the planners during the week. I could have gone on with either site no problem, but it was agreed in talking to planners that the two sites would be, I would be absolutely disgusted if I am led up the garden path on this one. This would be totally wrong. I would walk away from it here today. I would be horrified to think that I have been led up the garden path. It's quite clear, the people of Baltinglass area have been lobbying councillors here for some time for a low-cost shopping outlet. I put it in last Monday in plenty of time and with discussion with planners, it was decided, I agreed to leave it with them to decide on either site. If I had been told that on Monday last or Tuesday last, I would have indicated a site.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Cllr O'Neill, can I just say, can I come back, this is going to be a long day.

CLLR O'NEILL: I know it is.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I come back to you on this, and I will come back to you on this when I do a bit of work on it maybe over the lunch break. I will come back to you in the afternoon. Is that all right?

CLLR O'NEILL: Okay, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will come back to you. Cllr John Mullen. Did you indicate you wanted to come in, John?

CLLR MULLEN: Just a quick technical question. I was sent in an amendment on appendices, and it wasn't included, I see we have no appendices motions today. I want to know are we allowed to amend appendices or put clarifications into an appendix. Just a technical for the public submissions.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Bourke.

CLLR BOURKE: On a point of clarification, Cathaoirleach. I had sent in an additional submission there on glamping which seems to have been left off as well we didn't get it. I was discussing it with Cllr Corrigan earlier and she had a suggestion about glamping as well, but I am told from listening to Sorcha that we won't be able to

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make that suggestion ourselves, we will have to get a member of the public to come forward with amendments on the **glamping** policy. So, if that is the case, I just want to get that clarified. That is the case it's fine, I am sure we can get a member of the public to get what we would like to see in into the plan. That is all I wanted to mention there for the moment.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I go back to Sorcha on those two.

SORCHA: Amendments can be made to appendices, but some of them are technical scientific assessments, so I wouldn't think it would be open to you to alter the scientific assessment of a particular policy which has been carried out by a professional scientific organisation that we have hired to do that assessment. But a number of the appendices are things like design standards and things, so absolutely yes, it's open to the members to amend them. With regard to Cllr Bourke's proposal on **glamping** that proposal has been submitted and seconded by Cllr Bourke and if it's omitted from the document that is our human error and we will circulate it now. It was proposed in plenty of time last week and discussed with us. We had a 200-page document to get out which was only finished at 4.00pm on Friday. So, the team have been working nights to try and get this out. It's inevitable that one page might be missed so we are happy to circulate that. There is no problem. Maybe we could leave it until after lunch as well so that everyone has it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is that all right with everyone? Can I just say before we get, before I move into the first amendment, we will take our time, if anyone wants to come in, if anyone is coming in and I don't see them, don't feel you are interrupting me, you are not. I want to give everyone as much time as they need on this, work our way through. Is that okay with everyone? In the proposed amendment is by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded...

SORCHA: Perhaps you might go to Cllr Edward Timmins first.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: I put in a couple of amendments. 3 in number one, two and six. They are all pretty similar. They are extracts by a document produced by the



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Government two months ago from Heather Humphreys in recognising the changes to rural Ireland because of COVID but also broader stuff regarding issues to rural Ireland and rural Wicklow which is the vast majority of the county. So, I picked an extract from that document and I have had here as my proposal. The alternative wording in relation to that amendment and just having read both amendments I am happy to go with the amendment proposed by the planners on this amendment number one. Their wording is different, but I am satisfied that their wording covers the thrust of what I am trying to achieve here. So happy to amendment document in line with the proposal by the planning authorities.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Timmins. The Chief Executive has no objection, I would ask the members if you could hold your hands up if you are in agreement. Is everyone in agreement with that? Any dissent? Okay.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you, members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, members. Amendment number 2 is proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Cllr Blake. Cllr Edward Timmins I will bring you in.

CLLR TIMMINS: Similar story, I won't go through it line by line. You have all read it. It's a similar thrust behind it, taking an extract from what is now Government policy. The CE's initial response is that it involved copying and pasting large tracts of a national policy document which has been criticised on that basis, I contend that a lot of our development plan is copied from national planning documents, so there is nothing unusual about that. I would propose that my amendment is accepted by the members today.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Edward Timmins. Seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake. I see the Chief Executive has, the Chief Executive does not support this proposal, so I will bring in Sorcha on this.

Am I right?

SORCHA: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. We welcome Cllr Timmins bringing this document to our attention and we support references to it in the development plan. I



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suppose chapter 2 is a preliminary chapter that gives a brief summary of the key Government policies that influence the direction of the plan. We felt that the text that was proposed by Cllr Timmins was quite long and would give, I suppose had more devoted to it than many of the other Government policies we have regard to. So, we simply were proposing a shorter, simpler synopsis of the same part of the Government strategy.

The plan is very long, as you know already, chapter 2 is very long, so there are numerous Government ministerial documents that we refer to and I suppose we want to keep the plan legible and interesting to the public. Hence the reason for proposing, let us say an abridged version of what Cllr Timmins had proposed. But we are generally supportive, and we welcome him including this in the plan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, I think I need to take a vote on this, then.

MS GALLAGHER: Cathaoirleach we have a proposer a seconder.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is there any dissent in this.

MS GALLAGHER: Are you all agreed to the amendment? I think Cllr Mitchell.

CLLR WINTERS: When you say agreed to the amendment are you talking about Cllr Edward Timmins's amendment or the Chief Executive's alternative?

MS GALLAGHER: No what you are looking at today is proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins, what the elected member is proposing and what the elected member is seconding. So, you have an amendment put forward. You have a response of the Chief Executive. But if anyone is not in agreement with the amendment put forward by Cllr Timmins and Cllr Blake having regard to the response, indicate now.

CLLR FERRIS: Sorry, Chair, Lorraine, do we not have a vote on the Chief Executive response and the wording that Sorcha has just explained?

MS GALLAGHER: So, the Chief Executive respectfully requests that the members consider the following wording as an alternative. So, if you are not in agreement with what Cllr Timmins has put forward and Cllr Blake is seconding and that would you

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prefer or you would rather the Chief Executive's consideration and wording now is the time to indicate and vote.

CLLR FERRIS: Okay, so what are we voting on exactly.

MS GALLAGHER: We are not voting on anything unless we have dissent. So, if you are not in agreement with what Cllr Timmins and Cllr Blake are proposing. If that is unanimously agreed we move on, having regard to the Chief Executive's response. But if you would rather the Chief Executive's response to be included as an alternative to the amendment, then we have to vote.

CLLR FERRIS: Well, I would rather the Chief Executive's response.

CLLR SNELL: I would second that, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So, we have a proposal from Cllr Ferris for the Chief Executive's response and seconded by Cllr Snell's.

MS GALLAGHER: So, what we are voting for now is for or against the amendment. If you vote for the amendment, you are putting in the wording proposed by Cllr Timmins and seconded by Cllr Blake. If you vote against the amendment, you are putting in the wording of the Chief Executive. Okay. So proposed by Cllr Ferris and seconded by.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Snell.

CLLR TIMMINS: Could you just make it clear to people, like you said there, if the proposal is voted on my amendment goes through and then you said you have a proposer, Cllr Ferris. Could you make it clear what we are voting on?

MS GALLAGHER: We are voting for the amendment by Cllr Edward Timmins and Cllr Blake. If you vote for it goes through, if you vote against it doesn't go through and wording of the Chief Executive is included. Okay. Everyone happy?

[VOTE TAKEN]

[ DOG BARKS]

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MS GALLAGHER: Was that you, Cllr Blake? I am marking Vincent Blake as not present. So that is 21 for, nine against and two not present. So, the amendment is passed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you.

MS GALLAGHER: Proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Vincent Blake.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed amendment number three is proposed by Cllr Dermot O'Brien and seconded by Grace McManus. I note the Chief Executive has no objection to this. Cllr Dermot O'Brien, do you want to come in for a minute.

CLLR D O'BRIEN: Just building on the work of the CCSD and including communities in, as assets in consultation when it comes to healthy placemaking. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: As the Chief Executive has no objection so this, is everyone in agreement with it? Yeah. Cllr Ferris you want to come in. No, you are in agreement. So, if you could raise your hands to say you are in agreement. There is no dissent? Okay. That is passed. Proposed amendment number 4 is proposed by Lourda Scott and seconded by Cllr Jodie Neary. Cllr Jodie Neary has proposed this on behalf of the climate SPC. Do you want could come in on this?

CLLR SCOTT: Yes, just briefly. It's fairly self-explanatory it's to reference the latest action plan from the Government and just to underpin the principle of transition as one of the goals when we are talking about it in the county.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I see there is no objection to the proposed amendment, is everyone in agreement with that. Can you raise your hand and indicate you are in agreement? There is no dissent. Okay, that has passed. Proposed amendment number five is proposed by Cllr Dermot O'Brien and Cllr Grace McManus. So, Cllr D O'Brien, do you want to come in on that?

CLLR D O'BRIEN: Just an extra word, promote and support the circular economy in the transition to cleaner energy.

CATHAOIRLEACH: The Chief Executive has no objection so that. Members in agreement with that, no dissent. Yeah, thank you. Proposed amendment number 6

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is proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake. Cllr Edward Timmins, do you want to come in on that, the Chief Executive has no objection to it.

CLLR TIMMINS: I think the Chief Executive has proposed a different wording.

CATHAOIRLEACH: He has.

CLLR TIMMINS: So, I would like to retain the wording I have proposed, it's based on remote working which is becoming more and more important in light of COVID. It's not just a temporary event, it's going to continue on into the future. So, this recognises the importance of it and the policy covers that quite extensively, so I would like to propose that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: That is seconded by Cllr Blake. Lorraine, I will bring you in.

MS GALLAGHER: We have a proposer and a seconder. The Chief Executive has given the response. He respectful I will suggest that the members consider the following wording that is late out there in red. If elected members are in agreement with the proposal put forward by Cllr Timmins and Blake, raise your hand and indicate your agreement, if there is any dissent, we will take a vote.

CLLR SNELL: Cathaoirleach, could the Chief Executive give a response, I know he has given a written response, but it doesn't explain. Like he is not in favour of this copy and pasting from other national documents, but could you just explain why he wants to change the wording on this particular amendment? Amendment 6, please.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Chief Executive, can you come in for a minute on this one.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Look, we accept and agree with Cllr Timmins, no question about that. It's the same as the last one. We have to get to a stage that we keep the County Development Plan as concise as we can. We are just summarising it, rather than cutting and pacing from a policy that we agree with already. That is all we are saying.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Chief Executive. So, member, do we agree with what Cllr Timmins and seconded by Cllr Blake has put forward? Is there dissent on that? If there is, we will go for a vote. Lorraine, can you come in on that.

MS GALLAGHER: I don't see anyone indicating they wish to go for a vote, so we will take it that it's agreed by all present.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can we take that that is agreed, members?

MS GALLAGHER: Agreed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Proposed amendment is proposed by Cllr Dermot O'Brien and seconded by Cllr Grace McManus. Dermot, do you want to come in on this? I see the Chief Executive has no objection to it.

CLLR D O'BRIEN: Just happy to have an add on in terms of community wealth building.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Dermot O'Brien. Members, are you happy to go with that? Can you indicate to me, please? There is no dissent? Okay, thank you. Proposed amendment number 8 is proposed by Cllr John Mullen and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake. Cllr John Mullen, do you want to come in on this as the proposer?

CLLR MULLEN: Just briefly. It's very self-explanatory. I know it's a technical term, but again it's part of the ongoing dismissal of rural communities which has gone on in some areas and I think it should be replaced by something more that people understood. I think my explanations of it is valid.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Mullen. The Chief Executive has no issue with this being changed. Members, are you in agreement with that? No dissent?

MS GALLAGHER: Raise your hands, we are watching the screen. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Proposed amendment number 9 is proposed by Derek Mitchell. Cllr Mitchell unless you have a seconder, I can't go forward with it. You do you have a seconder for this, Cllr Mitchell? Seconded by Gerry Walsh? Is that right?

CLLR MITCHELL: Actually, Irene winters seconded by proposals it didn't get through on to the piece of paper.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed by Derek Mitchell and seconded by Irene Winters. Do you want to come in on that?

CLLR MITCHELL: Just to say the department has instructed the council to note the present building in a different way to what the original report said. I think it's important, that diminishes the amount of building that is happening now. So, we don't have a good record, if we didn't change this, we won't have a record of what is under construction and what is already permitted, but not yet under construction. Certainly, that is fortunate for deciding the infrastructure that is needed in any place and, for instance, in Greystones there is 1600 houses in that category. In Newtown there is a very large number, there is 600 and in others. So, I think this change is so add in the total number of permissions and buildings started so that we have a much better idea of what infrastructure we have to provide. I also think this is not for today, that when the plan is finalised, this should be kept up to date, because it will be roughly a year away. Last, I would ask that people would support this to show the infrastructure that is needed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Mitchell. The Chief Executive has no objection to it. Members are you happy to support Cllr Mitchell and Cllr Winter's proposal. Can you indicate please. No dissent. Thank you.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you. Agreed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: That is agreed, yes. Amendment number 10 is proposed by Cllr John Mullen and again, do you have a seconder for this proposal? I can't take it unless there is someone willing to second it, I can't take it.

CLLR MULLEN: The Chief Executive has no objection to it, it's a technical one, I like a colleague to second it.

CLLR WINTERS: I will second it then.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Irene Winters.

MS GALLAGHER: No dissent. Everyone in agreement.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Everyone in in agreement with that? Yeah.

MS GALLAGHER: Agreed, thank you, members.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed amendment number 11 is proposed by...

CLLR TIMMINS: Can I just come in before number 11 is proposed. Under ethics legislation I will have to absent myself from the vote and I will be leaving the meeting. The reason is family members own land within the boundary of Baltinglass, therefore under ethics legislation, I have to declare that. I can't partake in the meeting when that is being discussed. So, I am going to have to exit the Zoom meeting now and I would ask that some official will contact me when item 11 is finished, and I can come back in for item 12.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Edward Timmins.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you, Cllr Timmins. Cllr Timmins has exited the building.

CLLR BLAKE: Can I come in approximate.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: Can I tell Lorraine I am leaving the signal on a regular basis. I am in and out of the meeting for the last half an hour. Tell Lorraine that there.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Lorraine, could you hear that from Cllr Blake.

MS GALLAGHER: I did, Cllr Blake. Look, if you do lose connectivity during a vote, please ring me.

CLLR BLAKE: I lost your number; can you give it to me.

MS GALLAGHER: I won't give it overline, I will get someone to text you. Just for the last vote you did second it and it went through, so I marked you as absent, but it didn't affect the vote.

CLLR BLAKE: Okay.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We will get that number to you, Cllr Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: Okay, thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed amendment number 11 is proposed by Cllr John Mullen. Again, I need a seconder to take it. Cllr John Mullen, do you have a seconder for the proposed amendment number 11.



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CLLR MULLEN: Again, I don't have a seconder currently, but I would appeal to colleagues if you could second the motion regardless of how you vote on it. I would like the opportunity to explain.

CLLR FORTUNE: I will second it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Seconded by Cllr Fortune.

CLLR MULLEN: I want to start with the fact I'd like to thank the engagement with the planners on this with the Chief Executive this, is not aimed at them, when we talk about housing, everybody agrees that the supply is the problem when it comes to housing. And we need to radically increase supply. And the NPF and growth figures the planners are obliged to put into that plan, I want to emphasise that, they should put in this plan, we will not grow housing in this county, I repeat that, we will not grow housing in this county. I sent you a reasoning last night because it didn't make it in because there was a secure it's a route for the motion to put together, there was a lot of input in it what does this mean on the ground this, motion goes through we are challenging the national framework and Office of the Planning Regulator and I accept that, I know that creates challenges for the planners and Chief Executive but we have to stand up here, this is our time to stand up and challenging the plan, and it is our time the office planning regulator can come back to us as what their views are, I agree, there's a view from Government that COVID and the National Planning Framework are not contributing to that, the solutions in the supply of housing. So the plan deducts the number of houses built today since 2016 from our growth figures, so all that follows the technical part of the plan follows 30% of growth must be compact growth within the existing envelope, so when you apply the two policies from the NPF into our growth figures the traditional building of housing estates, that means greenfield housing estate it means there's no housing estates, I want to read this in the record in Ashford, Aughrim, Carnew,



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Dunlavin, Tinahely, Donard, Kilmac, Newcastle, Roundwood and Shillelagh, if this plans goes ahead, when you deduct the number of commenced planning permissions as Cllr Derek Mitchell was saying earlier, which were not included in this report but should include in the first executive's report this gets even worse.

So if you look at the larger towns, which will have local area plans built, which will have a local area plan built process after this, there will be in Bray, 728 houses to be removed, Wicklow Rathnew, 778 to be removed, Arklow, 2,137 houses to be removed, Greystones, Delgany, 29, Blessington, 519, Kilcoole 226 and Enniskerry 120, so what we're arguing in this motion is that, the restrictions that are coming to us from the NPF and spatial growth figures don't allow us to build houses we will have a shortfall, massive shortfall, up to 60% in the amount of houses we are to build according to the target development, we want to have flexibility where that they're service land, land stoned in 2016 plan, zoned by councillors in the previous council and by the planners and the management of the previous council, where those lands are in, they should stay in, and be tiered into tier one and tier two, and I know this is complicated, but tier one means if it is service land, zoned for housing it should be built upon if appropriate housing plans come in on it, if it is zoned for housing and doesn't have appropriate infrastructure, it should be land banked and put into tier two. When the infrastructure appears it will become tier one, and this then you can build on it, now that's what the essence of what this proposal is and there's a lot of to aggro from it, I accept my colleagues have concerns and planners have concerned about it, I also accept this is a direct contrary to the National Planning Framework growth figures but we either take action on or we don't, because we will not hit the target. And anybody who can add can know that. So, I implore colleagues to consider this, thanks.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr John Mullen and thanks Cllr Tom Fortune for taking that. I will bring in Sorcha to bring in about the response.

SORCHA: Thank you Cathaoirleach, look the Chief Executive has set out in the report in front of you a number of reasons why he is strongly opposed to that, and I'm sure he will come in after me the fundamental point that Cllr John Mullen raised is that this is simply, this amendment would entail zoning land over and above the population targets and growth targets that have set out in your core strategy and strategies prepared in accordance with the National Planning Framework and what we're trying do is to work with you to create a plan that complies with the National Planning Framework and won't hit the offices of the OPR and be strongly rejected by them or criticised by them, we're trying to build a plan that meets your needs and complies with the higher order government policy. So, we think, to go outside of that, we would essentially draw the critique from the office of planning regulator, and they would ask that we amend the plan anyway so, so at the next stage, we would be back to where we are now. And in fact, we could possibly be worse off they may do analysis of the land that is supposed to be zoned. The second reason is we don't feel the proposal is sufficiently reverting to the 2016 plan for each and every settlement would effectively do away with any of the changes to the plans we have proposed in the current proposed draft plan for you. So, say for example, we have proposed to alter the zoning of some land in a particular town because it is deemed at risk of flooding, to that and we didn't have that information available, say in 2015/16 because there was analysis of flood risk carried out that we would reverting to the land at risk for flooding, similarly, we have let's say improved the land in centres of towns so enhanced the number of houses to build or range of

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uses permissible to the land, particularly to town centres to revert to the current plans would be to do away with the positive enhancements in those locations so those are the key issues. I suppose, what, we would have to draw your attention to the fact this amendment would entail reworking of vast tracks of the plan, would you essentially have to rewrite your entire core strategy to match the zoning that is proposed and we have concerns in doing so we have to have a core strategy that balances so to put more potential units in your level four, five and six settlements, which are the settlements that we're concerned with, would mean units would have to come off elsewhere, includes LAP towns because the number of units has to balance. And finally, the last thing is if we've to rewrite whole sections of the plan, and add additional zoning, we'd have to take a few months back and not publish the plan and carry out a new SEA appropriate assessment and flood risk assessment, so Cathaoirleach, if I hold over to the Chief Executive if he wants to come in on that.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thanks, I would be extremely concerned about this one for all the reasons Sorcha set out. We set out how to comply with the National Planning Framework and how to comply with the road map for population targets, and comply with regional spatial and economic plan which members of this council have voted on agreed, and extrapolation we have from Dublin through negotiation as well and the ministers' guidelines on housing targets, we use the 25% head room and plan 2031, look at settlement hierarchy, no more than 30% increase in population and some of the towns, so we set all that out to bring in the amendment now that would turn us on the next chapter to say we've done all that and now we'll ignore it so it would be thrown out by the planning regulator, Sorcha would have to adjust all the maps, she'd have to look at the flood

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risk assessment, strategic environmental assessment, two or three months do that, the plan would have no credibility, and to the books ultimately have to be balanced, if we put that population in the smaller towns and villages it would have to come out of the other areas, such as Wicklow and Arklow, so we strongly oppose to this one Cathaoirleach for those reasons.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I wanted to bring in Cllr Joe Behan here.

CLLR BEHAN: I want to thank Cllr John Mullen first of all for raising the issue because this is where, we're going to have to discuss this now for a few minutes Cathaoirleach and I hate to pressure, you said at the outset you would give plenty of time and this to me is the central issue that's facing us as a county council in the next five, six years is the shortage of housing. And the lack of supply of housing, which is leading to so many difficulties, for so many people in our county. And when you consider the advent of the cuckoo funds and the fact, they've been buying up apartments in Greystones and buying on periphery of our county in Kildare, there's possibly a risk they'll start looking into County Wicklow, like west Wicklow and other areas where their planning permission is granted. We need to be very, very centrally involved and ensuring we protect the needs of the people we represent. And we ensure that we supply enough housing for those people that, that is our duty, that's who we're responsible to. Now, I want to thank Cllr John Mullen for that point. I would also say that this is one of the very few times when we as councillors are in charge. We're in charge of this process. If we'd agreed with this proposal and it has to go back and has to be reviewed, so what? This is what we're supposed to be doing this, is us doing our job. If it takes another two or three months to design new plans, well then it takes two or three plans to design new plans. When Cllr Tom Fortune asked a

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fair question on the outset of the meeting what is the time scale is there a possibility, national plans might be reviewed?

Like what we got is they might be legislation that would extend this time, we're putting ourselves into a box here, when in fact, the Chief Executive has just revealed at the outset of the meeting, but we didn't see it in any documentation, that in fact the period could be extended if we requested it. So, I would appeal to members, that we take our time, and that we make the decisions that suit us, I'm not necessarily agreeing with what Cllr John Mullen has proposed here. But I do think his fundamental point about supply is the key issue that we have to address. And, if we're not ensuring there will be enough supply of housing for people, for the next five or six years not only social housing but particularly for people, young couples, young people who want to buy their own homes we will have failed and people are looking to this development plan in order to try and give them some hope and we have a responsibility to give them hope on principle I agree what Cllr John Mullen said, but I want clarification on one, very, very important aspect and this is where the weakness in your proposal is in Cllr John Mullen you're setting up a possible either/or situation with regard to provision of housing in the county. What I see from your proposal is that for example, the land that would be zoned for development on the outskirts of Bray, facilities and services certain row, which will be a Newtown the if the infrastructure is not up to scratch by a certain date that that particular development won't go ahead. How I think we need that development to go ahead like which also need other developments throughout the county to go ahead. But I want clarification from you, are you saying that in the case of the biggest development that could happen in the county, that you'd be saying that should be put on the long finger?

If you're saying that, I can't agree with what you're suggest but admire

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what your motivation, it is a discussion we need to have because it will affect other decisions, we make further on in the meeting Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr Joe Behan, Cllr Sylvestor Bourke.

