

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY  
COUNCIL HELD VIA ZOOM**

**ON**

**MONDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021 FROM 14:00-18:00**

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**Jennifer Sinnamon  
Elaine McCarthy**

**TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY, MAY  
17TH, 2021:**

CATHAOIRLEACH: Good afternoon, members, can you hear me, okay? Good afternoon, members and thank you for being with us and just before I get into the meeting I am going to go to Lorraine for the etiquette and, Lorraine, can you come in there, please.

MS GALLAGHER: Certainly, Cathaoirleach. Just to ask you to put your mobiles to silent and while I am saying that it's practice what I preach and mine has gone on to silent too. Please do not leave the online meeting without informing the Cathaoirleach, just to ensure that the quorum remains. You may use the chat function to send a message indicating that you wish to speak, or you can raise your hand. You should keep your cameras and microphone on while speaking. Just remember that the press and the public are present, so welcome, press and welcome, public.

Just in relation to voting, we are considering again the adjourned items of the County Development Plan. So, to go over again in considering any draft amendment, the Cathaoirleach will call for a proposer and seconder. All elected members are requested to keep their microphones and cameras on during the voting process. Once the Cathaoirleach is proposed and seconded, the Cathaoirleach will ask them to clearly indicate both verbally and with a show of hand if they are 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 elected members to verbally indicate if there are amendments to the proposal put forward. If one or more member is not in agreement a roll call should be taken and recorded in the minutes. If there is no dissent among the elected members, the amendment will be passed.

Just to say, if you do lose connectivity, inform the meeting's administrator, or the designated staff member and you have both mobile phone members. Where connectivity can't be restored and we are taking a vote, the elected member will immediately telephone, or answer immediately a call and the vote should be played aloud into the meeting by microphone. Just in relation to declaration of interests, Cathaoirleach, members, just to remind you again that you must disclose to the meeting

the nature of a beneficial interest, that you may have before discussion or consideration of the matter commencing. You must withdraw fully from the meeting until the matter is concluded and the disclosure and absence for the meeting will be recorded in the minutes. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Lorraine. So, just before we get going, Lorraine, I would ask you to do a roll call.

MS GALLAGHER: Fine, thank you. Cllr Tommy Annesley.

CLLR ANNESLEY: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Vincent Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Sylvester Bourke.

CLLR BOURKE: Anseo.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Corrigan.

CLLR CORRIGAN: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Mags Crean.

CLLR CREAN: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Shay Cullen.

CLLR CULLEN: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Erika Doyle.

CLLR DOYLE: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Ferris.

CLLR FERRIS: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Pat Fitzgerald.

CLLR FITZGERALD: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy.

Cllr Tom Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr M Kavanagh.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Pat Kennedy.

CLLR KENNEDY: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Peir Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: Present.

MS GALLAGHER: Grace McManus.

CLLR McMANUS: Anseo.  
MS GALLAGHER: Derek Mitchell.  
CLLR MITCHELL: Present.  
MS GALLAGHER: Cllr John Mullen.  
CLLR MULLEN: Present.  
MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Miriam Murphy.  
CLLR MURPHY: Present.  
MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Jodie Neary.  
CLLR NEARY: Present.  
MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Dermot O'Brien.  
CLLR D O'BRIEN: Here.  
MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Paul O'Brien.  
CLLR PAUL O'BRIEN: Present.  
MS GALLAGHER: Cllr R O'Connor.  
CLLR R O'CONNOR: Anseo.  
MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Gerry O'Neill.  
CLLR O'NEILL: Anseo.  
MS GALLAGHER: Lourda Scott.  
CLLR SCOTT: Here.  
MS GALLAGHER: John Snell.  
CLLR SNELL: Present.  
MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Edward Timmins.  
CLLR TIMMINS: Here.  
MS GALLAGHER: Gerry Walsh.  
CLLR WALSH: Present.  
MS GALLAGHER: Irene Winters. Okay. Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy?  
CLLR CRONIN: She is having issues logging on, she sent a text there.  
MS GALLAGHER: That is fine, Cathaoirleach, we have 30 members present.  
CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you, Lorraine. Members just before I go, I wanted to do votes of sympathy and before I call for votes of sympathy, I would just like to say that it was with great sadness that we heard of the death of our former colleague and good friend Cllr Pat Doran over the weekend. I would like to say something in a moment in recognition of Pat and his friendship, but before that I will ask the Chief Executive to say a few words.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Pat Doran was elected to Wicklow County Council in 1985. He served for 34 years until his retirement in 2019. He was in charge of roads and SPC and the joint policing committee. He was Wicklow County Council's representative on the local traveller accommodation committee, the association of Irish local Government, the association of county and City Councils as well as the Regional Health Forum. He brought me down a few times to the Carnew Community Centre of which he was really proud, you could tell that he was a real community person, a real listener. He was involved in the hospice care. He was born in Lismore, County Waterford and spend a number of years in the UK before coming back and he worked in the cattle business, where he was out and about meeting people. He had great respect for officials and that was a two-way street. On behalf of myself and the staff of Wicklow County Council can I wish my family and his many friends my sincere sympathies.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Chief Executive. On my own behalf I would like to send my condolences to the family, to James and Patrick and Colette and Brian. He was a huge figurehead in my family, he was friend to my parents and myself and my wife and he was friend to John, Peter and Ciaran. We have great members of Pat. Pat gave a huge service, not just to Carnew area but to the people of Wicklow.