CLLR BOURKE: Thank you Cathaoirleach, I'd like to ask the manager that if the core strategy fails in one or two years' time there should be evidence to whether it is successful or is failing by not having new houses being delivered is there any mechanism there to review our coarse strategy mid-stream so that we can have time to correct and provide sufficient housing because that seems to be the big mover for most members, we can't provide sufficient houses who need it in the community and not enough infrastructure is in place for many of our settlements. As you know, Arklow will have to wait for 2025 for sewage stream and planted. And I know from talking to potential developers how difficult they're finding it to negotiate with Irish water to provide infrastructure, and there's going to be a huge problem with Irish Water failing to provide the infrastructure, there's an announcement last week of Aughrim getting upgrade for the sewage treatment plan which is welcome but others with waiting and how long will they have to wait like Tinahely Dunlavin and Rathdrum are also on a list so there's a lot to be done, it was starting point and perhaps we should get on with it and hope that we keep a watch on it, and react when we need to. Right thanks Chairman.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr Sylvestor Bourke, Cllr Tom Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Thank you Cathaoirleach. Yeah. Cathaoirleach, I supported Cllr John Mullen's motion because and I agree that there are bits of it that I would have issue with obviously and Cllr Joe Behan outlined them very well, but, I believe that this is probably one of the most important discussions we're going to have probably today at this particular

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meeting, and that's why I wasn't prepared to allow Cllr John Mullen's motion just to go because it hadn't got a seconder, and this is really, really very important. I hear what the Chief Executive is saying to us, and at the end of the day can Chief Executive and Sorcha and her team are directed by national policy that the department et cetera, but the world is changing around us as we sit here today.

And these kinds of decisions we're making today has a massive impact on the population of County Wicklow impact in regard to the cost of homes to the supply of homes, all of us as public representatives I'm sure are getting calls daily from people who can't find a home. If someone is looking to rent a home and they have one child or two children, they're told no they're not a suitable tenant. And then they're back, we're back on then to the county council looking to see how we can accommodate people, I mean the whole thing is out of control as far as time' concerned and this fibbing discussion should be in the minds and lips of every councillor today this, is so, so important. I do understand and I do appreciate Frank has his role and he has to do what he's directed to do under national policy but Cllr Joe Behan, articulately said we as members elected by the public, there's no way we can sit through this meeting today, and not have this conversation and have the conversation we're having today properly registered and properly noted and followed up. Because I'm convinced, listening to media both TV, radio and newsprint, that, to me it is a no brainer this situation will change and has to change. And Frank to be fair in answer to my mail I sent in this morning, has indicated that that could happen. So I just think, we need to be very cog sent of that and this particular amendment while I see flaws in it, but I'm sure Cllr John Mullen can address that, I do this it is very important to the overall situation for County Wicklow and residents of County Wicklow and I speaking for myself as public representative that's one of my core roles



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and I would feel very strongly that this has to be taken on board very seriously and we have to challenge, I take Sorcha's point all the work they have to do, but the point is it has to be challenged and articulated back to the system properly and fully.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr Tom Fortune, Cllr Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, just on the motion of the points that have been made, I refer to a letter there dated on the 21st of April, issued from the department and reading the letter it would appear that it's actually accepting there is a need for flexibility to apply in relation to the national guidelines across the country.

And dealing with the hierarchy because I think, the issues around the national framework, the National Planning Framework, it is a 20-year plan and there has to be element of flexibility around, particularly-COVID, and at a meeting last week of the office of the planning regulator attended there at a workshop, I asked this question about the need for flexibility around plans and the know the answer we got was that planners need to adopt a nuanced approach for potential for growth around the hierarchy strategy and that the impact of the pandemic not being unknown and doesn't warrant a real examination, but I believe it will warrant a re-examination of the MPF in due course, and this, you know, I think these plans there will be variation of the plan coming down the track because I think at present, it is far too stringent and so maybe some of the units that are there will not be delivered during the lifetime of the plan, in Bray, we have, we can't interfere, I would like to see an element of flexibility, adopted into the plan at some point and I think, the letter as I say issued by the department on the April 1, there may be further guidelines coming down the track before year end.



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CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Pat Fitzgerald.

CLLR FITZGERALD: Look I have spoken with Cllr John Mullen about this on several occasions in the last few days and I take on board what the Chief Executive and it was mentioned there that Arklow and just talking about Arklow that 2,173 units were down for Arklow, but, as many people here know we have no waste water plant, we're now down for a figure of a thousand there, some other figure, 1076 will be the houses built from 2016 to 2031, there's no way that Arklow will get the number of houses built we would like to get built. I just have an issue with Cllr John Mullen is proposing there. And I just I'm taking on board what the Chief Executive has asked several questions, is it proposed rezoned for new residential, any time developed in the currently of the new plan, is it reverted to the previous owner to be identified at flood risk. So, in my opinion, I'm just speaking about Arklow here, do the number of houses than achieved in Arklow won't be any higher because we won't get the wastewater plant I believe now until 2025, so I just think myself, I won't be supporting, just going to say it clearly, I won't be supporting Cllr John Mullen's motion.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Members is there anybody else that wants to come in on this, that isn't on the screen?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Go ahead.

CLLR O'NEILL: Just I have thought for Cllr John Mullen's concerns and I also have concerns for our Chief Executive. And I think we're all really at the mercy of the regulator in this, and I know the amount of people on the housing list and confusion attached in Blessington, there's six sites developed, I don't have a clue where they're heading for or going, I would

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be really concerned, of the likes of the Round Hill Capital what they've done in the likes of Kildare, and in north Dublin, is the same going to happen to us in the morning?

We can talk about houses there, whether they be lined up for the social need through or whether they might be housing agencies will get these slots, we don't know, there's a lot of confusion there, we're at a crossroads in Ireland, not alone Wicklow, in Ireland and at the mercy of these people, and Government legislation, I think opposition on everyone in there, in Leinster House has been asleep for a long time now, to see the scandal what happened here in the last couple of weeks, and who is to say it won't happen in the morning. I mean even with the likes of housing agencies, what does that guarantee to people of Ireland?

What does that guarantee to the people on the list? I'd have question marks over them as well. I mean, Round Hill still are the largest landlords in European Union, but I question the role of agencies, if there's any directors or agencies of housing agencies, maybe they should set away from this discussion, this is a discussion for the people of Wicklow and the people of Ireland and we're at a crossroads, at limbo. And we're at the mercy of regulator and Government here, everyone is asleep at the wheel here. I'd like to be clearer when I, when I go down the town here and look at the six, he states which will be under construction somewhere still, I don't know whether, what way they're going in the morning?

They're built by like what we have in Dunlavin, privately built estate there, they went to a housing agency. And people think you know that they're moved into a housing agency, house they're only on a lease of 25 years, they can be moved on after that. So, there's a lot of uncertainty here and I really have huge sympathy for CEO, and sympathy too also for John Mullen's point of view. And it is really a decent one and merits more discussion.

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CLLR MITCHELL: Yeah, there is a conflict here between maybe what we'd like to do and what we're told to do by the superior authority I suppose. And I think we should prepare the land the plan on the basis of which we have been instructed and there are a number of proposals later, for individual pieces of land where I think some which would reflect, what is happening in Number 11 here on those individual pieces rather than just blanket changing the whole thing which I think it would be too complicated, so I won't be supporting the proposal.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks. Cllr Mary Kavanagh.

CLLR KAVANAGH: I just want to ask, I'll point of clarification, if we de-zone land here today, and suddenly the housing crisis explodes even further from what it has over the past couple of weeks and down the line we have to build more house and given the go ahead is the de-zoning of the land going to be problematic?

Would they then be told if it is not in the County Development Plan, it can't be rezoned until the next County Development Plan. Are we trying our hands here, that's all I'm asking?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, there's no other member shown to come in, so I'll go back to Sorcha and go for a vote on it, and people have, I hear the passion in people the passion members so Sorcha can you come in.

SORCHA: I don't know what more I can add, we're trying to craft a plan that meets the government and high order policies we can in order we don't end up in a situation where a draft plan goes out and gets knocked back to you by the OPR or the minister or Regional Assembly and we're back at this point in six months' time having to consider their directions or

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instructions, so we're trying to get, we've endeavoured to build as much flexibility in the plan and we're conscious of the need of flexibility and all throughout the plan so we're very conscious of that, and, in all likelihood the plans that form part of this plan, have a lot more capacity, than the core strategy table would indicate as their target and that's something we have done to build in flexibility, we have additional tools that land isn't held on to developers and banked as such the levy and involve in active land management to ensure that land is zoned at the end of the process is brought to the market or developed. And also, the services team will be working very hard to ensure that land that services are adequate, we'll also be seeking out funding under the URDF to generate town centres and so on to we believe the flexibilities in there to deliver sufficient housing in the county. The references to units been taken away from certain towns doesn't draw attention for the amount of lance targeted for those towns to grow. There's a mention that de-zoning of 700 houses would be needed in Bray, as part of development plan, what that doesn't highlight is growth target of Bray is between '22 and '31 is nearly 5,000 houses, that's the level of growth, in Greystones over a thousand, when there's a thousand under construction at the moment so the amount of development is approximately 3,000 units and permission for another 3,000 so certainly in the short-term there doesn't appear to be any shortage of planning permissions, let's say. At the two-year point of the development plan, a report will be undertaken to see how the development is working and whether the core strategy is doing what it should be doing, and development plans are doing what they should be doing and if there's issues identified then we can initiate the process of varying the development plan or any new Government targets and growth or housing targets, we can certainly do that. The final thing to remember is that this plan won't be adopted until next year. So, there's any decision

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that is are made today won't have any immediate effect, this is a decision to adopt a draft development plan and it only be that a draft development plan it is not a final decision on anything. That's a good bit away, a year away at least. So, the draft development, any decisions you make today are open to review and change at the next stage. Maybe the Chief Executive might come in there.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Yeah, I think Sorcha has covered everything, what you have to remember is we're allowing for 11,000 units to be constructed between now and 2031, over the next years, pre-COVID we're building a thousand units so there will be supply in the county and we'll review the plan in two years, it can be varied at that point, change this Government policy that comes down will be, we can bring in those changes as well.

The local area plan stands for the moment, we will be reviewed down the line if there's changes in targets, the local area plans for Wicklow, Arklow and Bray, et cetera, will incorporate those, but at the moment, we have to work within the National Planning Framework and we have very significant growth identified right around the county, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Joe Behan you want to come back in.

CLLR BEHAN: If Cllr John Mullen has reply to my question about Bray area and zoning, is he is including brain in his proposal that that will be put on hold.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr John Mullen do you have to do the numbers you outlined earlier on.

CLLR MULLEN: I accept this is a technical motion, and I also welcome the clarity that questions about Bray, that Cllr Joe Behan has put forward. The core of what this motion is about, and I am I don't want to put it to a vote, we've had a good discussion so I will withdraw it, but I'm putting on the record now under these figures we cannot build houses in huge parts

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of Wicklow, we're building a completion rate at the moment, and I want to read this into the record shall is 646 homes per year since 2016.

So, we're well off a thousand per year, we're completing 646 homes per year. So, I'm just flagging the fact the National Planning Framework, the growth figures coming from central Government means this is not only, when it comes to housing, building housing, this isn't our plan. It isn't even your plan, as regards the management, it is the NPF's plan. And the NPF's planning ties up in knots, I jaw the mows because it is technical, I wanted to flag it, I think Government will delay that process, but I will withdraw the motion thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you members for all the engagement W that motion withdrawn I'll move to amendment number twelve.

MS GALLAGHER: We're giving Cllr Edward Timmins a call would you mind pausing for a minute. Just getting Cllr Edward Timmins back on the line.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Edward Timmins are you back yet? We'll move on, thank you. The next one is proposed amendment number twelve by Cllr John Mullen and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake, Cllr John Mullen do you want to come in.

CLLR MULLEN: Apologies colleagues but this is one that's relatively straightforward. I know the Chief Executive is oppose today it, but when it comes to rural one-off housing, for people who live in rural Wicklow the situation has gotten from bad to worse so putting in the worse demonstrable while I accept it is in the strategy, in my view makes rural housing family home more difficult on social and economic need and we have to fight hard on social and economic need put in on the qualification. In Wicklow it is the strictest interpretation on the country on it, and

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demonstrable should be taken out and I will have a vote on this if possible, thank you.

CATHAOIREACH: OK.

MS GALLAGHER: Can I say that it is seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake and Cllr Vincent Blake is having difficulties with his connectivity but on the phone. And he has seconded that amendment.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is that all right members?

Yeah, so councillor, I'll bring in Sorcha on this, do you want to come in, just before we get Go for the vote.

SORCHA: Sorry, I was off the meeting there for a second, sorry.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed amendment number twelve rural housing.

SORCHA: So, the section that's in, italics there is basically a direct quote from the National Planning Framework and the proposal is to take out a word from that, that is actually a direct quote from another document so it would be fact actually to take that out and it would be misquoting from another body's document.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Lorraine.

MS GALLAGHER: So, the proposed by Cllr John Mullen and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake. So, we'll go for a vote. Chief Executive's response is there, so for - voting for the amendment.

CLLR MITCHELL: Yeah, I just I'm not in favour of easing the or making it more difficult than it is at the moment to build a one-off house general in favour of one-off houses than aloud at present , it would be easy, particularly in north Wicklow to make it popular with constituents but end up with a long line with one-off houses so my question really is, does this



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word make it easier than at present or would it to build one-off houses or does it not do that? Because I don't think we should, I'm very much in favour of clusters and priority for local people in those clusters and in small villages and things, but I really don't think we should be putting, it is unhealthy we build lots of one-off houses along all the roads. Because we can't provide footpaths or lighting or any of the things for the people who are in those

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. Sorcha can you come back in?

SORCHA: This section of the plan that is proposed to amend is not a statement of the council's policy on rural housing, it is simply a section of the National Planning Framework that has been cut and paste and quoted in the development plan. So, this isn't, removing the word demonstrable doesn't change the council's policy it is misquoting another body's document. There are other amendments due to follow which relate to the actual policy in rural areas. So perhaps, that is where Cllr Derek Mitchell's point really comes in.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. I'll go back to Lorraine. Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Can I come in there to elaborate there, and maybe deal with Cllr Derek Mitchell's point. This subjective comes from a national guideline, National Planning Framework and, national planning guidelines will be used to make rural planning more difficult. It is not as if we're here, all we want is to retain current state does question on the rural point.

These are national planning guidelines which are obviously, we're enforced to take account of, and they have been brought in to make rural planning more difficult. So, it is not that we're changing the development plan to make rural planning easier, we're not doing that anywhere, but we're trying to resist all the national planning guidelines that have been



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imposed on us, which is making rural planning more difficult, I will speak that in the next amendment which is similar.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Irene Winters did you want to come in here?

CLLR WINTERS: No, it is covered thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK thanks. I'll come back to Lorraine.

MS GALLAGHER: We have a proposal by Cllr John Mullen and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake is there anybody not in agreement with that amendment. Cllr Jodie Neary.

CLLR NEARY: I'm not in agreement.

MS GALLAGHER: OK we'll go for a vote.

(Voting takes place). 22 for, nine against and one not present so the amendment is carried.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. Proposed amendment number 13 proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake, Cllr Edward Timmins do you want to come in.

CLLR TIMMINS: Yeah, this covers the same document, the same NPO, national planning objective 19 of the National Planning Framework, document. What I'm trying to achieve here is not to make rural planning easier or perhaps I should be. What I'm trying to do is to resist documents that are coming from on high, making rural planning much more difficult. Like, this particular objective I have a problem with I'll explain to you it is in my reasons. In this, it defiance areas in Ireland under rural, under urban influence and not under urban influence and this document defiance every townland in County Wicklow as being under urban influence except one small towns land outside minute Healey, every and that logic, can be used to refuse rural planning, so every part of Wicklow is under urban influence so you could potentially refuse planning, and I've seen that using that reason and quoting that objective and I tell

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you how out of touch it is, areas in the Wicklow in the Clogher and Rathangan they're de-populated areas, they're classified as being under urban influence, how daft is that?

And the definition is if over 15% of the population, of the working population, work in the town of 10,000 or more, ie, Wicklow, Arklow, Greystones, Bray, Dublin, Naas, Newbridge, then that area is deemed to be under urban influence, 15% is a way into low a bar, national planning objective picked this from a European kind of guide and I think it's been selective the way they picked it, I'm sure there's other ways we can define under urban influence, my aim is to resist that illogical imposition, I know the planners would say, we have to follow a national planning guidelines and I get that, but, we can't just take these amendments out of touch with what is on the ground that we know in County Wicklow, we can't take them lying down without resisting them and that's the purpose of my thing here today, I'm not looking to make rural planning easier but I'm trying to resist a draft document that could potentially ban all rural planning in County Wicklow.

SORCHA: Thank you Cathaoirleach, I suppose, this needs to be in the plan in order to comply with the planning acts so it is not some guideline that the National Planning Framework or something that you mightn't greet with its philosophy this is a quantity of the act which is national primary legislation that requires the core strategy to provide details in respect planning guidelines with sustainable rural housing shall apply, you have an obligation to comply with the act and this is the section that complies with the act. You may disagree with the methodology that is set out by the Government on how to decide whether areas are under urban influence but that's the methodology we're requested to apply, and data is from the census, so it is factual piece of information that is provided in this section.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Cathaoirleach I'd agree with that, it is part of a planning acts we have to put it in, we can't have a plan that doesn't look at areas under urban influence, in areas of urban influence, you can grant one-off houses once there's economic need. When the National Development Plan brought outlines it was economic or social need so that was changed through a lot of debate and lobbying to economic or social need. So, it was economic and social originally, so I'd be concerned about that one also Cathaoirleach it is part of the legislation we have to put it in, we are outlined to comply with the Planning Act, we stated in the core strategy we will comply with it and we put it in, and the exercise is done by Sorcha exactly by the guidelines.

CLLR TIMMINS: One small point I seen the NPO where people had social reasons and granted, I've seen that quoted by An Bord Plenala reduce planning, that's my whole point.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Erika Doyle.

CLLR ERIKA DOYLE: If we vote for something that's contrary to the planning act, that goes against national legislation, what happens does that just bounce back to us, what have we done, what happens after we do that?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: The plan loses credibility, we stated clearly, we will comply with national guidelines and legislation and then we go around a few chapters and say we're ignoring a core piece of legislation, ignoring national planning infrastructure in this regard, that's what happened, it doesn't make sense, we're obliged to leave it in you can still grant planning with urban influence, that have an economic or social need for individuals, you can still grant planning permissions.

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CLLR WINTERS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. We keep being told this is our plan. The councillors' plan, unless we actually don't agree with what is there, because it is basically a diktat coming down from national planning infrastructure and regulators office and all the rest of it, and we're allowed to tweak minor sections of it, occasionally in the hope that the Banner or the regulator's office won't actually pick it up and we might get away with it. If we don't agree as a body with the legislation, that actually Edward's talking about, this is our opportunity. What will happen, is we'll vote to say, we don't agree with yours, the minister will still then say, well, I want it in. We vote again and say we don't want it in, and then the minister will put it in. But, if we don't send a message to say, you need to be looking at the legislation, that is affecting the lives of people we're elected to represent, this is our only way to send message, a real message to Government, and to the departments to say, you actually have to rethink these things because, we who are the people that represent the people of the county don't agree with it. So, I would urge people to support Cllr Edward Timmins' proposal.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks. Nobody else looking to come in, so I'll go to Lorraine.

MS GALLAGHER: We'll go for a vote, proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and Vincent Blake here is on WhatsApp connected. (votes taken).

That's 23 for, 8 against and one not present, amendment carried.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed amendment 14 is proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Cllr Gerry O'Neill. Cllr Edward Timmins do you want to come in.

CLLR TIMMINS: Yeah, the reason set out there, it is fairly self-explanatory, we're served by road and public transport in west Wicklow, no train service, and just a point of Blessington a lot of people often forget Blessington is as close to Dublin City centre as Greystones,

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so my reasons are set out there, thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. So, Sorcha, do you want to make a comment.

SORCHA: Our response set out there, this has been discussed previously, approached previously during the course of the renewal plan and in fact, when the renewal plan was adopted, it included this as an objective and the ministerial order was issued amending the regional plan to Amit that, the reason is it doesn't foreign any part of the plans or programmes of any of the transport agencies at this time. Doesn't form part of the National Development Plan, there's no funding for it, it is not even under evaluation. We feel it would be very unfair on the public to include an objective in the plan they might have hope that might happen when there's no indications that it is in any way achievable or deliverable during the lifetime of the plan. But we can certainly keep it under review and NTA's plan change of course we will be supportive of the idea of it, or any transport improvements in the county at all. So, it would seem erroneous and misleading to include it in our development plan knowing what know.

CATHAOIRLEACH: All right, Chief Executive do you want to comment on this.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: No, I'd agree with that, look, we had the debate and we won it in the RSCS, it went in the plan, but the minister took it out.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Erika Doyle you wanted to come in.

CLLR ERIKA DOYLE: I'd like to speak in support of this amendment, it is a different minister now and it is not I suppose, a delivery plan. I do think we need to have greater ambition in terms of public transport in Wicklow and if we're talking about sending a message, we need to put it out and say what it is we'd like, thank you chair. Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: Cathaoirleach, I'd agree with Cllr Erika Doyle and agree with the previous comments of Cllr Irene Winters in relation to sending a

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strong signal to the Government. The battle was won, it was a hard-fought battle in the region of spatial strategy at Chief Executive said, just because they don't accept it doesn't mean we give up the battle, we have in our main document as this is an objective and new emphasis on public transport it would perhaps be of assistance for us to keep it in the plan and in that on bay his issues associated, I'm happy to support it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr John Snell.

CLLR SNELL: Yes, as previous speakers have said, look, governments change, ministers change, but the one thing that doesn't is the constituents' of west Wicklow and they've elected as six members there for the term of this council, to implement and put across what they want for their area and it is blatantly obvious we as a council don't have this in, we're denying the public of west Wicklow what they want and I support the six members of west Wicklow, support this being retained within this development plan. It is our plan after all members

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK thanks, Cllr Avril Cronin.

CLLR CRONIN: Thank you very much, I also just want to echo my support for this motion, living in west Wicklow it is efficient we're poorly serviced with the public transport, it is often very frustrating when we look at the east of the county and we see DART lines, we see the N11, constantly hear about upgrades and bus services, over here in west Wicklow we have one bus service, serving south of Blessington and at the moment it is not stopping at Hollywood Cross, we have the 65 Blessington but doesn't go further, we've no train line, we look to the far side here in Kildare and see the M7, we see the train lines they have here but in west Wicklow we're left in limbo. So, fair enough it may not be in the plan right now but if we don't have aspirations and keep fighting for it, we'll never get it, so I hope members will support this motion. Cllr Patsy Glennon

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CLLR GLENNON: I'll like to join with my colleagues in supporting this motion, we badly need trappings out here as Cllr Edward Timmins said we're roughly the same distance from central Dublin as Greystones and we've got absolutely nothing out here. We're Connolly neglect and I welcome the support from the Green Party councillor, the Green Party minister now in place, and I do think it is time to push for improved transportation in west Wicklow. We're constantly forgotten about when it comes to everything, so, I strongly support this motion of my two colleagues, Cllr Edward Timmins and Cllr Gerry O'Neill and Cllr Avril Cronin thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Is everybody in agreement with this proposal, any dissent on it? Can we just indicate if you're in agreement? Yeah. No dissent? Lorraine.

MS GALLAGHER: Everybody seems to be in support of it, so the amendment is carried.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Amendment 15 is from Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake and Cllr Edward Timmins I'll bring you in.

CLLR TIMMINS: Again, it is self-explanatory to when the N81 is referred to a couple of times in the development plan, I just wanted to describe it as a key objective because, it is the biggest single issue in this side of the county by a long shot.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I know that Chief Executive does not support the amendment. Do you want to come in on 15? Peccadillo we were trying to make it clear the N81 is not identified for the strategic or investment, it is in the National Development Plan that's the way it is written, but we're saying that we still consider it a key priority for this plan. Like, that's the best way we could put it in that we accept it is not on the plan, but it is a key priority for us, that's the way it is written, the words in the proposed



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draft acknowledged the significance.

CHAIR: Do we:

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Vincent Blake seconded that,

CLLR BLAKE: Yes. Claire chair do you agree with this proposal. Any dissented?

MS GALLAGHER: Anybody not in agreement? Amendment carried.

CHAIR: Proposed amendment is 16 from Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake, Cllr Edward Timmins over to you.

CLLR TIMMINS: Yeah, this speaks about the location of housing in Ireland and talks about dispersed and fragmented character. In Wicklow we have a fairly strict housing policy, and one-off houses are not granted easily, often with great difficulty and it talks about such development makes it costly, and unfeasible to invest in infrastructure. This comes from a document that was pre-COVID and to me given the COVID situation and the fact that many people are working from home and will continue to work from home in post-COVID world, that this paragraph is out of date now, given the reality of what's happened in rural Ireland.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. Chief Executive do you want to come in on this.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: It is a quote from the National Development Plan we have to be consistent with it, it is more about climate change than anything else, it is accepting with we live in fragmented society and people live away from their work and have to live in open countryside et cetera and we're saying that such development makes it costly and unfeasible to invest in infrastructure, and hampered effective response to climate change and negative impact on people's health and wellbeing, it is a statement at national level, it is related to climate action and just a statement in the National Planning Framework that's all it is.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK, members do you agree with the proposal, from

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Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake. Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: No, I just wanted to say I fully agree with it, and Cllr Edward Timmins and Cllr Vincent Blake should be congratulated in introducing that element of flexibility because of COVID. That document was written before COVID, COVID affected everything in this country, everything we do as a body, in Wicklow County Council including today's meeting is affected by COVID, decisions that affect the next six years are affected by COVID so it is quite in order, and our document when we have an objective, that looking again, at the provision of rural housing where more and more people may seek to work from home, rather than travelling to work, actually has a big influence on whether, what infrastructure may or may not be needed in the future. It is a really good example of members of the council coming forward with a plan, having thought about it themselves independently and putting it forward for us for consideration and I definitely would support it.

CHAIR: Thanks Cllr Joe Behan, Cllr Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Sorry, thanks Chair. I'm just a bit unclear as to the benefit of removing that paragraph, and I take the points on that COVID has potentially changed the way people will work in the future. But, we still have, we still have people living in that fragmented character, it is a legacy issue I suppose if you can count it as that and we'll still need the investment in education and health care so I'm not seeing the benefit, unless if Cllr Edward Timmins wants to explain it further, I'm not seeing the benefit of removing the paragraph because it is making a fair point and it is valid at the moment.

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CLLR DOYLE: I'm against this, it is evidence-based statement it is not an opinion. We're talking about COVID but, climate crisis was around before COVID and will be around after COVID and if anything, COVID would suggest that sustainability developments are even more important. I won't be supporting this, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So, look the members you've heard the fors and against, I will go to Lorraine.

MS GALLAGHER: Proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake, Cllr Vincent Blake is joining by WhatsApp we'll go for a vote because there is disagreement.

(Votes taken) That's 24 for, 7 against and one not present. So, the amendment is carried.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. Members it is now almost five past one, so we'll break for lunch, is that all right?

MS GALLAGHER: Come back at 2pm.

CLLR WINTERS: Chairman I thought you said you will have lunch delivered to all of us at our own houses.

CHAIR: I tried myself. McDonald. Thank you, members. We'll reconvene at 2pm. Thank you.

(RESUME AFTER LUNCH)

CATHAOIRLEACH: Hello, members, can you hear me? Are we all back? I am going to start with the roll call. Maybe you would do it.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you, good afternoon, welcome back.

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[ ROLL CALL TAKEN]

MS GALLAGHER: Okay, Cathaoirleach, we have 30 members present so we will proceed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, members for being back so promptly. Members before I move on, we are moving on to amendment number 17. I am just look at; we have been at it a few hours. Can I suggest to you, I want your input? That we go until 5.00pm, maybe we would rise until 5.00pm and come back after tea and do another couple of hours to try and get through it. Would that be all right with the members?

CLLR WINTERS: Yes.

CLLR FORTUNE: I have a meeting at 7.00pm.

CLLR FERRIS: I have a meeting at 7.00pm.

CLLR MULLEN: It would be very short notice for board of management. If we have to go to 5.00, could we not come back another day.

CLLR FERRIS: I also have meetings this evening too.

CLLR BEHAN: Can I propose to we go to next Monday and complete the meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I have to get clarity on that. Can you come in, Chief Executive?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: The eight weeks is up on Wednesday. If with, can he get it done before then that would be good, but if we can't, next Monday. We can go to next Monday, but we are supposed to have it adopted by eight weeks, that eight weeks is finished on Wednesday. If we could do it before that it would be ideal.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: I will be working the rest of the week; I won't be able to attend the rest during the day.

CLLR WINTERS: Maybe tomorrow, Wednesday evening after work.

CLLR FERRIS: Tuesday is the Bray MD meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Wednesday is the ark low one.

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CLLR BEHAN: I don't think there is any impediment. The Chief Executive has said ideally...

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: The way the legislation is written is that the draft is a proposed draft. Unless it's amended by the members within eight weeks the draft stands, as the draft. That is way the legislation is written.

CLLR BEHAN: We have started the process; we always have the opportunity to continue to another Monday. Members should be able, if people are not available it's not fair to proceed without them.

CLLR MITCHELL: Surely if we make an amendment on Thursday, it won't be valid.

CLLR BEHAN: Of course, it will be valid. I reject that statement. Chief Executive, can you back that up and say we won't meet next Monday?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I have to get legislative advice, I told you a second ago.

CLLR WINTERS: Can we proceed and get that advice before 5.00pm so we know what to do.

MS GALLAGHER: Could we proceed until 6.00pm.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can we go until 6.00pm and have a chat coming up to 6.00pm. I am just trying to be fair to everyone, give it as much time as we can.

CLLR FERRIS: Can we defer the protocol meeting, because I won't be able to, if I am staying here until 6, I won't be able to.

MS GALLAGHER: I have a proposer Pat Kennedy and just to extend the meeting.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: I will second that, Lorraine.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much. Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will move on to propose amendment number 17, this is proposed by Sylvester Bourke, for me to move ahead with this I need a seconder.

CLLR FITZGERALD: I second it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Fitzgerald. Thank you...

CLLR WINTERS: Sorry, Cathaoirleach, can I just come in there? And just say that, items number 17, 18, 19 and 20 all relate to stuff that is covered under proposed

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amendments 24 and 26. So if we took 24 and 26 first of all then 17, 18, 19 and 20 could be withdrawn.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Just to inform the members when we get to item number, amendment number 18 I have to leave the meeting because I have a conflict of interest because it mentions Greenann, I have already sent that into the person, I can't think of her name. Just confirming that I have a conflict of interest, I do own land with my wife there, I am going to leave the meeting when that is being discussed. I would ask Cllr Cullen to take the chair for item number 18.

CLLR TIMMINS: Just to be helpful along the lines of what Cllr Winters has said. If we took from amendment 23, 24 and 25 and 26, actually, deal with everything from 17 to 21, I think.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I could do that. I can do that no problem, but I will have to leave the meeting because 18 is part of that. Cllr Cullen if that is agreed with the members, Cllr Cullen can you take the chair?

CLLR TIMMINS: We are saying we are not going to deal with 18.

CATHAOIRLEACH: You are skipping that for a moment.

CLLR TIMMINS: Skipping 17, 18, 19 and 20.

CLLR BOURKE: I am agreeable with that, because they overlap, they both do basically the same thing. I think that is a, would save time.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So, we are going to item number 23.

CLLR TIMMINS: Don't forget to come back to 22, because there an amendment.

MS GALLAGHER: Just to say that I have 32 members present, Cllr Gail Dunne and Cllr M Kavanagh are now present.

MS GALLAGHER: The amendment is proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Vincent Blake.

CLLR TIMMINS: It's 24, 24, 25 and 26 cover the amendments we are skipping. 23 is a slightly different one. Excuse me.

CATHAOIRLEACH: You want to go to 24, is it?

CLLR TIMMINS: 24, 25 and 26 are the three, yes.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: So, the proposed amendment number 24 is proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake. So over to you, Cllr Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: This is a proposal to reinstate the existing villages, the hierarchy of village, the large villages, just to reinstate the existing hierarchy of large villages that exist in the current plan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Over to you, Sorcha, can you come in here please?

SORCHA: In presentation of the plan, and as with all previous plans we had a look with our settlement strategy and villages. We undertake an audit and inspection of all of them, we look at how many houses have been built or not built or many applications for permission there have been. Based on our analysis, we have done this, we have rejigged the settlements, some come up in the hierarchy and some come down. We took a more detailed analysis, we were a bit concerned that there were too many villages in the large village category, we felt that by having so many, we were diluted our possibility of getting funding for them if we weren't concentrating on a few key large villages.

In addition to that, we were recommending that you remove all restrictions on who can build in large villages. At the moment you have to fulfil certain criteria in terms of your local need to build in a large village. We were recommending if you eliminated those restriction, but reduce the number of villages, you will have a stronger settlement strategy and we would be able to concentrate on getting funding and investment into those smaller number of large villages, because if it was more open about who could build in them. That was the philosophy behind the changing of the list of the large villages. I suppose that filtered down into the subject of the next two amendment as well. Particularly the rural clusters, which are the unstructured, they aren't even settlements, they are like clusters of a couples of houses in rural areas. For significant number of them, we found that there is no infrastructure, there might be flood risk and there has been no applications in 10, 20 years and they didn't seem to be fulfilling any function whatsoever. Initially their function was to identify locations



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where people had more certainty about building a house in a rural area. So, as a result of that we were recommending that some of the Level 9 rural clusters be removed as well. So that is the thinking behind the changes that we were recommending to the villages and so on. But we do accept that we do have a current structure and that is what you want to revert to. So, I don't think we are going to fall out over it, but we did have an alternative proposal that we felt was stronger and we feel this slightly weakens it. Like I said, I don't think we are going to fall out over that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, Lorraine.

CLLR TIMMINS: I have just spoken with the large villages. Since Lorraine then mentioned the other, or Sorcha mentioned the clusters as well, just to make a small point on that. One of the reasons the clusters weren't successful is that only Level 8 and 9s could move in the cluster, which gave it very little, very tight restriction on who could build in the clusters, so there is an amendment 23 that we could look at in a couple of minutes, but that is one of the reasons why the clusters haven't been successful.

CATHAOIRLEACH: You have heard the Chief Executive's response to this, the - Lorraine's response to this, the Chief Executive doesn't support it. Any dissent, any disagreement in it? Cllr Erika Doyle.

CLLR DOYLE: I would have a concern about the fund, I also have a question if that is okay. Maybe it's for Sorcha. What, if any, is the benefit to the landowners of this decision?

SORCHA: Well, coupled with the changes in the, where villages were placed in the hierarchy, we were recommending, and we put into the proposed draft plan that the controls that exist at the moment for Level 7 villages be omitted. That would mean that there is open market, essentially who can buy or build a house in those villages. So, I suppose it would make a development potentially more attractive and more profitable if there was a wider pool of people who are eligible to build or buy houses in a development. Now, these would be very small developments in these villages.

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In that regard we would have some concerns that coupling, adding villages back in with the loosening up of the restriction will put some of these villages out of reach for local people. We would be concerned, particularly say the villages that are in the north half of the county that might be more attractive to Dubliners. Not that I am discriminating against Dubliner, being one myself, but people who maybe have a more valuable property in Dublin that they could sell to move down to Wicklow. So, examples would be maybe, Barndarrig, which is close to the N11 so well within commuting distance of Dublin, Kilpedder or Manor Kilbride. By reducing that, it means there would be a larger pool who would be in competition for the small number of houses in the villages.

I suppose if the village list is going to be expanded back to what it was, we would be suggesting that you might consider putting back in the very reasonable restriction we feel that is in the current develop plan to make sure that locals don't get priced out of those villages. In the current development plan, we require people who are purchasing or building those villages to be a resident or an employment of at least three years duration within the county of around 30km of the village in question. That would be a counterbalance, if we are going to expand the list of large villages that we retain some kind of controls on the market in those villages.

CLLR TIMMINS: Chairman.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Just one second, Lourda Scott is next.

CLLR SCOTT: Thank you, chair, just a question, please for Sorcha. Just in relation to Kilpedder and will low Grove being put into Level 7. I have concerns about that, as there would be, some infrastructural deficiencies in those villages, such as foot paths, reliance on Greystones, I suppose for school services and things like that. I am just wondering where it would be more beneficial in terms of addressing those infrastructural issues in Level 7 or Level 8 where I believe they have been put at the moment, thank you, Sorcha.

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CLLR MITCHELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I would be quite happy with this proposal, but I wouldn't like to see the preference for local people eroded. I think that one of the reasons for developing in these smaller places is to provide local people with housing at a price they can afford and not be beaten out of it by people who have more money who come from elsewhere. So, I would want to see that if we are doing this, that we do keep the restrictions in place, so that local people can get a site at a reasonable price or house at a reasonable price. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gerry Walsh. You are on mute, Gerry.

CLLR WALSH: In relation to willow grove and Kilpedder, there is a proposed amendment, number 30 refers to this. Back to Sorcha's point I wouldn't have any objection to maintaining the population controls that do exist there under Level 7, under this proposal, if that is acceptable.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Just to be clear, I am not proposing any loosening, in case people had that impression from the responses. I am just suggesting that the existing hierarchy and the existing restrictions remain the same. I am not saying leave all the villages as they are and open up the large villages for anyone to buy. I am saying leave the policy and the hierarchy of villages the same. It's not leading to any loosening over the current plan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Vincent Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: In support of Cllr Edward Timmins' proposal. The vast majority of the very small local and rural villages as such, the success of it has been very limited because of the restrictive nature of it. Anywhere it has been successful, I can assure you that anyone who has come to build a house in those places, they are very local. It's not something that is going to attract people from Dublin or anywhere else to build. The 30km is way outside of anything that I have had any experience of anyone wanting to build on. They have been very limited so far in regard to the daily number of houses being built in them and then never, some attempt to try and get someone to build in the rural areas. I suppose just a proposal that might be helpful, but look, I

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am saying to you again, the number of people who built in it was very limited and they were very local.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Blake. Lorraine, I will come over to you. I think we have answered everything that needs to be answered. People have had their say. Lourda Scott, did you want to come back in.

CLLR SCOTT: Yes, my question wasn't answered. I had a question to Sorcha, which was more beneficial in providing the infrastructural deficiencies Is that is required in in Kilpedder, Willow Grove. What is the significance of that move on the village?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorcha, can you come in and answer that.

SORCHA: This isn't about the infrastructural programme for those villages. They would generally be in the same tier of the investment hierarchy. When money is available, for whatever it might be, whether it's footpaths or anything else, that the large and small villages would tend to be in the same grouping. I suppose the difference between 7 and 8, what we are saying is the Level 8 as we recommend it are the settlements that have lower capacity for growth based on the infrastructure that is in situ at the moment and likely to be available over the planned period. We feel, for example, that Kilpedder is lacking in infrastructure and therefore while the Council is out there seeking investment to improve the infrastructure during the planned period, we shouldn't be allowing any kind of significant growth in the village. There may well be that investment occurs during the planned period and then somewhere like Kilpedder could be prioritised for more growth of the next cycle. So, the difference in this plan is that Level 7 think aren't called large villages or small ones, the bigger ones are the ones that have more capacity for growth at the moment based on the infrastructure that is available and 8 is the ones with lesser capacity for growth and planned investment in those villages. Cathaoirleach, if I could answer one question that was raised. The proposal that is here in front of you is to change the list of where different villages are. No one has proposed reverting to the growth controls that are in the current plan. So, it is the proposed draft plan that we have issued to you is the one where we have proposed reducing controls or

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removing the controls on Level 7. Going by what Cllr Timmins is saying is that he wants to revert to the current list and the restrictions in the current plan.

So, he is rejecting the proposal that we have put in, the proposed draft plan. If that is something that he is proposing, we would have no difficulty with that. We would be keeping the status quo, the same list of villages and the same growth controls that are in the plan at the moment. We only propose to amend the list of Level 7 settlements, as in reduce the list because it was being coupled with a loosening of the policy. So, I think if we are going back to the larger list of Level 7s we would certainly support going back to the current policy that is in the plan at the moment.

CLLR TIMMINS: I am happy to attach that on to the amendment I have. Existing policies remain, if you shrink the number of large villages and you focus on them for development, the village is back up and expanded to where it was, we leave the current restrictions in place and I have no problem with that, I agree with that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Members are you...

CLLR GLENNON: Just on that. Just to confirm that the land size of each of these villages will revert to what it was prior to the proposed development plan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorcha, can you come back on that.

SORCHA: That hasn't been proposed as part of this proposal. There are a number of proposed amendments that deal with individual settlements. You will see that later on the list. I think we have Hollywood, Cunnery, where boundary changes are proposed, no one has proposed reverting to the boundaries of the current plan.

CLLR GLENNON: That is what drew my attention to it. Some of the ones we skipped have those proposals and we skipped over it. I answer Cllr Edward Timmins, he was saying this covered all of those. Maybe I took it up wrong.

CLLR TIMMINS: I said that we would go back to 22 specifically because it was a boundary issue.

CLLR GLENNON: Thank you.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: So, proposed by Cllr Timmins and seconded by Cllr Blake. You are happy to go ahead, and management are supporting it, is there anyone in disagreement with it? No, can you show your hands and indicate you are in favour of it.

MS GALLAGHER: I take it there is no disagreement. I don't hear or see anyone.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So just so I am clear here, I will move to 25 or have I to go back? Cllr Edward Timmins, we have covered 25 in the discussion... we have covered it in it's just referring to large villages rather than small villages. So, it's the same discussion we had, so I don't think there is any point in repeating what we have already said.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Amendment number 25 is proposed again by Cllr Timmins and yourself and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake. So, Cllr Timmins, do you want to come in on this?

CLLR TIMMINS: That is to put the small villages back where they were.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So, we were happy to move ahead with that.

CLLR TIMMINS: We need agreement.

MS GALLAGHER: Any member in disagreement? Any member? No. That is passed, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Then amendment number 26 is from yourself, Cllr Timmins and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake. Cllr Timmins do you want to come in here?

CLLR TIMMINS: That is the third strand of what we are trying to do. Just to put the rural plan back in place and this was discussed five minutes ago.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Members are you happy with that? Any dissent on that? Happy to go with that? Can you give us a show of hands just to be clear? So that is 25 and 26.

CLLR WINTERS: Cathaoirleach, then if we go back to 17. Go back to 17, 18, 19 and 20 will be withdrawn then?

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CATHAOIRLEACH: So, the proposed amendment number 17 is proposed by Sylvester Bourke and seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald. Cllr Bourke I will bring you in... it's more or less done.

CLLR BOURKE: I just propose that we withdraw this.

MS GALLAGHER: Withdraw that. Again, the same with number 18.

CATHAOIRLEACH: That is withdrawn.

CLLR BOURKE: Propose we withdraw that.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Bourke, you are happy to withdraw that.

CLLR BOURKE: Yes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Number 19.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Bourke, you withdraw?

CLLR BOURKE: I withdraw that, yes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Number 20.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Blake and Timmins?

CATHAOIRLEACH: That is proposed by Cllr Blake and seconded by Cllr Edward Timmins. Do you want to come in on that?

MS GALLAGHER: That withdrawn as well?

CLLR TIMMINS: Yes.

MS GALLAGHER: Withdrawn.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Number 21 is proposed by Cllr Shay Cullen and seconded by Irene Winters.

CLLR S CULLEN: That is withdrawn, that has been covered in 26 as well.

MS GALLAGHER: Great.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Number 22 is proposed by Patsy Glennon. Again, I need a seconder for this before I can take it forward.

CLLR CRONIN: I will second this one.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Seconded by Cllr Avril Cronin.



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CLLR GLENNON: Hollywood village is small enough as it is and just, there is a piece taken out of the left-hand side as you drive into the village. I am looking for that to be reinstated. I understand I am not opposed by the CE.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is that agreed by the members?

MS GALLAGHER: No disagreement. No, thank you, members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Number 23 is proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Vincent Blake. I will hand over to you.

CLLR TIMMINS: This is back to who should build in those nodes, I shouldn't call them that, rural clusters. At the moment the restriction is only from Level 8 a small village can leave there. I like the opportunity to be left from people to be left further up the hierarchy to have the possibility of building in these rural settlements. I mean people in towns generally basically even large villages can't get rural planning whatsoever. This is how would you say, a small gesture towards them that there is the odd place where there would be a possibility that they could build in a designated cluster. When it was originally brought in, back maybe 20 years ago, it did allow people from further up the chain in Levels 4, 5 and 6 to move out there. Over the years it has been diluted to Level 8 and I think that was a mistake on our part that we let that happen. I am looking to put that back when the whole idea of helmets of brought into years ago.

CATHAOIRLEACH: You wanted to come in, Cllr Erika Doyle to make a comment.

CLLR DOYLE: One comment I get, and I don't get a lot, is that the opening up of this will pricing genuine locals with a genuine need out of the area. I would have a concern about that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorcha, can I bring you in on this.

CLLR BLAKE: Can I come in there? I am going to repeat what I said a few moments ago in response to what Sorcha said. Look, we don't have any experience of any gazumping or in terms of people offering bigger money. It's been so restrictive that very few of them have been built. It's an opportunity to give people a chance, in a smaller town and in rural areas to be able to build a house. So, look it, there has

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been no serious increase in prices or anything like that. As Edward said there, in 20 years we have been very limited in the success. All I am trying to say some opportunity to be successful in the future.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Blake. There is no one looking to come in there, so I will go to Sorcha.

SORCHA: Just to clarify, with the current development plan people are allowed to build in Level 9, it's not Level 8, at the moment it's Level 7. We have the same concerns that Cllr Casey brought up that by significantly opening up who can build or buy in these very small places, that really the majority of them are not villages. They don't have schools; they don't have mains water or the majority of them. They are crossroads with one or two houses, historically there has been a handful of houses developed. Some of them have had more built. We would have concerns opening it all the way up to Level 4.

Maybe as a compromise, just a suggestion, we would consider maybe bringing it up a Level to Level 6, it's at Level 7 at the moment, rather than all the way up to Level 4 and see does that make a difference during the currency of the plan. As you all know we have had lots of different policies for villages. Every development plan we do we come up with a different policy to see if it changes things. Nothing we do seems to make some of them more attractive to build in. There is always a small number where we get a lot of applications and there is the majority of them, we don't get many applications at all. Regardless of the policy, nothing much seemed to change, apart from a number of key ones of these. So rather than making it 4-10, maybe even 5-10 or 6-10 for the lifetime of the plan. See if it has any positive or negative impact and then review it at the end of this plan would be our compromise suggestion.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going to go back to Cllr Edward Timmins and Cllr Blake on that.

CLLR TIMMINS: I would like to stick with my proposal.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Blake what do you want to do.

CLLR BLAKE: I stick with my proposal.

CATHAOIRLEACH: You have the proposal in front of you from Cllr Timmins and Blake, I will go to Lorraine.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Doyle asked the question, Cllr Doyle, are you in agreement with it or is there any other elected member that wants to put it to a vote?

CLLR DOYLE: Does the vote go ahead, or can I propose Sorcha's suggestion of Level 6? What is the procedure?

MS GALLAGHER: Do you want to propose an amendment to the amendment?

CLLR DOYLE: Yes. That amendment would be the someone suggested by Sorcha, five or six.

CLLR O'CONNOR: Second that proposal.

MS GALLAGHER: Just spell out the amendment for the elected members, Cllr Doyle.