He was first and foremost a servant to the people. That is how he seen himself in my opinion. He always put people first. He had great time for the elderly, and he also used to say to me "remember the elderly, you might get there one day yourself." I have fond memories of Pat. He was a giant of a man. On my own behalf I would like to say for everything you did and for your own service to the people of Wicklow. Members, I would like to give you time for you to pay your respects and to remember Pat Doran, because I know many of you worked with him, some of our new members may not have, but did know him, but many as I look at the screen did work with Pat. So, I am going to ask Cllr Pat Fitzgerald as leader of the Fianna Fail group to come in first.

CLLR FITZGERALD: Today I would like to pay tribute to the late Pat Doran who died on Saturday. He was a man who was respected in the community and acknowledged as a man of the people and for the people. I note over the last two days that many tributes are being paid to

Pat from inside and outside the county and from many organisations he was involved in. As was said he was first elected in 1985, gave 34 sturdy years to his community. Nothing was impossible when you approached Pat Doran for assistance. Before I was elected to the council in 1999, I approached Pat Doran on several occasions, and he was a great man for coming back. Today, I want to offer my condolences to his son, James, Patrick, Kevin, Brian and his daughter Colette, also his brothers and centres, grandchildren and extended family. Pat Doran might be gone from this life, but he will never be forgotten. In my dealings with Pat, I always found him to be an honest and hard-working councillor. That, in the last few days, I mean the tributes have been paid to Pat Doran, are tremendous. So that is mine.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr John Mullen.

CLLR MULLEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Again, it's a sad day for the people of south and west Wicklow to lose a great councillor and a great man. I was over in Carnew Community Care this morning and there is a palpable sense of grief and also of shared stories. Of all the times he went out to that place and committed to over the years. He began his work life in England working on various jobs in construction and I think that shaped him. I remember him telling stories, that shaped his experience of politics and society and when he came back to start farming, he was particularly concerned with the services in rural communities and that the people could have sustainable services and a sustainable life. He followed that through in Carnew with his family. His wife, Mary, like I said, James, Patrick, Kevin, Colette and Brian, there was a family commitment to the people of Carnew and south Wicklow. They were a family involved in everything that Pat did. In relation to probably the two biggest achievements he probably felt himself he was, he worked on, Carnew Community Care today is probably the biggest example of that. An independent supported living centre, day care centre that provided so many services to the people. Also, the South Wicklow Hospice which provided palliative care in the final moments of people who wanted to pass away at home in rural areas. He provided that service to members of my own family. We will never forget the service of South Wicklow Hospice and the fact he fundraised for it up to the end. He was a rural man, and he loved the wheeling and dealing that went with selling stock. He said it straight, he meant what he said, and he

didn't shirk what he had to say. I remember after one local election I was asking him how he was getting on with the new set up in the council. I remember him shrug the shoulders and put the hands out and said, "Same circus different clowns." We are a different set of clowns here today, but I don't know how he would have coped with the online Zoom meetings over the last year. I am sure he would have followed everything with interest. It's a sad day today and I like to pass on my condolences to the family in particular.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Vincent Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. To me in paying tribute to Pat Doran today, a friend of 20 years and has been said there, Pat had said something once, but he left it said. 20 years I have been on the council with Pat, I enjoyed it with him. I can say in 20 odd years that we never had a bad word with each other. He was a privilege to work with him and to have known him and his family as well. Pat always had great pride in his years on the council. He had pride in the fact with people, whether it was the planning department, or housing whether it was employment and also the farming community. Pat had, as I said, he had great pride in the community centre in Carnew. He looked after the elderly, as he gold older himself in his days as well. He always had great pride in what he had to do up there. Pat and myself might have been from a different political background, by I can honestly say we were never in opposition with each other. We always worked together on behalf of the people. So, to James, Patrick, Kevin, Brian and above all Colette, who not only looked after her mother, but looked after Pat in the last few days of his life as well. With his brothers, sisters, grandchildren and great grandchild as well. To all his friends, Pat, I will miss you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Ferris.