CLLR DOYLE: So, the part that appears in red 4-10 instead would read 5-10.

MS GALLAGHER: 5-10. Okay. We will go and vote on the amendment first proposed by Cllr Doyle seconded by Cllr R O'Connor.

[ Vote taken]

MS GALLAGHER: So that is six for, 24 against and one not present. So that amendment falls. Just in relation to the amendment put forward by Cllr Timmins and Cllr Blake, is there anyone now in disagreement with that amendment? Cllr Doyle, Cllr Ferris and Cllr Jodie Neary, Paul O'Brien, Cllr R O'Connor, Lourda Scott, or do you want me to go for another vote?

CLLR FERRIS: I think you are okay, Lorraine.

CLLR SCOTT: I don't think there is any point.

MS GALLAGHER: No, so the amendment proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Cllr Blake is carried. Okay, members. Thank you.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: We are on to amendment number 27 now and it's proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake. Over to you, Cllr Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Correct me if I am wrong, I think Cllr John Mullen proposed this earlier in the document and it was put through. Is that right, John?

CATHAOIRLEACH: So, are you withdrawing this, Cllr Timmins?

CLLR TIMMINS: I think it's the same wording. Withdrawn.

MS GALLAGHER: What amendment are we on again?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Number 27. It's been withdrawn. We are on to amendment number 28 and it's proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Vincent Blake. I notice the Chief Executive has no objection to this amend. Cllr Timmins do you want to say something quickly?

CLLR TIMMINS: Just an innocuous thing to put in that the village wasn't included.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We will move on to all members in agreement. Proposed amendment 29 proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Vincent Blake. The Chief Executive does not support this, Cllr Edward Timmins I will hand over to you.

CLLR TIMMINS: This is a new phrase put into the proposed development plan. The issue I have a problem with is that that sentence there, development in the rural areas should be strictly limited to proposals, where it's proven there is an economic need to locate in the area. I just think it's a bit OTT and using the word strictly as well, so I propose that that sentence is removed, I think it's unnecessary.

CATHAOIRLEACH:

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorcha, I will go over to you.

SORCHA: I think it relates to number of amendments coming forward. I don't have a view to express. The rural housing policy is going to reflect that sentence. If the sentence is particularly objectionable there is no reason to it coming out, but what follow in the plan will be a rural housing policy that is related to social and economic need. So, it seems unnecessary to take it out, but I mean it will really depend on what happens with the remaining amendments.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: It's located in chapter 4; our rural housing policy is in a further chapter. This is just something that I picked up that I just feel it doesn't need to be there and the word strictly as well.

MS GALLAGHER: Okay. Members it's over to you. Are you in support of Cllr Timmins and Cllr Blake's proposal here? Is there anyone against this?

CLLR DOYLE: Can I ask a question. Will national policy override this regardless of the way we vote?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorcha, can I bring you in to answer that.

SORCHA: That is a possibility, yes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: It's a possibility. So are people in agreement with this, is there anyone against this? So can you give us... Cllr Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: My only worry is that anyone looking to building a house, looking into the development plan isn't given a true picture of the circumstances going forward. They might pursue putting in planning and a lot of expense. I think it's important that some people have some prewarning about restrictions and stuff like that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Shay Cullen.

CLLR S CULLEN: Thank you, chairman. I just want to come in on this. Proposal 40, or amendment 42 on rural planning very clearly indicates that there is a move towards social and economic need which has been put forward by the National Planning Framework. So, I am not so sure about taking out the whole line. I think we need to reflect the social and economic need to live in an area. So, I wouldn't be entirely in agreement with Cllr Timmins on this particular one. I do share his view on strictly limited in that sentence, but I certainly would leave social and economic need as part of the answer of leaving it there.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Did someone else want to come in?

CLLR TIMMINS: Can I come back on that. It's this point, if you take out strictly and leave the rest into it, then you are, and we will have this discussion later on the rural

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planning. You are narrowing then your guidelines on rural planning. In the further amendments we will discuss 42 and 46, we will flesh out this discussion a little bit more. I don't see any reason why in chapter 4, we need to, something needs to be slipped in that could potentially restrict rural planning. I mean that is my feeling. I know it's not an exact science here, but you know, there is other reasons why people should qualify for rural planning in the existing development plan. That is what I want to put back in in. Whereas, if this remains in our development, if this is put into our development plan, the options, more so than what is in the existing development plan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going to bring Sorcha back in in.

CLLR S CULLEN: Can I come in.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Go ahead.

CLLR S CULLEN: It possible to leave amendment 29 until after 42 and 46 discussion on rural planning. It might give us a clearer picture after that discussion.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I think it possibly is. Okay. Is that all right with you, Cllr Edward Timmins to do that? It's your proposal.

MS GALLAGHER: It's proposed by Shay Cullen, if there is a seconder to that?

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: I second that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Seconded by Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy. Is that okay with you Cllr Timmins? In.

CLLR TIMMINS: That is fine. We can wrap it up when we make a decision on 42 and 46 then.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, Cllr Timmins. We will move on to amendment 30 which is proposed by Gerry Walsh and seconded by Shay Cullen. I will bring in Cllr Gerry Walsh here.

CLLR WALSH: We will withdraw that; it's already been dealt with under amendment number 24.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I will go on to amendment number 31 now which is Cllr Sylvester Bourke. Sylvester Bourke, do you have a seconder for this?

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CLLR WINTERS: I will second it for him.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr winters.

CLLR BOURKE: This is Connery. We propose a small boundary change to make Cunnery more attractive for development. So that is what I am proposing there, yeah.

CATHAOIRLEACH: That is proposed by Cllr Bourke and seconded by Cllr winters. Sorcha.

SORCHA: We feel that the proposed boundary of Connery provides sufficient opportunities of infill development of the type of scale that is permissible in a village that is relevant in that level of hierarchy. Again, we are not going to fall out over it, I don't think.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Erika Doyle, you wanted to come in.

CLLR DOYLE: I am wondering what the benefit is to the community. Outside of the individual landowner, or what is the benefit?

CLLR BOURKE: There is a bit more scope there. Within the boundaries of the old villages, there was a lot of the old mining area where no one could do anything in terms of finding a site. So that has been excluded now and this is a little extra piece to the east where it will be possible to provide some housing, if it's needed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr John Snell.

CLLR SNELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, it just doesn't sit well with me. I would prefer if this was coming from the landowners themselves that went out on public display and they were presenting this. I would have to ask the question, why this land? Why this particular land and if it wasn't in a previous plan why in this plan? Why we, as public representatives are putting forward this piece of land? Like I am sure there is 31 councillors here no nothing about this land, who owns it, why it should be justified ahead of other land. What is the purpose of it? If I would suggest that it would probably be withdrawn and allow the owners to submit, when it goes out on public display and let the owners of the land put forward their reasoning why and



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then 32 councillors can assess it then fairly and equally because we don't know nothing about this land and why specifically that patch of land, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, I think, ...

CLLR WINTERS: Chairman.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Who was that.

CLLR WINTERS: As the seconder in that I am happy with Cllr Snell's proposal there. So yeah, if Cllr Bourke wants to withdraw it, I am happy to see it withdrawn and let the landowner do it themselves.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I come in on this myself. I think if my memory serves me right this was in the last plan. Maybe Sorcha would clarify that. This was in the last plan. I know Cllr Bourke knows Connery village very well. This was in the last plan; it was zoned in the last plan and I think that needs to be said. The piece of land that was talk taken, out that reduced the village was taken out on the old mine site. It was in the last plan. That is why the Municipal District put it back in. If that clarifies that.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: I just want to second Cllr Snell's proposal that if it wants to go back in, that whoever the individual landowner is can do it at the public consultation.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cathaoirleach we have had a precedent for this, an adjustment to the boundary in Hollywood without any problem.

CATHAOIRLEACH: It was in the last plan.

CLLR BOURKE: I am looking at the last plan for Cunnery. It is included as the previous boundary of Cunnery, it's not increasing any part of Cunnery. The putting it back to the way it was.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Perhaps, Sorcha you could clarify that.

SORCHA: That is correct.

CLLR BOURKE: The only changes in Cunnery is the exclusion of the mining sight. There is a couple of acres north west which had been out and that is out.

CLLR DOYLE: Why was it taken out?

CLLR BOURKE: Because you can't build on the old mine site.

CATHAOIRLEACH: The piece that was taken out.

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CLLR BOURKE: Sorcha will have to explain that.

SORCHA: As I was saying earlier, the amount of land that was within the boundary of the current development plan for Cunnery is way in excess of the growth target for those villages. So, we rationalised as we had to review the village boundary, because some of the land was in a former mine area and wasn't developable. We went out, surveyed the town, looked at the history and the development in the area and felt that this piece wasn't necessary either, that there was sufficient land, closer to the village crossroads and the centre that would meet the development needs, given its level in the hierarchy.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going to hand back over to you.

CLLR BOURKE: I would be happy to leave it there. I know we have adjusted the number of eligible people that can build and live in the smaller villages and the Hamlets from Level 4 down to Level 7. There may be a bit more demand as well and we should provide a little bit more space within the villages, within certain villages. We should let the new rules apply and see where it goes and rather than restrict where we can get a couple of sites, we should leave it as it is.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going to bring in Cllr John Snell. This is a small rural village. You had a proposal a second ago, do you want to come back in on that?

CLLR SNELL: With regard to that, I am wondering why the planners didn't engage with the Municipal District in regard to this little piece of land. If it was part of the previous plan, why did the planners go and I know Sorcha has given a brief description about why they come to that decision, but why they took out that section of land. Now the councillors within the Municipal District feel it important to put it back in. Surely there was a level of engagement with the workshops and at that stage the arguments could have been made. I just think the optics of it doesn't look good. I have no interest in raising a big debate on it, I have no issue in regards rural villages putting it back in. There have only been two planning permissions since 2010 in in the area. So, I have no issue with that, I would actually support the map going back in because I didn't realise it was part of what was already there. I just

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think it doesn't look good, the way that it's coming from public representatives rather than landowners. I have a huge issue with that in regards that. Landowners in if my opinion should be putting their cards on the table in front of all 32 councillors. I do believe there should have been more engagement before it got to this stage. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Are you prepared to go ahead and go to a vote?

CLLR BOURKE: I can go to a vote.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, members, you see the proposal in front of you from Cllr Bourke, seconded by Cllr Winters. Any dissent on this or are people in agreement. Cllr Erika Doyle. So, hand over to Lorraine.

MS GALLAGHER: Proposed by Cllr Bourke and seconded by Cllr Winters. Cllr Snell made a proposal seconded by Cllr Kavanagh. If you are in agreement with Cllr Snell, you vote against the amendment.

[Vote taken]

CLLR BEHAN: Sorry, Cathaoirleach, just clarification. Are we voting for Cllr Snell's amendment or Cllr Bourke's proposal?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Snell's amendment.

MS GALLAGHER: No, Cllr Bourke's proposal that is what is in in front of you and Cllr Snell made a proposal it be withdrawn and that is to submit during a consultation process. So, what I am saying is if you are against Cllr Bourke's proposal then you vote against, which would mean you are for Cllr Snell's proposal.

CLLR ANNESLEY: I may come back in again then.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So, you are voting for or against the amendment.

[ VOTE TAKEN]

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MS GALLAGHER: So, we are voting for or against Cllr Bourke's motion.

CLLR O'NEILL: I am for John Snell.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So, you are against...

[VOTE CONTINUES TO BE TAKEN]

MS GALLAGHER: 23 for and nine against. So, the amendment is carried.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Proposed amendment number 32 is proposed by Cllr R O'Connor and again Cllr O'Connor I have to have a seconder before I can move it forward.

CLLR D O'BRIEN: I will second it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR O'CONNOR: I wanted to comment on it. It's quite simple. In Bray, for example, we gather a lot of data where places are popular, where places aren't popular. We see what days they are popular. I think bringing that forward we can use technology to see which parts of our towns are unpopular and what certain days they are. I think we can learn a lot from it. So, I think it's a good thing to put in.

CATHAOIRLEACH: The Chief Executive has no objection. Is everyone in agreement with Cllr O'Connor's proposal, seconded by Cllr Dermot O'Brien? Can you raise your hand and indicate? No one is against?

MS GALLAGHER: All agreed, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Amendment number 33 is proposed by Cllr Peir Leonard. Again, Cllr Peir Leonard, need a seconder to bring this forward. Seconded by Cllr M Kavanagh.

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CLLR LEONARD: I appreciate the Chief Executive's response, but I think that the County Development Plan is the first place of call for any potential investors to look at investing in the town of Arklow. I just think that the current description of the regeneration of the town doesn't deflect what is going on and the potential of the town. So, I would like to proceed and get it passed if possible.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Sorcha, I am going to bring you in on this, it's amendment number 33. (On mute)

CLLR S CULLEN: Sorcha is on mute.

SORCHA: Sorry. As set out in the Chief Executive's response there, we would have concern that the proposed alternative text is listing a vast an array of projects in Arklow that aren't related to town and urban regeneration. For example, there is mention of Glenard Forest, which isn't a town centre regeneration project related to Arklow. We feel most of these projects would be more appropriately dealt with in the Arklow LAP and a vast majority of them are already. I suppose the second issue we have with this is that if you look at this chapter of the development plan, we have one or two paragraphs for each town. We have tried to give an even amount of attention to each town. If this text goes in as it is, the amount of information would be three times more than a number of towns in the same sort of category and I suppose would be viewed to be diminishing what we are saying about the other towns, if there is extra attention given to Arklow. There is nothing objectionable by any of the text. They are all very positive projects, but we don't think they belong in this part of the development plan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Leonard, do you want to come back.

CLLR LEONARD: Everyone has an option to put in on option. I am just talking about the people I represent in Arklow. That is all I can say.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, there is no one else showing, so members are you in support of Cllr Leonard's proposal, seconded by Cllr M Kavanagh. Is everyone in support of that, or is there anyone against that? If you are in support of it, I need you

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to do a show of hands and tell me where you are on it. Every hand is not going up, so I don't know where I am.

CLLR FERRIS: I oppose it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Who is that.

CLLR FERRIS: Anne Ferris.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will go to Lorraine.

CLLR FERRIS: Can I say I oppose it because it really should be in the Arklow LAP, the plan for Arklow Town. The same way as I could have, I suppose or anyone Greystones, Bray, we could have listed a lot of things for our own area, which rightly belong in our own town plan. So, I think this kind of thing skews the County Development Plan, somewhat, so, as Sorcha said they are all very worthy proposals, but I think they belong in...

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, Cllr Ferris, just a second, because Lorraine has lost connection. Bear with me for a second. Sorry, Cllr Ferris.

MS GALLAGHER: Seems positive. Okay.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Are you back.

MS GALLAGHER: Back, yeah, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Ferris, apologies for that.

CLLR FERRIS: I am not against the thrust of the motion, but I believe it's in the wrong plan, so that is why I am opposing it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Cllr M Kavanagh and then Cllr Cullen.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: I think I am correct in saying that Cllr Leonard's main objection about this is the fact that the opening paragraph there has such negative connotations for Arklow. Reverse the decline of Arklow. What does that say? I mean it's terrible really. It's just not worthy of being in this town plan. So, instead she responded with something that was much more positive. I am sure because he had been new to this whole process, she probably wasn't aware that a lot of these things could be in in the actual LAP for Arklow. I do think that all she is trying to do is to be positive here and to specify all the ways that Arklow could be improved. As she

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pointed out, every other Municipal District had the same opportunity to put in stuff for their towns and regions as well. So, I just think that the first paragraph there is completely negative and does nothing, it looks dreadful in this development plan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Shay Cullen.

CLLR S CULLEN: I am certainly not speaking against Cllr Peir Leonard's amendment here, but I am just wondering from Sorcha's comments, could this amendment be dispersed into other parts of the development plan, or is she really suggesting it should only be in the Arklow Area Plan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will go back to Cllr Leonard. Do you want to come back on this or keep it for the Arklow LAP?

CLLR LEONARD: I would like to put some of it. I think it's the first point of call that people at. Not everyone goes to a Local Area Plan when they are looking at the county. I want to reflect the town in the true value that the town has and for future investment and for the wider audience.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

SORCHA: Perhaps if Cllr Leonard would be prepared to work with us over the next few days to come back with something we can agree on and maybe we then bounce it back to the Arklow MD group to sign off that it reflects some of Cllr Leonard's text, but is more akin, in terms of its detail to the amount of information that we provide on the other towns and is more positive in its outlook as Cllr Kavanagh had suggested. We keep it to the regeneration of the town centre, because this is what this chapter is about, it's about town centre regeneration and the other elements of it that aren't to do with that, maybe we could agree could be dealt with elsewhere or could be dealt with in the Local Area Plan. We have to do it rapidly over the next few days before we have to start finalising the plan, subject to the member's approval.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Leonard, first of all, would that be acceptable to you?

CLLR LEONARD: I think that would be acceptable, if my other fellow councillors are happy with that as well.



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CATHAOIRLEACH: Would you be happy for them to work on that and work with the planning team and Sorcha.

CLLR CRONIN: Very happy with that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So technically it's withdrawn from the agenda, is that right?

Okay, thank you, Cllr Leonard.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed amendment number 34 is proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and Vincent Blake and I note that the Chief Executive has no objection to this. Cllr Edward Timmins, do you want to come in on this?

CLLR TIMMINS: I won't delay on this, it's self-explanatory. It's just a project which has massive potential for this area of Wicklow and the whole area of County Wicklow and nationally.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Members, are you in agreement with this amendment? It everyone is indicating. There is nobody against it.

MS GALLAGHER: All agreed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Number 35 is proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Vincent Blake. Okay, Cllr Timmins I will come over to you again.

CLLR TIMMINS: This is just an extra aspiration on the, in in relation to the town and village centres. I see the response says it doesn't support the objective because it's not a land use development, land use or develop. Objective. Lots of stuff in this development plan is not land use, so I request this is retained.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. I am going to come to over to Sorcha for comment.

SORCHA: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. We feel that this objective to bring vacant and derelict buildings is fully reflected in the plethora of objectives we have in the plan and that this proposal is not necessary. In fact, I will reiterate, it's not a land use or development objective. It's like an instruction to the Chief Executive to devote resources and a team to seek out funding. It's to do with the activities and operations of the Council, it's not to do with any form of development. I would draw your attention to the type of wording that we already have in the plan, that basically reflects that, to identify and pursue transformational regeneration and new projects,

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to target development, to support well-designed development and so on. We don't, we just don't think that the County Development Plan needs to instruct the Chief Executive to seek out funding sources to improve the county, which the team and the executive do as a matter of course. It's their job to do that for you and for the county.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I can come back on that.

CLLR TIMMINS: I would be willing to change the word avail to promote. That might be less instructive.

SORCHA: Okay.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Chief Executive, do you want to come in on this.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: No, Cathaoirleach, it's something we do anyway. It's promoted the town and village renewal scheme. We are at that 12 months of the year and working with community groups. It's not a plan like this, it's part of our general policy, it's the CCSC section, so I don't think there is need for it in a land use policy such as the development plan. We are trying to keep it as compact as we can and it can be difficult enough for planners, they want it as the policies, as succinct as they can be. No objection to the concept, by the way, it's just something we do anyway.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Any other member wants to come in on this? There is nobody else coming in on this, the Chief Executive doesn't support it. Does anyone, sorry is that everyone in agreement with the proposal?

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Timmins, do you still want it to stand.

CLLR TIMMINS: Yes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed by Cllr Timmins and seconded by Cllr Blake. Anyone in disagreement? No. No voices. Okay, Cathaoirleach. Agreed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Amendment number 36 is proposed by Cllr Timmins and seconded by Cllr Blake. Over to you, Cllr Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Again, to reduce the instructive nature of these amendments. I will change the word introduce to support.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. So go over to you, Sorcha, the Chief Executive doesn't support this amendment.

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SORCHA: It's very similar to the last one. If it wasn't land use and development this one certainly isn't. This is about awarding prizes to young people getting involved in tidy towns, it clearly does not belong in a County Development Plan. It is something for an LEC or county development section or a number of other places where this belongs. This being in the county development can't be implemented and your objectives have to be realistic and implementable and so on. This is just not related to planning. So, there is no way for us to implement it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, John Snell, do you want to come in?

CLLR SNELL: I was happy to support the previous amendment, but unfortunately Edward, I disagree with you fundamentally on this one, I think this should be going through the community and cultural and social development in Wicklow County Council. I don't think it has any part to play in this County Development Plan unfortunately. So, I would be opposing to this.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Anyone else?

CLLR TIMMINS: I will, did someone else want to come in.

CATHAOIRLEACH: No.

CLLR DUNNE: I do.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Go ahead.

CLLR DUNNE: I am opposed to this as well. I think we need to deal with this as CCSD. Maybe if you put in a proposal to CCSD, Cllr Timmins we will look at it and come back to you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I think, Cllr Timmins are you are withdrawing it.

CLLR TIMMINS: I am happy to withdraw it, I reject the assertion that everything in this development plan has do with land use and relates to development. There is lots of stuff in this development plan that is not directly related to land use and related to lots of aspirations and related to various thing, some of which may or may not happen. So, I reject that general comment, but I am happy to withdraw that one.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Amendment number 37 again is proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins, seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake. So, I am going hand over to you again, Cllr Timmins on this.

CLLR TIMMINS: This is self-explanatory. The big issue is affordable housing for people and it's an area that has been ignored and I wanted to put something into this development plan that would recognise that and put it there in part of our objectives. So, I would be anxious to get this area, as we all know and there is unanimous agreement, and we know it's an area where it has been ignored over the last number of years. We need to put it upfront in terms of our consciousness in this development plan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I note the Chief Executive doesn't support this amendment so Sorcha, I will bring you it back in again.

SORCHA: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. There is no objection to the sentiment that is in the text there. It's just not in the right place in the plan. This is an introductory message and it's setting out what is the role of planning in the supporting of housing. It's a non sequitur it doesn't relate to what is the role of housing in delivery, what is the role of planning in delivering housing. This has come up in a few different places a few amendments that we haven't got to yet. Sometimes we provide bullet points of information about owner documents or strategies, but they are not the policy or the strategy or the objective. They are a summary of something else. It simply doesn't belong there. It's not about what the heading of the bullet points is. This is the role of planning. So, it can certainly go into the plan, but it's in the wrong place there. Because putting it there does not make it an objective of the development plan. So that is our real difficulty with it, it doesn't sit right, it's in the introductory setting. It hasn't been put in as an actual objective. Only the objective are the parts that are implemented. Not the things that are introductory setting or summary settings. So, the objectives they are called CPO6.2, they are the objectives of the plan, that the executive is tasked to implement. So, including it in that paragraph won't make it an objective of the plan.

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CLLR TIMMINS: Just coming back on that, the reason I put it in here is because a lot of people when they are reading large documents, they only read the introduction and I think the fact that this was not included in the introduction is an omission, so I think it's important that it is in there. I have included it further in chapter 6, in next amendment as well. But I just feel that it should be upfront and in the headlines.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Members, Cllr Blake?

CLLR BLAKE: It's often difficult to put it in, I am not disagreeing with Sorcha about that aspect of it. But nevertheless, the council do have a number of sites around the county that are sitting there for quite a number of years that could be made available for affordable, they are affordable sites in order for people to build housing on them. They are sitting there for years, there is some in Aughrim and Dunlavin and they have been sitting there for years and the council haven't made progress in making them available to people who could build affordable houses on them.

SORCHA: If Cllr Timmins was worth working with us to put it in the right place of the plan it would be more effective. If the other members are in agreement with the text and the sentiment of the text, we can write it into an objective in the proper place in the plan.

CLLR SCOTT: Can I ask a question...

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, Cllr Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Sorry I had my hand up there before Sorcha replied. I have a question and obviously supporting the motive behind the amendment here. What is our definition of affordable? Where do we refer to that definition? What is an affordable house?

MS GALLAGHER: Cathaoirleach I was going to come in there, where it says to promote and take action on the development of affordable houses and people who do not qualify for social housing. You would have to do more work on who would qualify then for affordable housing. So as Cllr Lourda Scott was saying, there is limit, or a criterion to be followed that would require more drilling down into that proposal.

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CLLR TIMMINS: I think it's a general objective. There is a lot that don't have back up on what you are doing. If it's a new road, where it is you are going on, there is a lot of stuff that you don't have the full detail of. It's a general term, affordable houses, there are going to be national guidelines on who qualifies for affordable house, be your income, whatever it is, for a couple under 60, there would be guidelines. Obviously, we are not going to get into the technicalities.

MS GALLAGHER: No, but it's too proud the way it's sitting at the minute.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Mags Crean wants to come in.

CLLR CREAN: I agree with what Sorcha is proposing, as on objective. I would have a fear that even the way it's worded would exclude people. If you are stating, you do not qualify for social housing. So, I just, to look, reword it and look at, put it as on objective, because sitting there as Sorcha said it's not going to mean there has to be action taken, just in that preamble. I do think it's a definitely a worthy objective to be put in.

CATHAOIRLEACH: As Sorcha has suggested working with her in the next day or two, is that something you would do, subject to the members agreeing it?

CLLR TIMMINS: Once members agree with the wording I am proposing. I am willing to work with Sorcha on putting it into the most appropriate, but it would be very much, a prominent position in the development plan, but happy to work with her on where we agree with that is going to be.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Irene Winters.

CLLR WINTERS: Rather than say, Edward, if members agree with the wording, it's if members agree with the sentiment, then you are prepared to work with Sorcha to have it put in, that whole sentiment and you will work with Sorcha on the wording.

CLLR TIMMINS: I am sure we can do that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Gerry O'Neill wanted to come in.

CLLR O'NEILL: I want to be associated with Cllr Timmins' motion. Once we hear the word affordable housing, I want to be associated with that. As I pointed out before, within housing estates that are being built under construction in the county,

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especially west Wicklow, I would like to see some of those being affordable. There is a huge need for affordable housing, and I mean the criteria is fairly clear there, once we are over that threshold of 36,000 you are off the social list, so there are other people, and they can't get to the limit for mortgages. So, there is a need and maybe, as was pointed out, there is land banks everywhere in west Wicklow including Blessington that have social or affordable houses can be built on. At least X number of houses should be included in present estates for affordable housing.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I think Cllr Timmins and Blake are agreeing to work with them to put that together.

CLLR FORTUNE: Very quickly, I touched on it at the start of the meeting. I understand fully where Cllr Timmins is coming from. Okay, maybe he can put it into the right section of the plan. I think it does impact the local authority, because there is an awful lot of lip service being paid to affordable housing and the term affordable housing. What is affordable? They are saying now, if I am correct, in in Dublin, for example, that in an affordable house now with rate is 450,000. So where are young couples going to have the deposit to justify getting that? Where are they going to get their loans? This is a really serious area. I don't think and while we are going through a very important document and Cllr Leonard made a very good point earlier on, obviously there is lots of people who are not taking part in this meeting today and in due course they will read this report whatever way they will read it. It's very important the message that we are putting across. Then, at the end of the day this will be a document that we, as public representatives, will be said that we approved it. So, it's very important that we are happy, as a group, what is going into it. The affordable housing scenario at the moment does need some teamwork from both ourselves and the executive, because, at the moment the term affordable house is a total misnomer.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Thank you, Chair. I concur with Cllr Fortune. That is what I wanted to clarify when I raised this question at the beginning of the discussion, obviously in



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support of the intent of the motion on affordable housing. But the definition of affordable is really important. Figures coming out last weeping week were suggesting that an affordable house in Wicklow, was 15,000 over the medium house price in Wicklow at the moment. So that not affordable in my head. If something on affordable housing is going into the CDP and it's tied into this crazy definition that is coming down from national Government, then I would have an issue with that. I wouldn't feel that I could stand over what went into the CDP. That is just my concerns about what we might hear as a collective, think in our heads is affordable, but might not be what is dictated down from Government level. That is just my concerns with that issue.

CLLR TIMMINS: Can I come back on that? I don't think we can come up with any figures here. This development plan is for six years, 2022 to 28, affordable in the definition will change over that period of time, so we can't be defining what is affordable at this point in time. Am I missing your point?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Mags Crean.

CLLR CREAN: Thank you, Chair. I disagree, naming affordable in our County Development Plan is really important. Whether or not the Government can come to a realisation of what is affordable is really up to the Government and Green Parties to be pushing at a national level, but we shouldn't leave it out of our County Development Plan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Miriam Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: Just for an example a lot of people in Arklow are moving down to the next county and further down to Wexford because there is such a difference in house prices. That is affordable in their pocket, but it's very sad in local towns that they are moving out of their towns. Affordable is a question and it is a serious problem out in the world.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Timmins, do you want to go, sorry, Gerry Walsh, I can't see you there. Are you there?

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CLLR WALSH: Just to make the point about the terms of variability, it will vary place-to-place even within a county such as Wicklow. I mean the markets are different, the demand will be different and densities etc, so really it would be impossible to define affordability, I think there is a bit of confusion about the shared equity scheme that was announced, and the price caps put on that. So, there might be an element of confusion over that. Again, it's impossible to define.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will bring in the Chief Executive. Thank you, Gerry.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I would generally be in agreement that we should reference affordable housing and put it in the right place in in the plan and I would recommend that Cllr Timmins and Blake work with that in relation to that. The Affordable Housing Bill is going through the Dail, so local authorities will be back, they are widening out so they can build houses cheaper.

Similarly, as Cllr Walsh identified, the shared equity scheme is coming through for people who want to buy houses in private developments. In terms of affordability when it is built it will be different in relation to their income. If you are looking for affordable house, you will be what kind of loan and what subsidy you would get would be different between the maximum loan you could get from 90% of the purchase price and the market value. As Cllr Walsh says it will vary around the county and the country. That is all going through the Dail at the moment. We will be back in the business of building affordable houses. There is no question about that. But the fine details will come through in time.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Who was that? Tom.

CLLR FORTUNE: Just a comment. I hear what Frank is saying that it's going through the Dail at the moment. That is not the point. The point is that is the affordability of the affordable house. Even what Frank has described to us now wouldn't fill you full of confidence that it's going to be a great vehicle for lots of people.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorcha's suggestion as well was that they would orc over the next couple day withdraw it for now. Is that acceptable to you, Cllr Edward Timmins, and would it be acceptable to the members as well?

CLLR TIMMINS: I have already stated I accept that. Number 38 is similar, number 38 and 37 was similar. I was trying to put two amendments I couldn't find the sect one. 38 is the same and I would work with Sorcha and her team on 37 and 38.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is that accepted with the members? Members happy enough with that? Yes. Cllr Winters.

CLLR WINTERS: I am supporting it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Amendment number 39 is again from Cllr Edward Timmins and Cllr Vincent Blake. The Chief Executive supports this proposal, so Cllr Timmins do you want to say a quick word on this, the Chief Executive supports it?

CLLR TIMMINS: There would be no delay here. I go with my words and there is only a couple of one word in the difference, I would go with my wording if that were okay. There is no real discussion because the CE agrees with this.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is that agreed with the members?

CLLR WINTERS: Agreed.

CLLR CREAN: Can I come in there? I think the suggested wording, is better. Stating this is to be done by both the council housing bodies. I don't think we should state that there. It's better the council will support and provide.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: What is your point, Cllr Mags Crean?

CLLR CREAN: My concern is housing bodies. I see the council has a reel in it, I think just in relation to the growth of housing bodies in the housing sector, I think there needs to be more governance and regulation. There is a massive amount of assets that are gathering worth millions and billions. I have concern...

CLLR TIMMINS: If I delete the second sentence then?

CLLR CREAN: Perfect. Just name of the housing bodies.

CLLR TIMMINS: Okay, I delete the second sentence in that proposal.

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MS GALLAGHER: This is to be done by both the Council and the housing bodies.

CLLR TIMMINS: Deleted.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, you want to come in.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: Apologies, that is grand. I was going to clarify to the Cllr Timmins, it's the local authority who will determine the need, so there is no need to mention housing bodies. He has agreed with that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Everyone in agreement with that.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Timmins's proposal seconded by Cllr Blake. All agreed with the sentence removed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, amendment number 40 is proposed by Cllr Grace McManus and seconded by Cllr Dermot O'Brien. I am going to go over to you, Cllr Grace McManus.

CLLR McMANUS: I won't read out the whole thing and I assume I have given four reasons why I think this is a good proposal for fitting in our wider objectives. It's been really interesting, as a newer council to see how we are discussing all of the amendments going forward. I think we have set a precedent to include something like this. I mean it's been argued this is our plan, that it's not just about strictly land use, but also economic development. I think that fits in and we also already agreed in approximate the overall strategy to include community wealth building. I would hope that members would support it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, I will go over to Sorcha for a reply on this.

SORCHA:

So, there's no sentiment behind this, the text proposed, particularly focuses on tendering and procurement, which is really outside the remit of the County Development Plan and clear laws and regulations with regard to tendering and procurement with the County Development Plan can't change so we wouldn't implement this, because we'd have to follow the law with regard to procurement and I wouldn't want to give the public or members false expectations that something would be done in the field of

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tendering procurement that's not actually possible for us to do.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK, does anybody else want to come in on this? Cllr Mitchell.

CLLR SNELL: I'd be concerned about this, as has been said.

CLLR KENNEDY: I agree with the motion of the amendment put down by Cllr Grace McManus and there's huge value looking in our communities and promoting employment and objectives there. Similar to the other comments though because it relates to procurement itself and because it is an area that historically has had seen so many issues and concerns around it, that would be my only reason to object to this amendment, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Mags Crean.

CLLR CREAN: Again, I agree with the sentiment and two motions coming up on a future council meeting so completely back the idea, but I think it's not really the place for it here and we do have a procurement policy with green and social clause aspects to that, so when there's Government criteria coming forward so that's best where it is dealt with and the fact, we're mentioning community wellbeing in the overall document is good.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Nobody else coming to come in, Lourda.

CLLR SCOTT: I seem to be hidden from you, I wanted to add my support for the reasoning behind this, but at the same time acknowledging that it could be tricky, I'm thinking for, even just from the piece of retrofitting houses to find that skill locally, is it possible so rephrase it so it could be considered as part of the approach of tendering and procurement or language such as that, it would be a shame to have to remove it completely, so I just wonder if that's a consideration for Sorcha, if she could comment, if the proposer is of agreement.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Grace is nodding in agreement, Sorcha, do you want to come in on that comment.

SORCHA: I wouldn't be able to answer that Cllr Lourda Scott because I have no role in procurement and tendering and neither does the County Development Plan and planning would tender little and it is not responsible for tendering for building housing, perhaps the Chief Executive might want to come in here or Breege who is more knowledge of the housing development and spending process, I believe that our tendering, we have tendering procurement policies in place. And we have various cry tear consider we have to take into account when doing that, and that's a completely separate policy to the County Development Plan.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: It is definitely outside the County Development Plan it is procurement, we're bound by European and national legislation, we do it all the time we have a group looking at the area of procurement and green procurement and update the policies all the time, but it is outside this process, no doubt about that.

CHAIR: You've heard all the comments, Lorraine over to you.

MS GALLAGHER: OK chair lock, as there's a number of councillors that voiced approval not approval but support of it in principle but doesn't rest within this plan, so we'll go for a vote.

CLLR MCMANUS: I don't mind save time with, I'm happy to find council where is best placed to do this.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: We have a group looking at procurement, so that's the best place for it.

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CHAIR: 40, Cllr Shay Cullen and seconded by Cllr Irene Winters, Chief Executive does not support this amendment so over to you Cllr Shay Cullen.

CLLR CULLEN. Thanks Chairman first of all we've had a reasonable debate on housing so far, but I think this amendment maybe bringing up another level. I suppose the reason I brought this amendment forward is to try and address the situation that is occurring at the moment in our county where people just can't afford to purchase a home in their local. We're all obviously aware of vulture funds and investors purchasing large numbers of houses in the greater area, and this in essence is putting I suppose pressure on the Wicklow market. In terms of people not being able to buy a home, in basically in County Wicklow. So, I just want to use the Grace stones as an example. And this is the way I see it - people in Greystones born and reared in Greystones are priced out completely by people moving into the area. And I think this is where the displacement of communities is actually happening. You know you have people from Greystones moving to Newtown, people from Newtown moving to Rathdrum and eventually we have residents from Wicklow moving to Wexford and other counties, I want to be clear on this, I don't have a problem with people moving into our county and that's why by having 75% with no restriction, I think deals with the movement of people and people having a choice to live wherever they feel that they want to, but the 25% restriction, I suppose, ensures people from a local area have an option to purchase a home within their local area. And this amendment Chairman is about protecting the people of County Wicklow. The reason I've delved so much in this County Development Plan is for the residents and communities of County Wicklow and we have an obligation to stand firm for local people and try and give them some sense of hope in terms of



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purchasing a home. And look, I don't think any other county has brought something like this forward. But I suppose, our location close to Dublin probably gives us you know slightly different dynamic in terms of housing and the pressures we're under in this county and that's by bringing in forward and having 25% scenario where local people can purchase a home I think, can only benefit residents and people of County Wicklow.

CHAIR: Cllr Irene Winters.

CLLR WINTERS: Grand, just to add in, Cllr Shay Cullen and myself we struggled the with wording of this, and realised there's probably aspects that need to be looked at, even as we send it in. I thought maybe it is a local person who wants to upgrade a house. You know that their families got bigger or whatever and that's maybe we should look at as well. But it really is, you know, all the time we keep saying we want less and less rural, well, we don't say it, but the planners and the planning laws say we want less and less housing outside of urban or settlement areas and we want to restrict rural planning and yet we're given absolutely no option who would normally have got planning, plans it go anywhere. With the chance to actually live in their own community at a reasonable rate because if they're not bidding against every single person in the houses market there's a better chance some of the houses will fall within the price range of people who just have regular jobs and do regular things.

So, I'm not sure we leave in the word "first time buyer" if Cllr Shay Cullen is willing, I would like to take that out and if it is somebody who lived three years within duration and within 15 kilometres because there will be people who are already in houses of County Wicklow or apartments who would like to move within their own community to a bigger house. Thank

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you.

CHAIR: Cllr Erika Doyle.

CLLR ERIKA DOYLE: The figures and the details on this just seem arbitrary to me.

I'm not sure with admittedly knowledge it would be enforceable, I can't imagine it would be enforceable. I'd feel uncomfortable on this without some legal advice to be honest, which I would appreciate if there was some kind of a legal opinion could be given on this if it is going to a vote thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Chief Executive.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I will read a summary if that's OK. So, she's saying, 'My view would be that on the fact presented the risk is high for judicial review and our constitutional challenge and possibly to a declaration of incompatibility. 2018 planning act states core strategy of a plan is that there must be consistent within a planning requirement set out with the relative guidelines, we're aware the Flemish case 200, is overarching Irish law and 2013, specifically overturned exercise of free movement of people within the EU citizens and families, the Flemish case addressed within ...

The council is bound by European conditions, case law and current guidelines such conditions will pose a high risk of being difficult to implement equitable and open to legal challenge with a cost and damages and delay with the County Development Plan and would be in conflict with European law which specifically provides the location dependent decision on for instance the right of freedom of movement with residents within the European Union.' So that's the legal advice care hoc Cathaoirleach.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gail Dunne you wanted to come in.

CLLR DUNNE: Sorry. Yeah, I get I have to get the spirit of the motion from Cllr Shay Cullen and Cllr Irene Winters, people in our own area find it difficult to purchase houses, at the moment, we have very few houses for Wicklow on sale and no rental at all. At a previous meeting I mentioned that, so I am worried about the legality of the whole thing and whether it would stand in court so obviously with a legal opinion but in fairness to Cllr Shay Cullen and Cllr Irene Winters I get to the spirit of the motion and it should be looked into.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Mags Crean.

CLLR CREAN: Thanks I get the spirit of the motion but I would disagree with it, and I think Greystones and the housing strategy is the highest average cost of a house, so it is not the competition that's necessary just driving the price up, there's other factors so I don't think this would do people in Greystones trying to live in their own area T might work for other parts of the county but again I was going to repeat what the Chief Executive said with regards as to other civil liberties and migrant workers and so forth. Cllr Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: I support the motion in principle but and Cllr Shay Cullen used the Greystones example, and we see this on the ground, there's a generation being deprived of a real house ownership if the status quo continues. But having listened to the Chief Executive I accept the difficulty of legal difficulties around this, so, look I don't think on that regard we can support it but if there was another proposal that would help address the outstanding issues maybe we revisit it.

CLLR SCOTT: Thanks chair and I appreciate the reasoning behind bringing this motion, as Greystones was used, it is worth pointing out, it is multifactor the reason people can't buy here and we have foreign investment funds block buying over a hundred apartments in the marina,

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one of our new developments recently so this objective isn't going to solve that problem either, so I couldn't support this motion, thank you.

CLLR MITCHELL: I like the concept behind this but, to try and enable say what is concentrating on Greystones but Greystones people to try and continue to have children to live in Greystones, but I think it is very difficult to implement, and it is actually an outstanding problem in my youth this was a problem where people tended to move further away from the centre of Dublin from where they were born and bred. Now, I think, what it is nice to have, putting it in, certainly for the large towns and the large villages would draw attention to this, in a big way and I think it would just get blown out of the water. Now we effectively do this as far as I can see in level seven and lower villages, we do give some priority for people from rural areas who have more difficulty in competing against people from Dublin in price. And I think that the danger of putting this in for the whole county and Bray Greystones, Wicklow Town et cetera, would be to maybe eliminate any possibility of keeping the restrictions for the smaller settlements. So, I wouldn't be in favour of a general thing.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: Sorry about that. No, I want to compliment Cllr Shay Cullen and Cllr Irene Winters. For bringing to the fore, this very, very basic issue which is what are we telling the people of our county? Really the answer we're getting through a summary of a law agent's message to the Chief Executive is we can't help you. You may go on to Gorey because we're not drawing up a development plan that's going to suit your needs.

Now, the last sentence - I mean this is something, we should have got this legal advice before today. I mean the Chief Executive had it ready there on his disk, we hear a summary itself now a few minutes ago. As far as I can call the last sentence is it is not illegal at the moment, it is possible, it

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could be open to judicial review but anything that we did in terms of trying to protect the different levels in the county in the past could also be subject to judicial review but didn't stop us doing it, and we're running away again from this basic issue of what is our responsibility to the people of this county?

Are we going to doing anything as stand up as Cllr Shay Cullen said stand up for those people and try and provide people for them for the people we represent?

And I think it is a very, very good genuine attempt to at least try to restore so much the balance. And I would appeal to Cllr Shay Cullen and Cllr Irene Winters, don't let this just fall away now, I think we should have a vote on this. I think we should put it in the draft plan, let's shear what all the powers that be having to say about it, we don't have to run away at the first objection and certainly shouldn't be running away because the Chief Executive runs out a summary of a few sentences he didn't have the courtesy to give us before the meeting. I am completely against, making decisions on that basis. So, Cathaoirleach I appeal to Cllr Shay Cullen to let the motion go to the members, and I would appeal to the members let it go on public display and let's have another look and let the public have their say on this as well rather than just abandon it here today. Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks go back to Cllr Shay Cullen and then we'll see what he wants to do.

CLLR CULLEN: Yeah. And look, I appreciate people's comments on this, but first thing I want to say is there could be lots of this development plan we're speaking about today that we could open to judicial review, I have absolutely no concerns about legal advice on this. If the planning regulator feels this is not the way forward, let him decide that. But, as Cllr Joe Behan as quite rightly said, I'm here and other people are here to

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support the people of County Wicklow. And the plan that we're doing is to support the residents of County Wicklow to find a home. I'm not here to support somebody coming in from another county and completely outbidding somebody from a local area who has spent their life growing up in a local area and are totally outmanoeuvred in terms of prices of houses. 75%, is no restriction. Right, 25% is for the people that I represent and the people that you represent in County Wicklow and I can assure you, I'm not concerned about legal challenges or anything else here. Let the planning regulator and the office of planning regulation, let them deal with this, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We've heard all of the views and we've heard the Chief Executive's response, Lorraine over to you.

MS GALLAGHER: We'll go for a vote. Proposed by Cllr Shay Cullen and seconded by Cllr Irene Winters.

Are you leaving in the first-time buyer, Cllr Shay Cullen? Or taking that out.

CLLR CULLEN: We'll take that out and we'll constitutionally say you must be a resident for at least three years in County Wicklow.

MS GALLAGHER: First time buyer bit. OK members.

(Votes taken).

So, 19 for, 13 against and one not present so the amendment carried.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed amendment 42 proposed by Cllr Shay Cullen and seconded by Cllr Avril Cronin. This was one of the ones mentioned earlier on, 42 and 46 could be taken together, Sorcha, could you come in on that.

SORCHA: Cathaoirleach I don't have anything to add, they're both on similar matter and take them as they appear, I think.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: This is proposed by Cllr Shay Cullen and Cllr Avril Cronin and Chief Executive has no objection to it, Cllr Shay Cullen do you want to say a word on this.

CLLR CULLEN: This is pretty complicated one in terms of you know we were always working off the old HD23 list of points I think it was 16 points. And I feel it is outdated and hasn't certainly worked for me over the last number of years, so I've looked at the new economic and social need and added bits and pieces into it, and I believe what I have now is consistent with the national planning infrastructure and addresses any sun uncertainty in rural applicants and applications, I've incorporated the HD23 into this document. I suppose the boards have been overturning decisions based on the HD23, document and I just think by bringing in the extra social and economic need, I think it is in the interest of us and the applicants and I think it is a good compromise thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Members everybody in agreement with the Chief Executive not against it. Everybody in agreement?

CLLR TIMMINS: Yeah, like I have amended amendment 46 which proposes retaining the existing HD23 and the following paragraph after 23.

So that is obviously contradicts this current amendment. My fear is there's items in HD23, I'm not saying it is a bit cumbersome but there's items in HD23, that are not incorporated in this proposal and I would have exact cases of where people who qualify for rural planning under HD23 and granted but would not be granted under this proposal and I would be very concerned about it, there's a couple of, quite a number of items in HD23, and I'm not going to go through them all, but a couple stand out. One is views and prospects. Where social and economic need is superior



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to views and prospects, that's not view not addressed here. And secondly, people from small villages qualify under HD23 is not addressed here and there's a number of other ones as well so I'm not going to go through every item or every line on HD23. And the paragraphs at the end of HD23. But, you know, I don't know how this amendment is going to work but I'd be anxious my proposal to attend County Development Plan, I'm not looking for any loosening and share points, but I think we struggle enough with rural planner at the moment, and I would be fearful this would lessen our chances. OK, you might if someone kicks the box in HD23, but gets them a chance of planning, it would be ruled out from the get-go, so I'd be anxious my amendment is taken as well, and is not sure how you would wish to choose between them, if you have a head-to-head or say, run the two of them and if the two of them get through, have a head-to-head but I'd be anxious both would be considered equally.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: Just before, just following on from Cllr Edward Timmins' point - I think this merit more discussion now because there are obviously merits in what Cllr Shay Cullen has said in terms of simplification and added in one or two extras, but I think there's a lot of wealth behind what Cllr Edward Timmins has said as well. If I go back to what Cllr Shay Cullen said at the start, he said he has found in his experience as a public representative, that the existing section is not working for his constituents. Well, that could be down to the way it's been interpreted by the planners. As distinct from what the wording is. And I'm quite concerned at the fact that the planners don't have a problem with Cllr Shay Cullen's proposal, but they do have with Cllr Edward Timmins' because Cllr Edward Timmins' proposal reflects a lot of work, that went into, by previous councils. To try and ensure that rural people had a chance, a fair chance

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of getting planning permission in rural areas. And I unfortunately while I understand where Cllr Shay Cullen is coming from, I think his motion, would in effect have a greater weapons to the planners of this authority to give them more further opportunities to turn people down who have a genuine need and a right as far as I'm concerned to live in rural areas so I actually think there's a clash if you like of principle here we need to establish first before we suddenly take a vote on one rather than the other.