CLLR FERRIS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I would just like to add my voice to the condolences when I was co-opted on to the council in 2004, that is when I first met Pat and many of the other members. I have to say, Pat was always a gentleman. I had heard many stories about Pat before I met him in person. I have to say he was a colourful fellow. He was always a gentleman and I remember when I was Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council he invited me down to Carnew to see the community centre of which he was so proud, and people spoke very highly of him then. They rustled me into the corner to tell me that the

place would never have been built without Pat and his input and care for the local people. He was a true representative of the people, clearly the fact that he was a member of Wicklow County Council for 34 years shows his commitment and the support he got in return for the people. So, on behalf of myself and Cllr Paul O'Brien and indeed all the Labour councillors that had served on Wicklow County Council I want to pay my respect to Pat and give my sincere condolences to his family.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Tom Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: I would like to also express my condolences; Pat was a real gent with a quirky sense of humour. He was a straight talker, who I liked about him. A great Carnew man. As others have said his pride and joy was the centre in Carnew and never stopped talking about it. This is a very sad time for his family. They only lost their mam three years ago. So, on behalf of the Independent Group, I like to and myself and Anne I would like to pass my condolences to the family on this very sad occasion.

CATHAOIRLEACH: John Snell.

CLLR SNELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Like previous members have said, I also like to express my sincere condolences to the Doran family. I was lucky enough to serve for ten years on Wicklow County Council with Pat. He was the most generous individual with his time, to everyone, it didn't matter what political background you came from, or what part of the county you came from. I think the Chief Executive summed it up perfectly when he outlined the rapport that he had between himself and the officials of Wicklow County Council and indeed the elected members.

I can recall one time, Cathaoirleach, I was only newly elected, and I was dealing with a constituent who was from outside of the jurisdiction. I met him outside of the county buildings. Pat happened to be coming by and he asked me what the story and I had introduced him to this individual. Because obviously he needed a lot of paperwork, he wasn't from the jurisdiction, and nothing could be sorted there and then, Pat put in his own pocket, took out a significant amount of money and handed it to this chap. I said to him, Pat, you don't have to do that. He said no, it reminded me of us in English and how the Irish in England were down on their luck. I think it summed up Pat perfectly.

Another time I asked him, you will hardly get home for dinner tonight, Pat, the meeting had gone on a bit late. He said I have half a dozen people to call to. He reckoned he would get home at 12.30. He represented people, not by email or modern technology. He preferred to sit at the kitchen table, drinking... and that is something that South Wicklow will miss and we in Wicklow County Council will miss dearly.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gail Dunne.

CLLR DUNNE: Sad day for Wicklow, for the Carnew community, the family. I got to know Pat in 1997. I have to say he was a gentleman. Very straight, upfront and honest and he would tell you the way it was, whether you liked it or not. That was his opinion. I enjoyed spending time with him in the council. He would always said, "Dunne, get the spuds on there, hurry up, would you?" We would talk about different things. He loved his support and politics. Also, you would hear Senators and TDs from outside the constituency talking about him and how highly they held him in. The one I would have noticed is in the council offices itself, the staff, how in high esteem they held him. He could have gone in and have a chat to them, and they all loved talking to him and having the crack with him. He was a great man to have the crack with. So, it's a sad day for Wicklow, but to his family, my condolences and the Fianna Fail party have been left with a big void to fill today.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Irene Winters.

CLLR WINTERS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I just want to add my words of condolences to his family. In all of the time I worked with Pat on the council he was a gentleman. We were on a health forum together. He was always, he was actually an extremely funny, kind person who had a great way about him and a great way with people and was unbelievably hard-working and astute in what could and couldn't be achieved. His knowledge has been missed from the Council and now for his family his presence will be missed and my condolences to him.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Thank you, chairman. I like to be associated with the votes of sympathy for Pat Doran. I wish to pass on my sympathies to his family on their terrible loss. Pat was obviously on the Council when I joined in 2004. I also worked with him on the Municipal District, here when it was formed in 2014. What I liked about Pat, the most was he just

called it as it was, straight-talk, decent straight-talking person, no spin, no angles, just that old-fashioned decency, we probably have lost a bit over the years. I think we could certainly learn a bit from the way he conducted his politics and very sad loss to Wicklow, sad loss to Carnew and his family.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, I would just like to be associated with the fine tributes which have been made about Pat by previous speakers to add my own condolences to his family. I worked with Pat over a number of years.

As Vincent Blake said, party politics never really entered into his dealings when he was working for the people he represented. Carnew Community Care was really one of highlights of his career and something that he was rightly very proud of. I would also like to mention two other aspects to Pat's political career. One was his very staunch loyal support for Paudge Brennan when he was a Fianna Fail TD and found himself outside the party. He was a strong support of his. As a result of Pat and Paudge's, Pat was Mr. Fianna Fail at that time. Pat was pivotal in a lot of decisions made about Fianna Fail over many years. He had his finger on the pulse and his feet on the ground and he knew his people. The people knew him and trusted him.

The other aspect of his career for which he paid a heavy price. He supported local people when there was an issue about the installation, the planning permission for Wicklow County Council for a pet cemetery. He stood out as being one of the few councillors who supported local people and, as I say, it cost him dearly. To me that was an indication of the type of man he was, he was independent, and he was fearless.