And I think we should discuss it a little bit more Cathaoirleach, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr Joe Behan and that's why I said at the beginning because I thought 42 and 46, we should look at them together. So, I don't know, Sorcha says take them as they are in the book, Cllr Edward Timmins what do you want to do, you're concerned if we vote on one and we might previously take a decision before we get to yours on 46 that could have a negative effect. The planning team will have to advise here.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I'll there's a lot of work done by Sorcha at team in terms of the defining the housing need, that's really important. And also, we saw earlier National Planning Framework is based on national policy on economic or social need. So, defining the housing need was very necessary. Defining the economic need is very necessary because people will know now in order to get a rural house it is economic or social need and defining what the social need means and there's flexibility built in there if you read it, that's very important that people can see that. So, somebody reading in plan, can say this is what social need means and economic need means, and this is what housing need is. So, it is very, clear for people. And that was the problem in the past, there was people getting confused what you were reading, mixed messages about nieces

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and nephews and unclear. And there's also the issue of Bord Plenala, because they're bound as Government directives will use economic and social need and they've made comments in the past, our plan wasn't consistent with national planning and we had permissions that we granted refused by the bored on that basis. So, I'll ask Sorcha to come in there again, but it is important we outline clearly what is economic need means and social need means, and housing need means and that's what is there, the amendments proposed by Cllr Shay Cullen is sensible and we have no objection to them.

SORCHA: Thanks Frank, I reiterate what you're saying, we seem to have a problem the current policy is not accepted by An Bord Pleanála with national policy and you all know cases where we granted permission that accords with our current County Development Plan and the board has refused permission and it is happening more leg regularly now and the main basis is that, they don't believe that the person fulfils the national criteria of the national framework of social and economic need so we feel that, this is the current policy, is not very helpful to applicants and might even mislead to think they're eligible for rural housing because they might on the face of it, they think they are according to the categories in our plan at the moment but by any chance they head to An Bord Pleanála, the board are clear in many cases they don't qualify or have the social or economic need. What we try do is we try to write you a policy that encompasses the people that are eligible for rural housing now that have a social or economic need and complies with the National Planning Framework and national guidance. The way in which we've done it is we split the policy in two categories, at the moment you have 16 categories of people, and many of them overlap or say the same thing or the same thing in a different way and it is because the policy was written in 1999

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and every plan since, new categories have been added or things have been taken away or changed and it became a bit of a mess to be honest at the moment so it is confusing, so we've tried to break it in two categories, social need or economic need and that's essentially what the list of 16 categories at the moment in development plan is. You either have a need based on something in your family background or connections to the community and so on, that you need to do to carry out your life or economic need you are employment or farmer or something else that requires you to live in a rural area. There was a case taken against Ireland with regard to the social need I suppose element itself, which is this idea that you can't discriminate on the basis of DNA or bloodline, so just because a person happens to be born in a place they shouldn't get a higher preference that someone has come from another EU country but both have the same type of connections developed in a particular area that the person with the bloodline connection should not get priority over the person who is just as connected but wasn't born in the area. So, we need to reword our policies so that we don't give, overriding preference to people born and bred in an area or sons and daughters, many of them will have the strong social connections and can demonstrate that. But we can't prioritise them over other people who have strong social connection and just didn't happen to be born in that particular area. So, we've been cautious about the wording we put together with this, to meet our legal obligations under EU law, the National Planning Framework and to encompass all the categories of people, that are already eligible under the current development plan. And we believe that the current wording with the proposed new wording includes all those categories that demonstrates social and economic need and the current plan. There are some categories in the current plan that you know are a bit troublesome in that it's suggests someone could get planning

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permission when they don't have a social or economic need and that worries us as one of the councillors pointed out someone might read that and think that's my circumstance, I can get permission there, but if they don't have social or economic need they hit a block. So, we're keen we have a go at redoing this policy because the current one isn't really working. And like I said it was 1999 when it was written, and it is timely that we improved it and had a go at another new format of this. I would imagine that the offices of planning regulator, I know we talked about a lot of that already will expect us to do to insist on EU law and national policy as well.

CLLR TIMMINS: Yeah, I'd have to disagree what was said there. You said it's 1999 and we need to change it is that old and you said it has been changed during the time. But a couple of things. First of all, not all planning something fortunately in Wicklow go to An Bord Pleanála, there was a National Development Plan that nearly would stop every planning in Wicklow to get planning rights so probably Wicklow County Council have lots of planning that don't end up in An Bord Plenala and they build their houses, the new social proposal of economic and social need does not cover all the needs that people need for planning. People from a small village qualify for rural planning and have been granted rural planning at the moment and under this new proposal they won't. We also have a thing in where, in the existing plan where social and economic need supreme overviews and prospects, and under this plan there's potential that you could be refused just purely on the basis that the site is seen, it is ongoing battle not a black and white thing, but, at least, having it in development plan will give us some to obtain rural planning, all I it wouldn't is keep existing plan as it is, if we put this there you, we'll make it harder for people with rural planning, that's my opinion and I've given you

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an example in the new plan, someone in the certain situation would be refused, and someone in the old existing plan would be granted.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks. Director Breege Kilkenny.

BREEGE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, I just wanted to pick up on something that Cllr Joe Behan had mentioned, planners do not set out to try and refuse people, if anything, the planners actually do their utmost within what they have to deal with to grant planning especially for the people of county Wicklow. And the proposal that has been put forward by Cllr Shay Cullen is to actually give clarity and definition which will allows the decisions to be made in a very clear fashion. So, I just wanted to clear up that point is that all people working within this county council are doing their utmost to provide accommodation and you know housing for the people of Wicklow. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Breege. Cllr Shay Cullen.

CLLR CULLEN: Thanks Chairman two quick points I want to come back on, I feel applicants are being misguided by HD23 as it stands at the moment. Now, whether that's through the planning process or through architects, we can debate that, but I just feel it is not working for me at the minute and the people I represent. Whether we like it or not, social and economic need are part of the National Planning Framework and are taking very seriously when applications go to the board. And at the moment as it stands, we're not given enough weight to social and economic need so for those reasons I feel strongly about making sure that we readjust what is there, at the moment to incorporate social and economic, to go forward for rural applications. Thank you.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr Shay Cullen. And I think this is a difficult one for a lot of rural people especially, as a councillor myself who deals with a lot of rural planning and I fully understand what Cllr Joe Behan is coming from as well and it is very difficult to know if we go with this one and we vote on it as to what is going to happen to Cllr Edward Timmins' one in a couple of minutes and we don't want to rule one in one out, one in and one out, maybe there's a possibility we could, before we take a decision on this, we'll go to Cllr Edward Timmins' and look at it, would that be a fairway of doing it? And look at Cllr Edward Timmins' and see how compatible they are or what is missing in one and that's not in the other, would that be acceptable because I know you're passionate about rural planning the same as I am.

CLLR TIMMINS: Look, I have no - Chairman I have no problem with that, Edward is rightly in his view put forward his viewpoint on this. you know, I don't agree necessarily but look that's the way it is.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Edward Timmins you're both in fairness saying the right thing for rural people. And I think Cllr Joe Behan was trying to say that a minute ago as well, would I be right in saying that Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: Yes, absolutely correct Cathaoirleach, yes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Edward Timmins will you go through in amendment in 46, proposed by yourself and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake, and outline that to the members so some of the members, so we're clear on what is said here by Cllr Shay Cullen in his one in 42 and yourself in 46.

CLLR TIMMINS: Anyone familiar with the current rural planning



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guidelines, HD2? All I'm looking for is that won't change and the two paragraphs at the end of it, I referred to a couple of points there, one is in point one of the amendments where you people who are permanent residents and qualify under the old plan and under the new proposal they don't, that is black and white making it harder for to get rural planning, it is stricter because it doesn't allow that possibility. There's various other ones in the 16, the other one I mentioned to you is at the very end after the paragraph at the end of 16, the two paragraphs there, that, the person qualifies under H23, shall, their needs shall remain supreme except if it is a traffic hazard or public health, that's fine, basically what it is saying is that, social and economic needs, views and prospects, but there's a number of other points as well, like say, to ten years is in the existing plan, it is not in the proposed plan, and like, while I appreciate some people might struggle to get rural planning under all the definitions, number 16, it gives, a fighting chance. Under the new proposals they're blown out of the water before they get anywhere, if you're from a small village forget it, you will never get planning, not up for debate, black and white, by putting in this new proposal it will make people harder to get rural planning.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorcha, can I come back in there, and maybe make a comment on that.

SORCHA: OK. Yeah, no problem. Firstly, I think we'd say that, in the proposed new wording there's nowhere that actually excludes people from level eight to nine that seems to what Cllr Edward Timmins' key concerns there's no words that say from level to eight or nine are precluded but if that's a deal breaker perhaps that could go in somewhere, instead of removing the entire thrust, entire of the new

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wording it could be something like under social need, you could say permanent residents of that rural area, including eight and nine like it does at the moment, all that would be is putting in a few small extra words into the new format and then the paragraph that Cllr Edward Timmins, at the end is concerned about, is that social and economic need should override other considerations, other than traffic hazard and health hazard. I think there's a difficulty there, this that that would be contrary to the National Planning Framework but again if it is deal breaker perhaps that paragraph could go back in at the end of the proposed new policy. So, we'll be talking about Cllr Shay Cullen' proposal, but with two modifications to it. Two small modifications to address Cllr Edward Timmins's concerns and that way we'd have the new format, and Cllr Shay Cullen's amendments and two amendments of Cllr Edward Timmins and stay in the new format which is more compatible with national policy.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: It is not just those two, you know there's other ones as well and I didn't want to waste the meeting to go through line by line, but simple solution, is to put that back in, rather than going through each one of them because I'll be defending each one of them anyway so simplest solution is book existing proposal in. That's my proposal, members can do what they want but, in my view, it will make rural planning harder, and it is hard enough.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I want to bring in Cllr John Mullen in here.

CLLR MULLEN: Yeah, again, just for the purposes of clarity the purposes of both motions are trying to make a policy that everyone admits isn't working easier for the people of rural Wicklow to build a home, we admitted it existing policy doesn't work. Hasn't worked, and we need to

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make it better for rural people, in rural Wicklow to build a home on that basis, it would seem to me that Cllr Edward Timmins and Cllr Vincent Blake's motion, is the stronger of the two, because in the initial response it is considered most of the elements of HD23 are still facilitated in the new policy, most elements but not all elements, social and economic need is being added with, Cllr Edward Timmins and Cllr Blake's proposal in my view and as person who represent the rural area that's the one I would be support it, whatever way you want to put it to us.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Look, to be fair, I think, Cllr Shay Cullen is doing this for the right reason, Cllr Edward Timmins is doing it for the right reason and as Cllr Joe Behan said we all wanted to help the people we represent. With a I'll do is take a ten-minute break and hopefully, Cllr Shay Cullen and yourself and Cllr Edward Timmins would maybe, talk to one another and come back in ten minutes and maybe we could have a wording that is suitable and maybe you would talk so Sorcha in between, would that be all right. So, it is now ...

CLLR TIMMINS: Me and Shay have been talking about this a lot, it's not just come up with a meeting today, we have had a lot of discussions.

CLLR TIMMINS: We won't get anything finished today, I propose myself and Edward can meet with Sorcha to come to common ground on this, I don't believe there's too much between us on this, I think a couple of paragraphs could probably solve the issue. So, if I could suggest that we put it off for today that we will meet Sorcha and maybe put it in at the end of the amendments when we get back to them, whenever that would be.

MS GALLAGHER: That sounds like a good idea. So:

CLLR CULLEN: Depends if Edward accepts it?

MS GALLAGHER: I'll put a proposer now, would you second that Cllr Edward Timmins then, because we won't get through all the amendments

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today, so we'll do it at the adjourned meeting, when we decide, that all right. We'll take that ten-minute comfort break. We need it, so, it is just short of 4.15, so short of 20 past four. See you at 25 past four. comfort break.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can you hear me members?

Yeah, OK. So, I'll ask Lorraine to start it off with a roll call please

MS GALLAGHER: (Roll call).

We have 31 members Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Lorraine and members and thanks for your co-operation I know it is a long day, amendment 43 proposed by Cllr Shay Cullen. And Cllr Shay Cullen do you have a seconder for this motion.

CLLR CULLEN: Sorry I was on mute there. Cllr Irene Winters, yeah. Just on this one Chairman I think the CEO doesn't have any problem with this. It is part of really rural planning again in terms of rural clusters and to try and address the back land development that causes problems in rural applications. So, look although it pretty much speaks for itself and I'm happy enough to proceed with it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Members, anybody that disagrees with this amendment?

CLLR SNELL: It says it does not support this the Chief Executive?

CLLR CULLEN: Sorry, I got that wrong!

CATHAOIRLEACH: Nice try. Number 43, Sorcha.

SORCHA: It is already in the plan, that's the objection, it is already if policy, 6.41 and deals with the exact same issue.

CLLR CULLEN: If I could come back in, the reason I put that back in was I wanted to make it stronger, I didn't feel it was strong enough in the plan

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and this puts forward a stronger argument in terms of rural clusters and to deal with the back land development that has caused issues, so it is a strengthening of what is there. So, I would like to proceed with what I've put toward.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK members are you in agreement with Cllr Shay Cullen and Cllr Irene Winters's proposal here? Is there anybody against this? No, can we have.

MS GALLAGHER: No voice.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can we have a show of hands to indicate. Lorraine are you happy with that.

MS GALLAGHER: All agreed, no voices thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Amendment 44 is from Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake. And the Chief Executive has no objection to this one. And in fairness if the Chief Executive has no objection, could we proceed it if that's all right with Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: That's fine yeah.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Anyone have objection to it, no, can we have a show of hands to indicate that everybody's happy enough Lorraine.

MS GALLAGHER: All agreed thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Amendment number 45, is again from Cllr Edward Timmins and Cllr Vincent Blake. And members ...

Ask the wording, the Chief Executive is asked the wording to be changed on this.

CLLR TIMMINS: I would like to word that I proposed to be retained, the Chief Executive talks about the that the outside the retail core, chapter ten, problem with that is a lot of the small towns retail core is dead and there's no shops there, and no-one living in the centre of towns. And this is to allow that be to promote that, that move that people can live in the towns where clearly shops are never going to reopen, even in the core of

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the town.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. So, Sorcha do you want to come in on this.

SORCHA: To be absolutely clear the core retail area is a particular thing defined for larger towns, so this amendment's the Chief Executive is recommending, does not relate to those types of towns you mention Cllr Edward Timmins. So what we're saying in the larger towns where we want to keep vitality and commercial premises open we should resist where possible the change of use of them to homes but in the smaller villages and outside the retail core, we have no difficulty with this whatever, but if we allow all of the commercial units in the major towns to turn to residential use, then we don't have a town centre any more, we have just have a place where people live, we've no shops or activity. So, where it says "outside of the retail core as defined in chapter ten" retail core is only defined of the top tier of towns.

CLLR TIMMINS: That's fine, I meant to say that, so I would exclude then the five main towns in the county then. Bray, Greystones, Arklow, Blessington, so exclude them.

SORCHA: Exactly.

CLLR TIMMINS: I meant to put that.

SORCHA: We basically proposed that you intended anyway. If we could go with the alternative wording that meets everybody's needs.

CLLR TIMMINS: To summarise I take my wording excluding the five main towns.

SORCHA: Over the page, outside the retail core outside of chapter ten so that's more planning speaks.

CLLR TIMMINS: Chapter ten is the towns.

SORCHA: So, we have, Bray, Greystones, Blessington, Arklow, and Wicklow. That's the five towns.

CLLR TIMMINS: OK thanks.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Joe Behan now before we move on.

CLLR BEHAN: Clarification, how does that affect living over the shop which we're trying to encourage in Bray for example?

SORCHA: It doesn't affect it because CPO 5.3 provides for that.

CLLR BEHAN: The ground level we're talking about then.

CLLR TIMMINS: I wanted to extend it a little bit, living over the shop is there, but I wanted the option of ground floor in the rural towns where businesses have closed.

CLLR BEHAN: Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is everybody happy with that?

So, Cllr Edward Timmins are you withdrawing that then if it is already in.

SORCHA: No.

CLLR TIMMINS: I'm putting it in but adding a phrase E including the five main towns.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Everybody happy with that? Anybody against it, can I have a show of hands please that everybody is in favour.

CLLR WINTERS: Chairman, sorry, sorry, thanks, just I'm misunderstanding basically the Chief Executive is saying and Sorcha, it is already in there, and in fairness, it actually already seems to be in there because, in chapter ten, they're talking about it can only be - so he's saying support the change of vacant premise to residential purposes and he wants that new text added in. But, like, it is there already. So, why are we putting it in the second time?

CLLR TIMMINS: Where is it? Where is it?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Edward Timmins yeah.

CLLR TIMMINS: I didn't see it anywhere; I saw about the over the shop and all that stuff but didn't see that bit. Where is it, Irene.

CLLR WINTERS: Under the Chief Executive's initial response it is there under CPO10.9.



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SORCHA: What CPO10.9 is outside the core retail area of smaller settlements and where no core retail area is defined, other uses will include at street level, any such development should provide for strong street frontage and respect the traditional town of developments, it's in the development plan but not in chapter six which is Cllr Edward Timmins is proposing it to be in, so it is in two different places essentially in the plan.

CLLR TIMMINS: So, putting it in housing, OK.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Happy enough to proceed on, that's already in, are you?

CLLR TIMMINS: Put it in six as well because that's housing.

MS GALLAGHER: Are we going with the Chief Executive's wording.

CLLR TIMMINS: I'd like to leave my word with the amendment excluding the five towns.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorcha, can I bring you back in.

SORCHA: I think that wording but excluding the five towns is excluding the core retail area of the five towns, if you say excluding the five towns, it means the entirety of those towns. I suggest that the wording the Chief Executive has suggested fully meets your request, that it says outside of the core retail area of chapter ten.

CLLR TIMMINS: Agreed, yeah.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Members agreed with that then, everybody, yeah OK. I don't think anybody is agreed. Amendment 46, we've, we're going to carry forward. So, amendment number 48. This is.

MS GALLAGHER: 47.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed by Cllr Grace McManus and seconded by Cllr Dermot O'Brien, so, therefore the Chief Executive is not supported the proposed amendments so Cllr Grace McManus you proposed I'll bring you in now.

CLLR MCMANUS: Thanks, and when we're talking about, social and affordable housing and who might make a profit off land I think most of us are in agreement here that it is the people in the county who should be benefiting from the very limited land we have left in our possession as a county council. And while I hear what the planners are saying and the Chief Executive is saying I respectfully disagree because throughout our discussions today we've talked about what land use will be used for, who will live in house that is are built on our land, so this is relevant to the County Development Plan. It is about saying that the lands in our procession will only be developed on by the county council or proved housing bodies and won't be sold off and that's my position on it.

SORCHA: Thank you Cathaoirleach, the first thing I would flag is that the wording says all land banks, would be developed by Wicklow County Council-or-housing bodies, much of our land didn't send housing land so there's anomaly there, we own land zoned for employment and open space and in on, so there's a wording challenge there, and second clause, will not be sold to private developers the Chief Executive might come in here but the sale of land and Lorraine I understand is within your gift, rather than the Chief Executive's gift, and has to go through yourselves. We feel strongly this isn't a County Development Plan policy it is more for housing strategy and your land management strategy of the county. The County Development Plan in the actions that the planning authority takes won't in a position to implement that, it is operational manner how the council manages its land.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, Chief Executive do you want to come in on

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that.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: We can transfer land to private developer in section 183, this isn't a planning matter it is for the County Development Plan or zoning or anything like that, it is a policy matter, and housing policy matter so it is outside the County Development Plan I would say.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: Yeah, I want to support a proposal and just like to point out in fact the proposal in the Land Development Agency could in effect lead to council land being sold for private developer and by passing awes as councillors and we voted unanimously on that issue a number of weeks ago to reject that proposal out of hand so I think what Cllr Paul O'Brien and Cllr Grace McManus have proposed is extremely important, to ensure that the land we do the small parcel of land we do hold on for housing need I accept, Sorcha's point not all land is going to be developed for housing we have parkland and sports pitches and all the others, but what I take they're suggest something land zoned for housing that is in our ownership, should be preserved for social and affordable housing. And I don't know where else you would put that except in a development plan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Shay Cullen.

CLLR CULLEN: Thanks Chairman. Yeah, just looking at this, I don't exactly feel comfortable with the way this is put forward. I mean, one of the questions that I would have is what happens the land that is not residentially zoned? Are we suggesting we can't sell that? And the last few words of it, will not be sold to private developers, if we have a scenario and I'm all for building houses you but if we have a scenario where a private developer would build houses, for the council, or land that

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maybe the council didn't want to for whatever reason to build on, I mean, I think we're actually pigeonholing ourselves very much here by bringing in forward. I don't think it's a wise move personally.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, Cllr Gerry Walsh do you want to come in?

CLLR WALSH: Again, just following on from Cllr Shay Cullen. We spoke earlier about affordability, and issues like that, so, again, we don't want to hamstring ourselves with proposal such as this. I agree, again, in principle, public-owned lands we're looking at social and affordable houses, developers have to build the councils, fortunately the local authorities have lost ability to build the houses, so it is to go back to arrangements with builders to organise the houses, so we have to be careful on the wording of this and we're talking about residential zoned lands only of course here.

CLLR MITCHELL: Yeah, that's a point I wanted to make was that there are, the council's done a variety of selling of land for instance to build a shopping centre on the Bray Southern Cross road and build a shopping centre in the centre of Bray and I think the shop in Rathnew as well. I'm not sure what the arrangements there were, but all of that, and on each have to be approved by the councillors, I don't think we should hamstring ourselves not to be able to do things like that and there may be other good ideas around which could be developed in tandem with private enterprise, and I don't think this plan, should rule those out thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Mags Crean.

CLLR CREAN: Thanks Chair. I share Cllr Joe Behan's concerns about the change to councillor's role and how we use the land LEA has an impact. I equally think it is a very good amendment I support it. It is about land use. And it is just basically saying the use of public land in

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Wicklow, when it is zoned should be rewarded, to be zoned residentially should be used by public housing and agree it, so happy to support it.

CLLR KAVANAGH: Would it be possible to amend the word to include the word "zoned residential" that would clarify it and it wouldn't mean that any other land would be impacted.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I don't think it is land use policy, it is not a County Development Plan policy and down the line we will be as I said earlier developing social and affordable housing but various different mechanisms of doing that, and I don't think as some said to tie ourselves down with a short debate in a County Development Plan process would be appropriate, it is a housing policy and something that we possibly need to do on a case by case basis, I don't think this is a place for it in the first place.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Thanks I was going to add about the bit about refining that to be the land zoned for residential, but I would echo the councillors that express their concerns about the proposed LDA bill, which I think as Cllr Joe Behan said we did all vote our concerns about that you know, public land our own land in Wicklow can be sold off to private developers and not used for public housing, so, you know, we've spent the whole day discussing what's best for residents in the county. We've had a thorough discussion about rural housing and how best to enable our Wicklow residents to build houses, obtain houses in their own areas and it just strikes me that, putting in something here about our own public land retaining that, for public housing, is just crucial in this plan to be honest with you, there's, it is just really important, but I support that with the amendment that it is zoned for residential

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CATHAOIRLEACH: OK, Cllr Anne Ferris.

CLLR FERRIS: Thanks chair. I just want to flag my support for this motion. I think it is very, very important that, the County Development Plan I accept the point it may not be the right place for it, but I think there's absolutely no harm in putting it in. I think private lands, or lands that are being zoned and built on, for private housing estates, completely disregard young people's needs because they certainly are unaffordable for young people to buy. And I think it is very, very important that we put social and affordable housing at the front of everything that we do. It is the one issue, the one large issue that comes up time and time again, and we're all struggling to deal with it. So I support this motion, I support it, obviously change it to the zoned for housing lands, but I also agree, it should not be sold to private developers as the Chief Executive said anything that is being sold, any lands will come before the members anyway, but, and I do recognise we have other lands but I think any lands that are zoned for housing, our possibility as a local authority is to be building, we haven't built, I know we are building some now, but we haven't built a large scheme of housing for a long, long time and I think it really is incumbent of us to get to the bottom of it and we can do it with our own lands, thanks Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Vincent Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: Thanks Cathaoirleach I certainly with difficulty with it but I know you're adding in there for housing only, but I spoke earlier on with regards a number of sites we have available in the county that we have specifically zoned in the past for private sites to be sold to people and we haven't done it so for that reason I would be concerned about the actual proposal but certainly if you're going to put a writer on it in terms of housing and can be sold for housing I wouldn't have difficulty with it, but

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the sounds of it at the moment I would. Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy,  
CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: I would have some concerns about it, one in relation to the sold to private developers and what's defined as private developers, there's occasions when land need to transfer legally to a private developer to be constructed and then back to the local authority so that would create some difficulty. I also have concerns around our desire for affordable housing and what the future might mean for affordable housing and how we're actually going to make housing affordable for first time buyers and some of the proposals or some of the plans might involve partnerships with private developers and I think that we would be restricting ourselves on being able to provide opportunities to young people, by passing this motion as it is. So, on that basis I won't be able to support it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Sylvester Bourke.

CLLR BOURKE: Thank you I have reservations with this as well because it crossed my mind if this had been the policy ten or fifteen years ago, we wouldn't have the Greystones Marina, harbour redevelopment because that was done on the back of dealing with a private developer of the With council land, so, on that basis, I believe that we would be trying ourselves down too much if we were to adopt this, we need to be flexible in what we want to achieve for the people of Wicklow in the future. Cllr Irene Winters,  
CLLR WINTERS: Thanks, then I really do feel we should be making social and affordable housing and lots more cheaper housing options available to people, but this plan will go on to 2031 and we don't know what future models will come in place and I think this is going to be too risky, we need to be able to work with whoever or however housing cab provided to make sure that it is done. And this is too restrictive, thanks



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CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Pat Fitzgerald.

CLLR FITZGERALD: Yeah, I just note there, that the council's land back at the moment is insufficient to meet social housing demand, we have enough land for 14017 units in comparison to nearly 500 on the council housing list, how do they propose we get the extra land, where would we get it, most likely it would be owned by private developers and members of the public so we need to get further land to meet the targets there. And that was the end of December. So, we want to be careful what we wish for here. Someone mentioned there, we had many developments where the council have sold land to the developers, to get many, like for instance, in Rathnew and other areas there the development there on the corner, so, I'd be very careful what we wish for.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks. Cllr Mags Crean did you want to come back in? No.

>>: Listening to the debate there's broad agreement, that council-owned residential land should be used for social and affordable housing, it is the mechanism to get the housing to get the motion can be looked at again and rewarded and put back in. If time permits.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, I will go to Lorraine.

MS GALLAGHER: We have a proposal by Cllr Grace McManus seconded by Cllr Dermot O'Brien I think the clarification is given and accepted that it should be all land banked residential to be included in that if the members are going to vote on it. As a Chief Executive said it is not a land use policy. The elected members no land can be disposed of without the prior consent of the elected members by way of section 183, so the elected member reserve function of the elected members in that

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respect. But I'd be guided by the members if you want to put it to a vote.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you want to put it to vote.

CLLR MCMANUS: With the amended wording, thanks Cathaoirleach.

MS GALLAGHER: OK. With the amended wording, zoned residential, (takes votes) OK, that's 14 for and 18 against, so the amendment is not carried.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Amendment 48 is proposed by Cllr Peir Leonard, Cllr Peir Leonard do you have a seconder for this motion?

CLLR LEONARD: Yeah, I second it.

CLLR KAVANAGH: I second it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: The Chief Executive has no objection to this amendment, Cllr Peir Leonard do you want to say a few words or want to move on.

CLLR LEONARD: It is straightforward just to put it in the next hierarchy.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is everybody happy, anybody against this, everybody in agreement?

CLLR MITCHELL: Is arts and cultural section should be in the higher range, 15,000 to 30,000 it used to be there, sorry, it is in the higher range, I'm fine with it.

CLLR LEONARD: In addition.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. That's in agreement, yeah.

MS GALLAGHER: All agreed thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Amendment 49 is Cllr Melanie Corrigan.

CLLR CORRIGAN: Do you have a seconder.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: I'll second that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: The Chief Executive has no objection to that, everybody happy with it?

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Happy to proceed, nobody's against it. OK. Thank you.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Propose the amendment to number 50 is from Cllr Peir Leonard. Cllr Peir Leonard do you have anybody to second this Cllr Pat Fitzgerald. OK. The Chief Executive does not support this, so Cllr Peir Leonard do you want to come in on this?

CLLR LEONARD: Yes, look Arklow has a history and legacy of design and craft and you know we've currently south of the county is deprived of a lot of arts funding because it is in a lot of the north county and in initiative would bring value to the community and I'd like to see it supported and to retain a lot of our craft skills and tie in with the craft strategy for south Wicklow.

That's it. Basically.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Anybody else anything on this?

Sorcha, I'll get you to come in on this.

SORCHA: I'm not really sure there's that much to say. We support the idea of it, we think it is very much a local objective. This County Development Plan and you know, we wouldn't want a situation to arise where local objective for every town makes its way in the County Development Plan it would be very difficult to reach and follow, that's why we have local area plans but we've no problem with the principle of it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. Cllr Anne Ferris you want to come in.

CLLR FERRIS: Yes thanks, just to be consistent, I opposed a previous motion from an Arklow member because it should be in the local area plan, so I have to be consistent and to oppose this one as well OK.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: OK, I'm going to go to Lorraine.

MS GALLAGHER: Well, there is a voice of dissent so we will go for a vote. OK, proposed by Cllr Peir Leonard and seconded by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald. (Takes vote).

MS GALLAGHER: 31 for and one abstention. Amendment carries amendment number 51 is proposed by Cllr Peir Leonard. Do you have anyone to second that?

CLLR SCOTT: I will second that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Who is it?

CLLR DOYLE: Erika.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Erika Doyle.

CATHAOIRLEACH: The Chief Executive has no objection to the proposed amend. The ha has anyone any object sections to this amendment? Everyone in agreement with it?

MS GALLAGHER: Agreed, thank you members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Amendment number 52 is from Cllr Peir Leonard, anyone to second this?

CLLR D O'BRIEN: I can second it, chair.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

CATHAOIRLEACH: The Chief Executive has no objection to this, anyone any objection to this? All in agreement?

MS GALLAGHER: All agreed, thank you, members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed amendment is Cllr Peir Leonard again, anyone to second this?

CLLR LEONARD: No.

CATHAOIRLEACH: The Chief Executive has no objection, any of the members have any objection to this? All in favour?

MS GALLAGHER: All agreed, thank you, members.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed amendment number 54 is Cllr Peir Leonard again.  
Anyone to second this?

CLLR SCOTT: I will second this.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. The Chief Executive has no objection to this, has any of the members any objection to this? All agreed.

MS GALLAGHER: All agreed, thank you, members. Amendment number 55 is Cllr Peir Leonard again. Anyone to second this?

CLLR FITZGERALD: I second that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: The Chief Executive has no objection to this. Members, have anyone any objection, all in agreement with it? All happy to go with it.

MS GALLAGHER: All agreed, thank you, members. Proposed amendment number 56 is from Cllr Dermot O'Brien and Grace McManus and again the Chief Executive has no objection to this. Do the members have agreement with this? No objection to it.

MS GALLAGHER: Someone wants to come in.

CLLR DOYLE: It's Cllr Doyle. I just wanted to suggest a couple of additional words in this.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

CLLR DOYLE: So, just very small tweaks really. So, where it has due, so the development, sorry, due consideration will also be given to cycle lane access. I would like to suggest that replace the word due with equal or greater. Then just the second suggestion I had was to add pedestrian access in there as well. So, it has transport, disability access, to add disability access. So, if the proposer and seconder would give that some consideration.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Would that be acceptable to you?

CLLR D O'BRIEN: I would give it due consideration, but yeah, 100%.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Members happy to go with that.

MS GALLAGHER: Can I just say, Cathaoirleach, elected members were circulated with that amendment by email later this morning.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. So that is passed.

MS GALLAGHER: Is that agreed?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes. Proposed amendment number 57 is proposed by Cllr Dermot O'Brien and seconded by Grace McManus, again the Chief Executive has no objection to it. Is everyone happy with that amendment? Go with it? No one is against it.

MS GALLAGHER: All agreed. Amendment number 58 is from Cllr Edward Timmins and Vincent Blake. The Chief Executive does not support this, if you want to come in on this.

CLLR TIMMINS: I am happy to withdraw that. It's an issue on maps. I didn't realise it was just for places under publish ownership. I am happy to withdraw that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you have someone to second this amendment. Irene Winters.

CLLR MITCHELL: I want to say the Chief Executive has no objection to this, but the regional and spatial plan mentioned specifically this strategic site in Greystones. It should be mentioned in the employment section of Wicklow County Council's plan. Greystones has the least amount of people working locally of anywhere in Wicklow or almost in Leinster, I would think. So young it's worth while emphasising this and repeating what has made it into the regional plan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: The Chief Executive has no objection to that. Members happy to go with that amendment. No objection to it? Okay, thank you. Amendment number 60 is from, proposed by Cllr Grace McManus, seconded by Cllr Dermot O'Brien. The Chief Executive does not support this amendment so, Cllr Grace McManus, I am going to bring you in.

CLLR McMANUS: I don't mind. This is about community wealth building, we have already had a discussion on it, so I know that members agree it in spirit with it, so I am happy to withdraw it and find the right place for it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Proposed amendment number 61 is from Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake. The Chief Executive has no

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objection to this proposal, so if the Chief Executive has no objection to it, members, are you happy with it, or do you want to.

CLLR TIMMINS: I am happy the Chief Executive has proposed it's put under CPO912. So that is fine.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Members are you happy with it, no dissent on this?

MS GALLAGHER: All agreed. It will go to Section 9.5 plan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, amendment proposed amendment number 62 was from Cllr Melanie Corrigan. Before I can progress with this, do you have a seconder?

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: I am going to second that, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: And again, the Chief Executive has no objection to that, so members are you happy to go with that? Any dissent on this? Are we all happy with that? I think everyone is happy. So that is agreed. All right, Lorraine.

MS GALLAGHER: Yes, agreed. Thank you, members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed amendment number 63 is from Cllr Peir Leonard. Do you have someone to second this?

CLLR O'CONNOR: Second it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr R O'Connor.

CLLR LEONARD: If it's agreeable with everyone I would like to develop this more and come back, maybe redistribute it. Because I take on board the response from the CE, but I do think there is a real economic benefit to this, but I just haven't put enough development into wording it properly. I don't know whether that is possible.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Lorraine.

MS GALLAGHER: You want to withdraw it and to talk to the Executive in terms of?

CLLR LEONARD: Yes, just reword it...

MS GALLAGHER: And come back. We will defer it then.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you, Cllr Leonard. Proposed amendment number 64 is from Cllr Derek Mitchell, do you have seconder for this.

CLLR MITCHELL: I think Irene Winters and Lourda Scott offered to second it. I am happy with either. So.



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CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, the Chief Executive, I can put down both...

MS GALLAGHER: No, we can't. Cllr Winters.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. So, the Chief Executive has no objection to this. So, the Chief Executive has no objection, members, are you happy to go with this? Any dissent on this? We are all happy to go with it. Agreed?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Proposed amendment number 65 is proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake. The Chief Executive does not support the proposed objective, so I will bring in Cllr Timmins on this.

CLLR TIMMINS: I am looking to be less instructive. I am going to change the initial wording to identify sites for new state agencies. The genesis of this is Wicklow County Council gets little from state agencies setting up in in the county. Every other county gets something, why shouldn't Wicklow get something? I think it should be flagged in our development plan that we should be looking to identify sites where state agents to move in and provide employment in Wicklow. At the moment there is little or nothing in that respect, whereas other counties benefit hugely by that and Wicklow doesn't. I like to see that in, I see the objection from the CE, but I think this is, it's a bit like a follow up with the IDA, I think it needs to be in there, so we are not forgotten about, because we are a commuter county.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorcha, do you want to come in on this?

SORCHA: Like a number of these, there is no problem with the sentiment, but this is really a matter for the economic development section of the Council to be out there, identifying sites and interacting with estate agents and drawing them into the county. Planning has no role in doing that. So, I, even with the revised wording I don't see how it's a planning matter. So certainly lobbying, the action of lobbying isn't a land use or development or County Development Plan matter whatsoever. It's about the operations of the Council, particularly in its economic role.

CLLR TIMMINS: I changed the word to identify sites and I would say it's more than land use.

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SORCHA: We would be a little bit troublesome to identify sites for state agencies. That would be us promoting certain lands, by us or others for state agencies. I am not sure how that sits in terms of state supports and so on and what exactly would be the objective. What would we do with that objective?

MS GALLAGHER: Cathaoirleach, there are strong objectors within the local economic and community plan, the economic element of the community plan in terms of working with the IDA, in terms of identifying sites for foreign direct investment. We would be reviewing the local and community economic plan shortly.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sylvester Bourke, you want to come in.

CLLR BOURKE: It might be helpful to remember that the last time that the planning office decided or were asked by a state agency to find a site for a school in Arklow, it turned into a very decisive issue in the community. Sorcha might remember that. It's about eight years ago. It split the community because one half of the town wanted it on the opposite side of the town. So, you would want to be very careful with this. I imagine Sorcha, it might just jog your memory and reinforce her opposition to getting involved in picking sites for anybody. Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Cllr Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: As Lorraine has said, Cathaoirleach, this is something that could be dealt with through the Economic Development SPC and through the review or the new LPC as a key goal or objective in that. That is the route, that stuff is being done anyway in that forum, so I suggest that it's brought to that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you. Cllr Timmins I am going to come back to you.

CLLR TIMMINS: Maybe identify sites is a bit, if you are not happy with that, maybe to promote a location. I just think, I know these things are in other documents, like the economic development. The problem is there is so many documents and so much stuff and so many policies that even us as councillors who were involved in it get confused about what is in there. This is our development plan, it's a six-year document, it's the main thing we have input into as councillors, and I just think it should be mentioned somewhere in the document that some indication that we

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should be accountable, and our plant should be looking to have a state agency located in the county.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We have the Chief Executive's response there. Do you want to come in on this before we?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Again, Cathaoirleach, I don't think it's for the development plan. It's something we do anyway and will continue to do into the future.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Cllr Timmins do you want this to go to a vote or happy for it to go back to the LEPC.

CLLR TIMMINS: I like for a vote in this. It's to promote a location... sorry... to promote a location for state agencies, departments and enterprises in county Wicklow to support the country's regional development objectives.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, I will go to Lorraine.

MS GALLAGHER: Cathaoirleach the amendment is there proposed to promote a location.

CLLR TIMMINS: Or promote locations. I don't want to single out one.

CATHAOIRLEACH: For new State agencies to support the regional objectives. If there is no dissent, we will take it. If there is anyone not in agreement with the amendment we will go for a vote.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Everyone seems to be in agreement.

MS GALLAGHER: No voices, that is passed.

SORCHA: Could you give us the wording, if this is to go in the plan, I don't have the exact wording.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Lorraine has it.

MS GALLAGHER: I will ask Cllr Timmins. I have to promote locations.

CLLR TIMMINS: For new state agencies.

MS GALLAGHER: Yeah.

CATHAOIRLEACH: All right. Amendment number 66, from Cllr Timmins, seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake and the Chief Executive does not support the proposed amendment. Cllr Timmins, I will bring you in?

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CLLR TIMMINS: Again, it's a bit like the other stuff, I mean, I am probably repeating the arguments here. I think a thing like this, we have a poor record in Wicklow of IDA setting up companies here or setting up companies setting up IDA support for companies in Wicklow. I just think that Wicklow falls down and I think we need to flag something in our development plan to promote that. You could say, rather than actively again, I am just conscious of trying to pull back on the instructive nature of my amendments. That is a problem, but to support engagement with the IDA.

MS GALLAGHER: Cathaoirleach, it's a call to action, as opposed to a land use objective and call to actions are normally, they are within, they are enshrined in in objectives and then they filter down into actions like the local economic community plan. Ten high-level strategies. 100 goals and so many other actions. To actively engage the call to action as opposed to the land use. So, look it, we are doing it anyway, it's enshrined in our local economic and community plan, the economic element of it. It's something that is monitored via the committee that is chaired by the, by yourself, Cathaoirleach and also Cllr Gerry Walsh as chair of The Economic Development SPC.

CLLR TIMMINS: The reason I am putting some of these in is we haven't been successful. I know, I am not pointing the finger at anyone at all, but just to flag it put it out there more. I know we have had meetings in the past, maybe many years ago, but our record of the IDA and it hasn't been even many visits. So, to put this into the development plan you might put it up there in lights. That is what I am trying to achieve. They are in these different plans, but no one ever reads these plans.

MS GALLAGHER: They are being Actioned, Councillor.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Fortune you wanted to come in.

CLLR FORTUNE: Just to make an observation. I understand what Cllr Timmins is talking about and I understand the stuff he is talking about in various motions. This document we are working on today, okay it's a member's document and where members approve it, it goes forward. It's a very important document. So, if some of the motions, or the context of some of the motions are giving the planning section a

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problem because they don't see it as their direct role, maybe there should be three or four pages at the back or the front or somewhere that picks up all of these points and demonstrates what we are about as a county and what we want as a county. Like the IDA and the locations for state agencies and stuff like that. If Joe Public or Mary public is reading this, they can see at a glance in one document, in very simple terms what they are about and what the councillors at large are trying to achieve, working with the executive. So, I do, I personally fully understand where Cllr Timmins is coming from.

CLLR TIMMINS: This chapter is called economic development.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, well, Cllr Timmins, you have the response from Lorraine, from the Chief Executive and from Sorcha. What do you want to do?

MS GALLAGHER: Sorcha wants to come in.

SORCHA: We are very conscious of writing this development plan that we are clear that's a land use and development plan. And that there are numerous other plans that relate to other aspects of development and community development and economic development in the county. In the chapter on economic development in the County Development Plan and the last few development plans, we have set out clearly at the start of the chapter what the role of planning is in economic development and that there are other plans, particularly the LECP that deal with a much wider range of issues. For example, say, the marketing of the county wouldn't be anything to do with the development plan. We set out very clearly at the start of the chapter, what are the aspects of economic development that a County Development Plan can deal with and how are we dealing with it in the plan and show that we fully do address them. There are numerous aspects of economic development that are not related to the Community Development Plan. Lorraine correctly pointed out they are principally for the LEPC. That is, the function of that document is to have a wider remit in the area of economic development and not what we develop in terms of economic development, but how we act and how we operate. How the office was the Council interact with other state agencies and how

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we fund things and where we look for money. So, things that are operational, day-to-day, but not things that are to do with building buildings. At the end of the day the County Development Plan is not the council's plan for the development of the county for the next six years, it's a land use framework within which if any actors or agencies, whether they be private developers object public agencies want to carry out development. That means putting bricks into the ground, buildings on the ground, changing the use of buildings. If the council or state agencies want to carry out development, what are the rules of the game. So doing something like lobbying or marketing or engaging with the IDA isn't to do with development. So, an objective like this has no impact in the assessment of planning applications, for example. It would have no impact on how the IDA goes about its business or how the Economic Development Team seeks out funding or interacts with the IDA. I would be concerned that it would be a rump development plan, because there would be no one implementing it or doing anything with it. However, the objectors in in the LECP are being operated on by an active team and that is their bible. What their set of actions is. So, it looks good, but it won't have any effect and it might be misleading and ineffectual. That is our concern. We don't want the development plan to have stuff in it that doesn't do anything. It mightn't end up in the right place, where it should be for example in the LECP.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Edward Timmins, you want to come back.

CLLR TIMMINS: I totally refute that. I am only repeating what I said earlier. There is lots of things in the development plan that are not land use, that are aspirations and proposals and ideas based on public policy. They are all over the place, so just because I put one in here and some others doesn't make them any different to ones that are already in there.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. The way I see it is you have the response from the top table. Sorry, Cllr Ferris, you want to come in? You are on mute, Anne.

CLLR FERRIS: I think Gerry Walsh was trying to get in before me.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Go ahead.

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CLLR WALSH: Cathaoirleach, just to give an example of how the economic unit of the council worked in this regard with the IDA is the land in Greystones and the media campus that has got full planning permission there. That is an example of how this has been working and through the SPC and the Economic Development Unit.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Ferris.

CLLR FERRIS: I take on board what Sorcha and the Chief Executive have said there. I think, I abstained and voted against something going into the plan where it shouldn't have been already. Also, I mean, I certainly agree with the motion, the principle of the motion, but if I was going to support it, which I can't, I would be saying put a full stop after county Wicklow and take out especially west of alignment from Manor Kilbride to Arklow. If you are trying to engage with the IDA on behalf of Wicklow County Council for the good of the county, we should be looking at all areas and not just that line from manor Kilbride to Arklow.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Timmins and then we will decide what we are doing. Cllr Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Instead of actively engage, to support the engagement with the IDA. I will let it stand and let it go to a vote.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Lorraine.

CLLR SNELL: Before you go, would Cllr Timmins take on board Cllr Ferris's suggestion, is he suggesting leaving the wording as it is and not promoting the whole county? He is only promoting from Manor Kilbride to Arklow.

CLLR TIMMINS: I am promoting the whole county, but especially that. A lot of the plan ignores economic development in that part of the county. It's not mentioned because a lot of the plan comes from national policies which don't cover that part of the county.

CATHAOIRLEACH: You are leaving the words in.

CLLR TIMMINS: Just the beginning wording to support engagement instead of actively engage.



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MS GALLAGHER: So, it's to support the engagement with the IDA with a view to providing sizeable investments in if county Wicklow and especially west of a line from manor Kilbride to Arklow, proposed by Cllr Timmins and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake.

[ Vote taken]

MS GALLAGHER: That is 19 for, 12 against and one not present. Amendment passed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Amendment number 67 is proposed by Cllr Timmins and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake. The Chief Executive is not in support of this proposed amendment, so Cllr Timmins I will bring you in.

CLLR TIMMINS: I am happy to withdraw the amendment. The whole point is to draw attention to the fact that the council owns a lot of industrial land in this neck of the woods. A lot of them don't know they own it, I wanted it promoted, but I take it that could be unfair competition, promoting that over private sites, but I think the council should have on their website that they have zoned employment lands in various parts of the county, I am happy do withdraw that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Propose 68 is by Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy and Patsy Glennon. No objections to this proposed amendment. Anyone against this amendment? Everyone happy to support it.

CLLR FITZGERALD: Okay.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Everyone in in agreement, yeah? Okay, Lorraine.

MS GALLAGHER: All agreed, thank you, members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Amendment number 69 proposed by Cllr Peir Leonard. Anyone to second this.

CLLR LEONARD: I am going to withdraw this one, I will merge it with the other one.

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MS GALLAGHER: Thank you, Cllr Leonard. Amendment number 70 is proposed by Cllr Peir Leonard. Again, Cllr Leonard, do you have a seconder for this?