When he made his mind up to support you, he supported you to the hilt. As everyone else has said he, no doubt will be very sadly missed by his family, but he will also be sadly missed business the people of Wicklow.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Shay Cullen.

CLLR S CULLEN: I just want to add my voice to the tributes to a great man, it's a sad day for Wicklow. I suppose the thing I would say in my time working with Pat, you have great memories. He was an absolute gentleman, respected across the county and many, an awful lot of

people in terms of sport and politics and I have never heard anyone had a bad word to say about Pat Doran. He was a funny man, he always had a conversation, a great story-teller. Half of the time you weren't sure whether it he was making it up or true, but it was all funny.

He was able to tell a story that got people listening to him. I suppose the one thing you would say is any person who has given 34 years' service to their county has to be held in huge esteem or very high esteem in my view. Pat was held right across the county in very high esteem. He would be sorely missed, not only in Carnew, but across the county and condolences to his family. We have all lost a good friend today. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Cronin.

CLLR CRONIN: Thank you very much. I also just want to say echo my sympathies to the Doran family. Although I didn't serve on the council with him, obviously I am just a first time, but his name has been very popular in this part of the county for a number of years. Just listening to his service over 34 years, I am actually 34 myself, so when I think of that it's a lifetime for me. So, I just want to express my sympathy and I know that Pat was a really hard worker for the area, and he had great pride and passion and huge dedication and commitment to his community, so I want to pass on my sympathies to his family at this time.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR D O'BRIEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. On behalf of myself and Cllr Grace from the Sinn Fein team we want to be associated with the condolences. Unfortunately, we didn't get a chance to serve with the legend that is known as Pat Doran, but I can say that at one point in my career I would consider myself a fairly good youth community work with a bit of pedigree, but then I got to the Pride of Place Awards and came across Pat and the Carnew Community Care. Then I got a sense of what community care and development looked like. People held him in high esteem, and it was never-ending. For me it set the bar have high if I want to be remembered as someone for my work in the community, I think Pat is an example of that. I want to be associated with the condolences.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Erika Doyle.

CLLR DOYLE: On behalf of my party, I would like to express my condolences. I didn't serve with him, but I dealt with many issues he dealt with in Carnew. He was passionate and would make sure he got his message across and there was no doubting that. Sometimes hand-written on bits of paper e but never mind, it was so important to him that the work he was doing was recognised and supported, which it is. Just on behalf of Steven Matthews, who many the time told me he had very little in common with Pat, but they always ended up having a chat, a gossip and a laugh about all the goings on in the Council and I know he will be very much missed. Just to note, as Cllr Cullen referred to, the length of his service which is incredible. We all know what it takes and 34, 35 years is incredible. Thank you, Chair.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gerry O'Neill.

CLLR O'NEILL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Again, I want to express my sympathy to Pat family and friends. I served with Pat on the Council for five years and in the Municipal District for five year. I will always remember; I mean I was only elected a councillor a short few week and I met him in Carnew, and he was so proud of the community centre there and I know Pat put in a huge amount of work into the centre. We had dinner in there with the people and he was so proud of that. He was so proud of Carnew. Also, I will remember him as a great family man and a love for his family and his wife and the passing of his wife a couple of years ago, I know it hurt Pat in a big way. I know he has now gone to join her in the new world.

I know, I will remember Pat for his work for the community and, I remember five years ago, I often had a run-in as such with him, a bit of a run-in, but he would never hold a grudge. He would tell me to sit down and cop on. I know for the first year of my service in Wicklow County Council he was, we always agreed to differ on things. But I would always have the height of respect for Pat because he never once held a grudge. He could argue cases and he would definitely argue for the people of Carnew and south Wicklow. I just remember Pat with kindness.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I think that covers, everyone. Sorry, Patsy Glennon wants to come in.

CLLR GLENNON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. As Cathaoirleach of the Baltinglass Municipal District I would like to join with yourself and the

Chief Executive in offering my condolences to the Doran family. To James, Pat, Kevin, Brian and Colette on the tragic loss of their dad. Pat was a life-long politician, 34 years, some service in his community. When I was initially selected to join him on the thicket. He offered me some words of advice about politics because I didn't know much about politics. He also advised me he would be coming up the northern end of the district, a few houses up here were loyal stalwarts of his and he explained he would continue to service those people.

Look, I didn't know him as well as Vincent Blake, Edward or Gerry who were on the council in Blessington with him. I wish him well and just to echo what Cllr Joe Behan said, Pat was a good republican, a staunch supporter of Paudge Brennan and he served the real people in of his community.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Derek Mitchell.

CLLR MITCHELL: I like to express my condolences to the family and remember Pat. He was a very straight talker with a great sense of humour. I remember a bus tour we went on, we were taken and shown around the Carnew Centre, I still remember the pride he had in showing us around it. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. One second, Sylvester Bourke.