CLLR LEONARD: I am going to withdraw this one as well.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Proposed amendment number 71 is proposed by Cllr Timmins and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake. The Chief Executive has no objection to this proposal. Everyone happy with this, any dissent against it? No. Okay.

MS GALLAGHER: All agreed, Cathaoirleach. Thank you, members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed amendment number 72 is proposed by Cllr John Mullen and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake. The Chief Executive is strongly against ascribing to new objectives and to the misquoting of another plan. I am going to bring you in here, Cllr Mullen.

CLLR MULLEN: Similar to what Cllr Edward Timmins was saying before. I accept what the Chief Executive was saying is that this is the sin non sis of another report, but you do say it and develop the settlements of... Blessington, West Wicklow and Enniskerry. Then you have another master plan for Glendalough. So, the area of south Wicklow is excluded in its entirety. The purpose of this section is that there is untapped potential arising from its built assets. On all of the economic development points you have a north west divide, so as someone who lives on the wrong side of those divides, all I am asking is even if we have to put in addition as a designated visitor hub, I think that would be fair, considering it's a large region of the county that is excluded from that section.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Lorraine, can I bring you in here.

MS GALLAGHER: Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I meant to say, Sorcha.

SORCHA: There is no problem, it's just proposed in the right place. What you are doing is ascribing to a strategy that that bullet point is something which it has identified which it has not. That identified Bray, Wicklow, Arklow, Greystones and glowing ton as visitor hubs, it did not identify rural towns as visitor hubs. If you

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relocate it to an objective rather than saying that some of the strategy said it when it didn't, then we can slot it in with similar wording, or the same wording as on objective of the plan, if you are agreeable to that, we can work with you to find the right place for it and the right wording for it. At the moment it's factually incorrect.

CLLR MULLEN: That is why I have no problem with the words in addition. I want it up front and centre that the south west is included in this. It's excluded in the beginning of the strategy.

SORCHA: The problem is that the Wicklow marketing strategy did not identify that.

CLLR MULLEN: I accept that it excluded south west Wicklow, but I want to make sure...

SORCHA: If you are happy for that to be reworded into an objective, we are happy to work with you on that.

CLLR MULLEN: Thank you for that.

MS GALLAGHER: All agreed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed amendment 73 is by Cllr Timmins and Cllr Vincent Blake. Cllr Timmins I will bring you in here.

CLLR TIMMINS: I will go with the Chief Executive's proposal to put it under 11.3. It unfortunately hasn't been included in the tourism strategy. Maybe we will get it in 2003, but we stick it in 11.3 for the moment, as the CE suggested is fine.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Members agreeable to that? There is no dissent? Everyone is in agreement.

MS GALLAGHER: Yeah. So, it's...

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, all right, it's passed.

MS GALLAGHER: Yes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Amendment number 74 is proposed by Cllr John Mullen and seconded by Vincent Blake. There the Chief Executive has no objection but would advise that they modify the text, so it reads better with the remainder of this section.

Cllr John Mullen, bring you in there.

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CLLR MULLEN: Again, in fairness to the Chief Executive, I accept what I is trying to do here. If everyone else is happy I am happy with what he has done.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is that agreed by everyone? Everyone happy with that. Yeah. I think that is agreed Lorraine.

MS GALLAGHER: Accept what the Chief Executive says.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yeah. Proposed amendment number 75 is proposed by Cllr Timmins and Cllr Vincent Blake. I accept that the Chief Executive has no objection, so if you are happy to go with that, Cllr Timmins. Is everyone in agreement with that? I think everyone is agreed.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you, members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed amendment 76 is proposed by Cllr Avril Cronin and Patsy Glennon. The Chief Executive has no objective and is happy to support development of tourism across the county. If everyone is happy with that, there is no objection, is there? Everyone happy? We can proceed with that.

MS GALLAGHER: Who seconded that?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Patsy Glennon.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, proposed amendment number 77 is proposed by Cllr Melanie Corrigan. Do you have anyone to second that? Melanie Corrigan.

CLLR CRONIN: I will second that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Cronin.

CLLR CORRIGAN: If I could change the wording it says facilitate tourist park and ride. If I want to change it to support visitor park and ride. I understand if a private operator wants to provide a service, at least the council we can be seen to support it, to try and alleviate the problems we have been having on the uplands area with parking all over the place. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going to bring in Sorcha there.

SORCHA: We have no problem in principle, just a little unclear what a tourism park and ride is in this context, which is usually a large car park served by a regular bus

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service to the place that you are trying to get to. We are not sure what is meant by that in the uplands area, where the park and rides would be located, who would provide the bus and where would it go to?

CLLR CORRIGAN: In the main areas Enniskerry and Roundwood, but if a private area came in, over to Roundwood and west Wicklow. To try and support that, if that did come on to the cards.

SORCHA: Like we said we have no major objection to it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Are you happy to support that amendment. No objections to it. No. Okay.

MS GALLAGHER: All agreed, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: 78 is proposed by Melanie Corrigan. Dos which have a seconder. Cllr Avril Cronin. The Chief Executive has no objection.

CLLR CORRIGAN: I would like, it's already in the Chief Executive was saying but I would like it, because it strengthens the proposal for supporting rural tourism, I think tourism caravans is going to be prevalence in the future, I think it would give strength to the proposal.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorcha can you come in.

SORCHA: We have no objection to that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Members happy to support that. No objection.

MS GALLAGHER: All agreed, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed amendment number 79 is proposed by Shay Cullen and Irene Winters. The Chief Executive does not support this amendment, so Cllr Cullen I am going to bring you in.

CLLR CULLEN: This is an idea which has come forward on a feasibility study has been done from Kilcoole all the way to Glendalough and is at the stage at the moment where there is consultation with various landowners. While we don't have immediate routes, we can say that it's Kilcoole, Newtown Roundwood Annamoe to Glendalough. I would like the support on this, please.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So, Sorcha, I am going to bring you in here.

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SORCHA: As set out there, the Chief Executive is supportive of additional projects. The difficulty with the plan is that we have to and without knowing a route it's very difficult to pin down what adverse impacts might arise, particularly where we are talking about appropriate assessment, which impacts on our SACs and SPAs because we have to be able to rule out possible impacts before we adopt the plan. But look we have enough caveats in the plan to protect, to ensure that if a project comes forward with a more defined route, it will have to go through various layers of environmental assessment. That is our only concern, the uncertainty at the moment. But sure, we can flag that in our environmental assessments.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Lourda Scott, did you want to come in?

CLLR SCOTT: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. While I would support that route in theory, I just do want to raise the concerns that there are very sensitive ecological areas in Kilcoole, particularly the little tern breeding ground. I would have concern with this objective going in, without seeing the exact route, similar to what Sorcha is saying, I would have to express concern about that. I would need reassurances that appropriate protections be given to the environmentally sensitive areas on the Kilcoole shoreline. Cllr Erika Doyle.

CLLR DOYLE: I would like consideration to be given to adding a route to that, which is the route from Bray north harbour to the Dun Laoghaire district, the pedestrian route along there. Obviously subject, I understand what Sorcha is saying, subject to an impact assessment, because I think it would fit well and then obviously be nailed down in the local area plan, if that was agreeable. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Tom Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: I fully supportive of what Cllr Cullen and Winters have proposed there. In the discussions and chats which have taken place today on it, there won't be a massive environmental impact on it, with the way it's been discussed to date. All that would be taken into account obviously.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Sorcha, can I come back to you.

SORCHA: I don't have anything more to add.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: John Snell.

CLLR SNELL: This must be in its infancy because I am not aware of this Mountain to the Seas, this amenity or the potential to this amenity. I am certainly not sure the Municipal District would be aware of it. I am not so sure the community and cultural social development section. Maybe they have had interaction on it. I certainly am not aware of it and I am sure other members are not. So, I would be very supportive of this walkway and all walkways, but I would like to see the preferred route, or the options that this committee, or the people behind it are promoting. Without any other prior knowledge to it, it sort of leaves us at a disadvantage.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Lourda Scott, were you looking to come in?

CLLR SCOTT: I had a quick question, chair. Has that feasibility study been published and circulated publicly? Did I miss something on that?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Irene Winters.

CLLR WINTERS: Just to say that obviously this again is aspirational. This is not saying that there is a designated route. There are preferred things that are being looked at, but nothing is written in stone. Everything has to be done in agreement with landowners and sensitivity towards biodiversity and the terns and whatever it is, all of those reports would be done. The Mountains to the Sea has been put forward by Newtownmountkennedy, so I would say that Cllr Snell has had stuff. They have been sending me emails, maybe he didn't end up on their email list. There is no designated route, it is an amenity route that they are exploring the possibility of developing. That is, it, I think it would be a great addition for people who are in the Bray, along the coast, to be able to walk up to the mountain and have a safe route to do it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Grace McManus.

CLLR McMANUS: I want to say on the back of what Cllr Erika Doyle has proposed I would be in agreement with her. I am not sure if you are proposing an amendment to that line or putting in a new development plan about the North Beach in Bray, I second that. I support her in that.



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MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Cullen.

CLLR S CULLEN: I am certainly not against what Cllr Erika Doyle has put forward, but I would prefer if, that was put forward as a separate amendment. This is purely a route from Kilcoole to Glendalough. As has been said earlier, it's been put forward by New town 2050. We have funding for a study, I know there has been several presentations, particular to the outdoor recreational committee and members of the Council. As far as I am aware, we will be coming to the main council in if the coming months. That is where it's at. As Cllr Winters has said there is no specific route, they are exploring different avenues with landowners. So that is where it is. I would like to continue on that basis.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Erika Doyle.

CLLR DOYLE: I am aware of the committee's work that Cllr Cullen refers to, so I am happy to have it as a separate amendment if you prefer to keep that separate.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. So, I think everyone seems to be, I think I am right. Everyone seems to be pretty much in agreement with the proposal from Cllr Cullen and Cllr Winters. Am I right in saying that?

MS GALLAGHER: Has Cllr Erika Doyle withdrawn her amendment if it's been said she would be happy to have it as a second amendment somewhere else. What are you saying, Cllr Doyle?

CLLR DOYLE: I will do that at Cllr Cullen's request, and can I submit that to you separately at this point?

MS GALLAGHER: Email it's in. Where do you want it to sit?

CLLR WINTERS: It would sit in the same section, but it would be a separate amendment rather than and it will come up at the adjourned meeting.

CLLR FERRIS: I will second it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Ferris.

MS GALLAGHER: If I could ask (audio frozen) thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We have heard the amendment from Shay Cullen and Irene Winters. Are we in agreement with that? No dissent? We are all happy.

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MS GALLAGHER: Agreed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: That is agreed, is it? Yeah.

MS GALLAGHER: Agreed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Amendment number 80 is in the name of Shay Cullen. So, Cllr Cullen to move that forward. Do you have a seconder for that? Irene Winters.

CLLR S CULLEN: Again, on this, it's fairly self-explanatory, I am sure most members in the Greystones area are au fait with the new Belmont domain are familiar with walking areas and outdoor routes and refreshments. I want to add it in as an extra bullet point.

CATHAOIRLEACH: The Chief Executive has no objection, to members, has anyone any objection to this, is everyone supporting it? Yeah. Don't think there is any objection to that, Lorraine.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you, members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: 81 is proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake. The Chief Executive does not support the proposed objectives as worded. So, Cllr Timmins I am going to bring you in here.

CLLR TIMMINS: This is fairly self-explanatory. I have been told, I may well be told that this is a marketing exercise and shouldn't be part of the development plan. In chapter 11, 11.31 we have a line to support the development of a strategic National Network of trails. What is the difference between that and the type of amendments I am bringing through? So, I think it is relevant to put in particular objectives in relation to tourism and developing tourism around county Wicklow. I like to see that amendment get through.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will bring in Sorcha here.

SORCHA: The difference is the word development. This is what we are here doing the County Development Plan. The one you quoted there, support the development of a strategic network of trails. That is the building of something new, development. It's a project. Tourist driving trails doesn't suggest building something new. It's to promote people driving around roads that exist. So, there is no actual development

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involved. Very much a marketing objective, there is no development in there. If you were to say, to promote the development of new driving trails around Wicklow, you would be talking about promoting development of new roads or structures to people, for people to drive on around Wicklow, which isn't, I am sure, what you are proposing. So, there is no development in there. That is the key difference.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Timmins. You are on mute, Edward.

CLLR TIMMINS: I don't want to waste time arguing about this, I would like to just put it forward. Like, there is other very, how would you say, general terms like the beginning of chapter 11, develop a common narrative, grow thematic experiences. There is lots of stuff that isn't to do directly with development that is in this County Development Plan, but anyway. I would like to, it's something that, it's a concept, it hasn't been developed in in Wicklow and I think there is lots of possibilities of developing tourism around this.

SORCHA: Cathaoirleach, if it could be reworded to promote the development of infrastructure supporting driving trails. Something like that. What you are talking about in terms of development is maybe signage, information maps, that kind of thing. They would be things that would support the tourist activity of the driving trails. So, to promote or support the development of driving trail infrastructure in Wicklow. That would be a development objective.

CLLR TIMMINS: I agree with that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: You are happy with that.

CLLR TIMMINS: Yes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We will change that wording. Would everyone be in agreement with that? Is anyone, any dissent on that? So, Lorraine, have you got that?

MS GALLAGHER: All agreed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed amendment number 82 is proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins. Do you have a seconder for this proposal? Cllr Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: I need a seconder first so I will wait to get a seconder first.

CLLR GLENNON: I will second it.

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CLLR SNELL: Avril Cronin's name has been down.

CATHAOIRLEACH: It's been withdrawn. It's proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Patsy Glennon.

CLLR TIMMINS: Just briefly, the background to this was I was approached by the opener of a golf club, who is trying to develop a sustainable golf club in Wicklow. He feels he is disadvantaged vis-a-vis other kill counties, for example, in Kilkenny they allow the owner of golf clubs to build houses on the course and sell them off. Within our development plan it's quite restrictive, you can't sell them, you have to lease them out. So, it's just trying to help promote a local business.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can you bring you in on this, Sorcha.

SORCHA: That is not correct that we don't allow developers to sell them. The text that is shown in blue clearly says, 'Sold or leased'. If a developer comes in with a tourism development that includes holiday homes or homes, we do allow them to be sold or leased. Whether that is to investors or individuals. The key is they remain as holiday, tourism developments. So, the investor or the individual can buy them, but they can only be used in such a way that is consistent with tourism. So short periods of time or leasing it back to the golf club. The whole point of that is to ensure you can't undermine your housing policy by allowing a golf club to build 20 houses and sell them to the highest bidder. They would probably be the expensive type of houses, but not exclusively. Someone there has a rural house in a rural area that wouldn't have qualified for a rural house. So, we do allow them to be sold and we are open to different mechanisms of funding these projects. So, we will be strongly opposed to this, we think it will end up being, housing estates of individual owners permanently residing in the countryside, just happens to be on a golf club or tourism development.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Sorcha. John Snell.

CLLR SNELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Look, I would have concerns about this. I think it could be planning by the back door really and I would have an issue with this. I feel that anything that would go away from the purpose of the holiday home,

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accommodation, that could end up being lived in 24/7, 12 months of the year sold off to people who wouldn't ordinarily qualify to live in the rural area, would undermine much of the 80-odd amendments that we put forward here already. I would have an issue with this.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Shay Cullen.

CLLR S CULLEN: I would again be concerned about this amendment. I think it's a dangerous precedent to be set. I think we already have lots of problems around the county. I can suggest one in my own area in Ashford where we have houses being rented out and as general public, no services, no roads and no lights. This isn't the road that I think we should be going down. There are other examples, I think Glenmalure would be similar. I certainly think this is a very dangerous road we are suggesting going down and I would be totally against it.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you, Cllr Cullen. There is no one else showing it. This has explained it itself to be fair. Cllr Timmins do you want to put it to a vote.

CLLR TIMMINS: I will put it to a vote.

MS GALLAGHER: Proposed by Cllr Timmins and seconded by Cllr Patsy Glennon.

[ Vote taken]

MS GALLAGHER: Are you for or against?

CLLR FORTUNE: I think it should be on public display.

MS GALLAGHER: You are present, shall I pop you in the abstention box?

CLLR FORTUNE: Yes.

[ VOTE CONTINUES TO BE TAKEN]

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MS GALLAGHER: That is 27 against, three for, one not present and one abstention the amendment falls.

CATHAOIRLEACH: It's proposed by Cllr M Kavanagh, do you have a seconder.

CLLR O'CONNOR: I second it.

CLLR WINTERS: I second it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Seconded by Cllr R O'Connor. The Chief Executive has no objections to this. So, if the Chief Executive has no objection. Everyone happy with that amendment.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: Can I say the reason why. We have had a lot of walks proposed all over the county, but Wicklow itself has been very much left out of the equation, as has Glenealy and Rathdrum. This route which I have plotted has been done by someone who is a cartographer. He is an expert in this area. This has been in the planning for a number of years now. Basically, it's a kind of a camino-style route which would take in things like ancient wells and an old famine graveyard along the way with little side routes that bring you into the villages of Glenealy and Rathdrum and Laragh, so it will enhance tourism as well as allowing for serious walkers who want to walk all the way. I think it's a great addition. It is only in the planning stage but has been well-plotted.

CATHAOIRLEACH: The Chief Executive has no objection to this. Anyone any objection to this? Everyone supporting?

MS GALLAGHER: All agreed. Thank you, members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, amendment number 84 is proposed by Cllr John Mullen, seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake and the Chief Executive has no objections to this.

So, members if there is no objection to this, is the members happy to go with this?

CLLR FITZGERALD: Yeah.

CATHAOIRLEACH: All agreed? Okay.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you, members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Amendment number 85 is proposed by Cllr Peir Leonard. Do you have a seconder for this?

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CLLR FITZGERALD: I second that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Fitzgerald.

CLLR LEONARD: Basically, everyone knows the Avoca river has been so polluted throughout the years and the Arklow bank we had decimation of our native oysters. It was wiped out in 26 years after hundreds of years of millions of oysters being off the Arklow bank. We are where we are, but it's a great opportunity to use it going forward to educate and to entice researchers, educational facilities to look at the restoration of both the river, with the work being done on it and the sewage treatment plant on the advocacy and the work that these people are able to trust are doing. The native oyster restoration reef, all of which have got leader funding in and the harbour to head water project, that goes from Arklow harbour all the way up to the headlands and the headquarters. Encompasses all of these and is going to create a platform of eco education to tell the story of the restoration and turn a negative into a positive so we can all learn out of it as well. So that is the basis of it being here. I think that that in itself has tourism and recreational opportunities, ecotourism is what we need to be looking at going forward and not just consumerism and this will tie in with supporting a lot of villages all the way up through the catchment.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorcha, can I bring you in here, please?

SORCHA: With a number of these, there is no particular objection to the proposal. I suppose the County Development Plan is, we are trying to cover all possibilities of positive projects across all areas, and we are trying to avoid where possible having lots of objectives about local projects, unless they are very strategic and very regionally important. So, we included, we were aware of a number of these projects and Cllr Leonard had brought them to our attention and as a result of them we included a number of objectives in in the development plan that would support or facilitate those types of project. They are set out there to follow. We weren't exclusive to those Arklow projects. There may well be similar ones, ecotourism projects, projects that improve scientific knowledge and public awareness of natural water quality and so on. I suppose we didn't want to exclude any other projects by



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not mentioning them, so, look we have no difficulty with what is in there, but again, like I said, it's drawing out one particular project, perhaps to the detriment of others that aren't being mentioned.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you, Lorraine. Anyone else want to come in on that, everyone happy enough? So, Lorraine has given her response to this. Or Sorcha, sorry, it's getting late in the evening! I look down and she looks like Lorraine, difficult colour hair, but...

MS GALLAGHER: God help her.

CATHAOIRLEACH: No particular objection from what Lorraine is saying, I concede. Members, are you happy to support Cllr Leonard's seconded by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald's motion? Are you happy to go with that?

CLLR FITZGERALD: I think we should.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Any disagreement with it? Everyone in agreement? Okay. Lorraine.

MS GALLAGHER: Yeah. All good, all agreed, thank you, members.

CLLR FORTUNE: Can I interject, it's 6.00pm now.

CATHAOIRLEACH: It's one minute, I am just coming to it, Cllr Fortune. What I am going to do is adjourn the meeting until next Monday. Is that all right? At 11.00am. We have got through 85, so there is a good 40 odd still to do next week. What would I propose is that we reconvene next Monday morning at 11.00am and can I have a seconder for that? Cllr John Mullen. Can I on my own behalf thank you for your time and dedication, for this meeting and in the work that you have done over the last, I suppose number of weeks in relation to the plan. I look forward to working again next Monday and maybe going through the ones that we haven't got done. Cllr Neary I am going to leave the last word with yourself.

MS GALLAGHER: Derek Mitchell wants to come in.

CLLR NEARY: Can I thank yourself, chair and also Sorcha and Lorraine. This has been a task sitting here for a number of hours. No doubt it's not easy for yourself. I have been on hand to help us; you are so knowledgeable. Thank you very much.

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CLLR MITCHELL: Can I bring it to next Monday, I thought Wednesday was the deadline?

CATHAOIRLEACH: The Chief Executive did come in on that. I am going to bring the Chief Executive to just answer that for you.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: That's right, Cllr Mullen. In the legislation also there is a section that specifies that no challenge can be taken by reason of not meeting those deadlines. So, any risk is minimal, there is no case law in relation to it.

CLLR MITCHELL: I missed that.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: We will be okay.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, did you want to say a word before we wrap up?

CLLR O'NEILL: Cathaoirleach...

MS GALLAGHER: You are on mute, Cllr Kennedy.

CATHAOIRLEACH: A lot of Kennedies here.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy you wanted to come in.

CLLR McMANUS: I think it's a problem with the headphones rather than on mute.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: Sorry, the headphones. Thank you, Grace. There is some of us who work time and currently take annual leave to facilitate attending these meetings, a week's notice will present a challenge for a number of us. I am sure childcare arrangements. I know having a diverse council means we have representatives who are retired and also working and different commitments. I am wondering if there is a possibility of splitting it over two half days rather than a full day. That would be more achievable for those of us who are full-time employment?

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will come back to you in a second. Gerry O'Neill.

CLLR O'NEILL: Cathaoirleach, my submission earlier on has been redrafted, I think all councillors have it, it's not possible to go ahead with that motion this evening is it.

MS GALLAGHER: No.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We are going to do it next week for you, Gerry O'Neill. It will be included next week.

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CLLR O'NEILL: Hopefully I can make it, you know.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: Can I make a suggestion, referring back to Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy's issue and the problem that it poses. Would it be possible to have, instead of two half days, two maybe two-hour sessions in the evening time from about 7-9, something like that? It would facilitate.

MS GALLAGHER: It would also propose to finish out the agenda that has been circulated this evening as well.

CLLR MITCHELL: Start at 9.00am in in the morning.

CLLR TIMMINS: You can start at 9 or 2. 2 would give you more flexibility.

MS GALLAGHER: Two until later on.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Two until later in the evening. Would that suit members better?

MS GALLAGHER: Two to finish. Okay.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: That is next Monday from 2 to finish.

MS GALLAGHER: Proposed by the Cathaoirleach and seconded by Cllr Gail Dunne.

CLLR FERRIS: I have a board of management meeting at 6, I would despair if we don't get them finished.

MS GALLAGHER: We should.

CATHAOIRLEACH: If we start at 2.00pm, we should be finished. I would like to thank the councillors for their commitment to this and working so constructive on this. As we know we are all in this together and I think we will get it done in four hours next week. I really do. We will be meeting at 2.00pm next Monday, is that all right with everyone. We will try and go until we are finished.

CLLR FERRIS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach and thank you to Sorcha and the Chief Executive.

END OF MEETING



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