CLLR BOURKE: I would just like to express my sincere sympathies to his family, because it's tough to lose your father and so soon after the mother as well. I am sure it's very painful. Pat was very good to me, from the beginning of my career in 1999, he gave me great help and assistance for many years. We didn't always agree on everything, but we were still very civil to each other. I must say that his reputation, it was rock solid. The Doran name is a rock-solid name. The family can be really proud of everything that Pat has done for the community. Also, one of his great canvas lines, I think I was close to him, we bumped into each other on a canvas trial. He was campaigning and I was waiting to meet a lady he had been chatting to. I caught his chat up line and I thought it was powerful. He handed out his canvas card to the lady, he said "put that under your pillow there and dream about me tonight." I have often used that one as well. So, I am sure he had many more excellent ones as well. But may he rest in peace.

CLLR ANNESLEY: There is not much to add to that, but I had the privilege to sit beside Pat Doran on the council and the County Council. I had already been five years on the town council. It's a bigger pool. There is not a day that doesn't go by that I don't think about his expressions and saying. I am smiling listening to his tributes. Such a gentleman, respect for everyone, but his love for farming was outstanding and the stories he would tell you. One General Election we were canvassing around the Arklow area and the rule was stop at 8.30, he said come on down the country with me. I said where are we going? He said I will show you. We were going into houses at 9.30, then get a bit of dinner. I said where will we get it? We will go into the house. He walked into his own house at 11.30, you would think it was in the day. She got out and took out the chicken and the great and the butter. I never forget that experience, he always spoke highly of everyone. Now obviously he wouldn't think much of the lads in the top of the county when they were going on in the chamber pontificating him, but he would be kicking me under the shin, what is this all about. I would be trying to listen, and he would be giving me a nudge. I will miss him; he was a great stalwart for Fianna Fail. My condolence to the family.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: I also worked with Pat for a couple of years as a councillor. What struck me was I went to his family home when his wife passed away. I was so struck by how well-respected the whole family was by everyone in the area. It was a non-stop flow of people through the house. All day for a couple of days and the kindness of their family, but what really struck me, Pat was very touched because I had travelled over, but I was more than happy to because I just felt that he was such a dedicated council official that I really wanted to be there. It was the love that he held for his wife really came across and he said to me "there was nobody like her. She was absolutely wonderful" I think she was the woman behind the man. Hopefully they are at peace together now. I really want to send my sympathies to all of the family. They were a lovely family, so welcoming there on the day and may they both rest in peace.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Well, -said. Thank you, members. I think they have been lovely tribute paid to Pat. Everyone gets into politics to make a difference. Whether we achieve it or not remains to be seen, but I think Pat has made a difference, and a lasting difference not only in his own

area but throughout the county. I would like to bring in Pat daughter, Colette Mulhall, to say a few words. Can you join us?

COLETTE: Can you hear me?

CATHAOIRLEACH: You are very welcome, you have heard the lovely tributes to your dad, and we hope that your family appreciate those, because I think they are all from the heart.

COLETTE: We very much appreciate it, thank you very much.

Unfortunately, with COVID restrictions we can't have people here, but we have taken in all of those words and they are deeply appreciated from everyone here.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Colette, may your dad rest in peace and be reunited with your mam in heaven. God bless you.

COLETTE: Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Any other votes of sympathy?

MS GALLAGHER: Yes, in remembering our good friend and colleague, Pat Doran, we also remember our good friend Owen Malone who passed away last week as well.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We will take a moment to remember them all.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Eternal rest grant on to them oh, Lord, may your perpetual light shine on them and may they rest in peace.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number one is to consider the proposed draft County Development Plan issued to the members under Section 11(5) of the Planning & Development Act 2000, (as amended) on 16th March 2021 and consider any proposed amendments to same as previously circulated. Adjourned from the meeting on the 10th, which was last Monday. Members, again, we will take our time, we did well last Monday, and everyone got their chance to say what they had to say. We will do the same again and all working together I think we will get there. I am going to go back to amendment number 33, and we will take 33, 37, 41 and 42 and 72 and that will bring us up to where we are in the order of the booklet.

So proposed amendment 33 was proposed by Cllr Peir Leonard and seconded by Cllr M Kavanagh. So, I think that is kind of the Chief Executive is in agreement there? Sorcha, do you want to come in?

SORCHA: Can you hear me? This was amendment 33 by Cllr Peir Leonard, it related to including some additional text about Arklow in chapter 5 of the plan. At the time we indicated that we felt it was quite long, some of the text that she was proposing inserting and wasn't quite specifically relevant to this chapter. So, I have corresponded with Cllr Leonard over the week since then and some revised text has been agreed. It was in one of the emails that Lorraine Gallagher would have issued to you. We have no further objection with this revised text. Members, is that agreed?

MS GALLAGHER: So, proposed by Cllr Peir Leonard, seconded by Cllr M Kavanagh and agreed by all. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: The next one is amendment 37 and it's proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Vincent Blake. Sorcha, can I bring you in.

SORCHA: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. This was amendment number 37 that was proposed by Cllr Timmins and related to including an objective with regard to affordable housing. So again, I have corresponded with Cllr Timmins over the last week and came up with a text that he is happy reflected what he wanted to see in the plan and that text has been circulated to you all as well by Lorraine earlier this week.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Members, are you happy with that new text there, everyone in agreement?

MS GALLAGHER: All agreed, thank you, members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. The next one is proposed amendment number 41. It's proposed by Cllr Shay Cullen and seconded by Irene Winters. Sorcha.

SORCHA: This was an amendment proposed by Cllr Cullen and passed by resolution last Monday. It was a proposal that related to restricting a portion of the sale of new houses to people from the county and the proposal that was passed was to have a 25% restriction on housing for any development, anywhere in the county that was ten units or more. After the meeting we realised that that amendment would conflict with the previous amendment that you had passed earlier before which was in its relation to the villages. So that is Level 7, 8 and 9. What was passed in relation to the villages was to revert to the current policies that relate to the villages. So, the villages have certain local growth restrictions built into them at the moment and that is what you have

agreed to carry forward into the new plan. Those restrictions vary, depending on the hierarchy you are talking about. So therefore this, number 41 would have conflicted with the growth controls that you agreed on for Levels 7, 8 and 9. In talking to Cllr Cullen, it was agreed it would be fixed if you inserted the words "in levels 1-6 of the settlement hierarchy." You have already approved a programme for growth restrictions in Level 7, 8 and 9.

MS GALLAGHER: Object a point of order in accordance with standing orders, in order to visit an amendment, or a resolution which has been passed we need the written assent of 16 elected members and the written assent of 16 elected members has been received and will be recorded in the minutes. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Members, is everyone happy with this?

CLLR S CULLEN: If I could come in? Just briefly, as Sorcha said it's just a clarification. I just want to thank everyone who responded by email, because it was just, we had to revisit this to, as Lorraine has said, to discuss it. I am happy with the fact that it's Levels 1-6 and that is certainly, I am agreed with that, if everyone else is. Thank you, again.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I think everyone is in agreement, are they? No dissent.

MS GALLAGHER: All agreed, thank you, members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed amendment number 42 is proposed by Shay Cullen and seconded by Cllr Avril Cronin:

SORCHA: This was discussed but it was deferred until this week for further examination. It's probably easier to hand it over to Cllr Cullen to run through. It was his proposal.

CLLR S CULLEN: Thank you, chairman and Sorcha again. We have inserted extra text into the original amendment. I think that would have been sent out by email last Friday. It's really just tries to deal with some of the concerns that was expressed by my colleague, Cllr Edward Timmins in including Level 8 and 9 settlements into the rural housing policy and, obviously to include two paragraphs at the end, I won't go through them, but I am sure you are all aware of them. So, I think what the new text being inserted has certainly, in my view, should alleviate any concerns that may have arisen, and I think, to be fair to Cllr Timmins it's made the policy in general stronger that we put forward to you today.

So, I obviously, would like your support on amendment 41 with the new text included. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: 42.

CLLR S CULLEN: Sorry, 42.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Thank you, chairman and thank you, Shay, for your comments there. I expressed my position clearly at last Monday's meeting. I had deep concerns that the abolition of the existing HC23 which is the rural planning guideline for rural planning in county Wicklow, that getting rid of that would weaken people's possibility of getting rural planning. What I am trying to achieve is that we retain the existing rural planning guideline. Like it's hard enough at the moment, as those of us who deal day in day out with rural planning, it's hard enough at the moment to get rural planning in county Wicklow. While I represent the two changes are helpful, they were the headline changes I flagged last Monday, but there is still another number of items. I am not going to get into the detail of the other four or five that are not included. But I am still concerned, while this amendment is an improvement on last Monday, it still weakens the possibility of getting rural planning in county Wicklow. I could never support that, given I find it difficult enough and enough challenges and that is the cut and thrust of the way rural planning works and I accept that, but from my experience on rural plannings, it's still difficult and I really feel that if we went for this new amendment, it would make it a little bit more difficult. That is something I could never stand over and therefore I would still propose and want my amendment to be considered by the members equally, amendment number 46, which in summary is retaining the existing rural plan. I am not looking to ease it, maybe I should be, but all I am looking to do is retain the existing rural planning guideline, because I am fearful this would make it a little bit tougher.

I know that myself and Shay disagree on this. We have had a healthy open argument and that is good, and I welcome that, but that is my honest position on that. I don't know how this could be managed, chairman, do you take a vote on both of them, do you do it head-to-head, people choose 40 or 46. I am not sure how it would work,

but I would be anxious that both proposals would be given a fair crack of the whip.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Irene Winters.

CLLR WINTERS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. It's unfortunate, I suppose, that my two-party colleagues are the two proposers of this, however they both hold their views really strongly. I do see where both of them are coming from. From my point of view, I really believe that people should fully understand with total clarity how you can go about getting rural planning. I think, as it's laid down at the moment, people have an expectation that they may get planning, when realistically it's not going to be possible, and they go to architects and planners and all the rest of it, and they have this false hope. They end up investing years of their time and inordinate amounts of money for something that, if the policy was written clearly, they would have realised they didn't qualify for to begin with. So, I actually think that Cllr Cullen's proposal lays it down succinctly for people to understand whether or not they will or will not qualify for planning and for that reason I won't be supporting Cllr Cullen's proposal.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Do any of the other members want to come in on this?

CLLR FORTUNE: Cathaoirleach, just in order to understand exactly what, fundamentally what is the difference between what Cllr Cullen is saying and what Cllr Timmins is proposing. They both, as I understand it, have generally the same intention, so why wouldn't, I am just thinking out loud, why wouldn't Cllr Timmins' also be the same as what Cllr Cullen would want? I am struggling with that a little bit. I don't know what the difference is.

CLLR TIMMINS: Could I try and explain and give my voice.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will come back to the two proposers in a minute.

CLLR MULLEN: Like others have said, I understand that both councillors want to make it clearer for people in relation to rural planning. But, having read the two of them closely, and having regard to the fact that I do think when it comes to rural planning there is a difference between east Wicklow and particular I the upper parts and the south and the west, I think there is a difference of experience there as regards how people want rural planning and how their expectations are met.

In that regard I find that Cllr Timmins' proposal does in my view, make more sense, we are the most rural district. We have a lot of rural areas and a lot of clusters of settlement and towns and villages. There is an expectation if you are from a rural area and I think it's valid and adequate expectation that a person can build a family home in the area they come from. I think in that regard, Cllr Timmins' proposal does make more sense to me, even though it still will be difficult and there is still an awful lot of hurdles to get through when it comes to rural planning, but I do find Cllr Timmins' proposal to be the stronger on that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Members, is there anyone else wants to come in? I don't see anyone looks to come in here. Gerry O'Neill.

CLLR O'NEILL: Again, I would favour Cllr Timmins' motion there. I think any watering down of the planning, it's a tough job, it's a tough job for everyone, even planners, you know. Day in, day out, I am dealing with planning applications and I see the obstacles that planners have in place with the number of groups that they have to inform of a one-off planning application. It's a tough all rounds. So, anything that would restrain or make it more difficult, especially areas as Cllr Mullen has pointed out here, west Wicklow, we have to inform the Dublin City Council and An Taisce and the Fisheries Board. There is so many obstacles and groups there that even the planners have to be very sure of a one-off planning application and the difficulties attached to that. So, anything that would make it any more difficult in west Wicklow here, so therefore I would be strongly proposing or supporting Cllr Timmins' motion.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I think we all want, well those of us who would support either motion want to try and ensure there is fair play for rural residents in in county Wicklow. My concern about accepting Cllr Cullen's proposal is, for example, if the Government or the present administration decide, as they seem to be making some noises to maybe give a little bit more consideration to rural planning and opportunities for genuine local, rural residents, we could be actually cutting off our nose to spite our face by making it more restrictive ourselves in our own county development plan, rather than allowing the previous, which was very hard fought and long fought. Previous conditions or reasons for giving planning permission that were put in a previous plan. I think it is quite dangerous to soften those particular

proposals at this stage. So, on that basis I would be continuing to support Cllr Timmins.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Behan. Anyone else want to come in on this?

CLLR MURPHY: Are we not guided by the Rural Planning Guidelines from national Government?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Murphy. Shay, can I bring you back in a second. Leave it for a minute, I think I have an idea how I want to deal with this. Anyone else wants to come in here? Sorcha, will you take Cllr Murphy's question in relation to being guided by the National Planning Guidelines.

SORCHA: That is exactly what we are trying to do. We have tried to craft a new rural housing policy that complies with both ministerial guidelines which are quite old at this stage, but also with the National Planning Framework. There are, we are told that there may be new guidelines on rural housing coming, but we have been promised them for a number of years. The revised proposal that the executive drew up is supposed to reflect. We are aiming to reflect the new policy, but also taking into account the current policy we have. We haven't set out to exclude people who are currently eligible for rural housing. So, we are satisfied that this text does not exclude anyone for rural housing.

What we set out to do is draw up someone that was clearer. We have 16 categories that are a mix of social and economic need, family connection, and so on. They are a bit jumbled up because they were first written in 1999 and bits have been taken away from them, each development plan. So, our proposal was to make it clear, what do we mean by housing need? What do we mean by social need and economic need? In fact, we think the revised text is more generous in many ways in that it does allow for the consideration of other circumstances. For example, there is text in every paragraph that says: 'And others such circumstances as may demonstrate a bona fide need...' other such persons who may have a definable economic need and social need. So, we feel that the new wording covers all scenarios where people have a genuine social or economic need to build in a rural area.

We genuinely feel that the revised text doesn't exclude anyone who is eligible, we feel it's clearer and more understandable. We do have concerns about the current text. At the moment in west Wicklow over the next four years the grant rate for one-off households is 50%, the refusal rate is 16% and the rest are withdrawn. I suppose it's safe to assume that the applications were withdrawn were hitting problems. So, if only 60% of people applying for rural housing are getting granted there is obviously some problems emerging. Whether it's a lack of understanding of the policy or some other problem that is arising.

So, we are trying to make it, not make it easier for people to get planning, but make it easier for them to understand if they are eligible to get permission for a house in rural area. That is where we are coming from on this. There is no attempt to exclude anyone, who has a genuine need to live in a rural area. We are also conscious of what the expectations will be with the planning regulator. We have reviewed their submissions over the last six months or so. They are pushing them towards having a simplified policy. Explain what you need by social need and what you mean by economic need. Rather than having list of categories of people who might category and might qualify, sort of have an economic and social need. Just say what you mean, and you shouldn't have a problem. That is why we were coming from with the policy. I hope that answers your question, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Sorcha. Cllr Melanie Corrigan.

CLLR CORRIGAN: I would have to agree with the way that Sorcha has just explained that. As a new councillor and suddenly coming into a huge amount of rural planning I would personally find this amendment 42 much easier to understand when you are trying to explain to people about how you qualify, it's a much easier, black and white way of looking at it. I would be supporting this on that basis. I find it easier and the way the needs are set out much easier to explain to people.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Murphy, do you want to come back in?

CLLR MURPHY: Sorry, yes. Can I just ask, I don't really have a lot of experience in rural planning really? Is it because they are in a scenic area of Wicklow? I mean what is the most common refusal on planning in those areas in the west.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, can you take that? That is probably a fairly broad question?

SORCHA: I wouldn't be able to say there is one reason over another. There tends to be a mix of reasons. There are still people applying who don't qualify. So, they may be from a town or they mightn't be from the county and don't have the connection to the rural area. There are often problems with traffic hazard, public health hazard and so on. So, it's a range of factors.

CLLR MURPHY: Okay.

CATHAOIRLEACH: There is nobody else looking to come in. As someone who deals with a lot of rural planning myself, I can see the merits in what Cllr Cullen is doing and also what Cllr Timmins is trying to do. I am also very much aware that I have taken all of the amendments so far in sequence. I plan on continuing to do that right through the booklet. So, I just need to be clear with everyone, if, I am going to ask Cllr Cullen and I am going to give him a minute and ask Cllr Timmins to come in and give him a minute to explain their proposals. Then I am going to go for a vote on proposed amendment number 42. I think members need to realise if they pass, my understanding would be if they pass amendment number 42 amendment number 46 then will fall.

Sorcha, would I be right in saying that?

SORCHA: I think so, yeah.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So, Cllr Cullen your amendment is first, I am going to give you a minute to explain your amendment and why the members should support this and why it's better for rural candidates to go and for us to support your amendment and how it would be better for rural candidates who are looking for a one-off rural house. Cllr Cullen.

CLLR S CULLEN: First of all, I want to say this is not easy considering I am up against my own party colleague, but anyway. Look, the reason I am putting this forward is this is not a watering down of the existing proposal, in actual fact it's a strengthening of the rural planning policy. I would go as far as to say if the rural planning policy that is in place the HD23 was working well I wouldn't be looking to change this. But the reality is it is not working well. The simple facts of this are we need to look at the economic and social need. There is a lot of people applying for rural housing that are not sure whether they qualify or not. The National Planning Framework outlined very clearly that you need to have

an economic or social need to qualify for a rural house. I think the strengthening of what the extra text we have put into this over the last week actually makes it consistent and stronger with the National Planning Framework text. For those reasons, chairman, I think we need to go with this proposal. If we keep going with an HD23 that is not working, it does not make sense. So, I am asking members to support my amendment 42.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Edward Timmins, I am going to give you the same opportunity, because your amendment is 46 and the vote comes after, Cllr Cullen. So, I am going to give you the same minute to explain to the members why you feel your amendment is better for one-off rural housing and candidates applying for one-off rural houses. Cllr Timmins over to you.

CLLR TIMMINS: Last Monday we had a meeting on this, and Sorcha told us this is a better amendment than the one before us. I then pointed out two examples of how this amendment would very simple, easy to follow examples of how the amendment would reduce people's likelihood to get planning. I gave two examples one to do with small villages. Now you come back today, and you have made those changes which is positive, but I am also saying there is four or five existing things in the HD23 that are not incorporated into this today. I really, what I am try doing here is give people a fighting chance of getting planning. Okay you can make things black and white, if you had followed the thing last Monday, black and white if you are from a small village, forget it, you will never get rural planning. I am saying the four or five things in there gives people a chance. As far as misleading people as Irene brought up, architects can easily explain to them the likelihood. People can say your chances are 50%, 25%, 100%. It's never black and white with rural planning, it's always a probability game. I spoke to four architects who do the vast bulk of plannings who do this work over the last week, following the meeting because they would have seen and know about it. All of them told me, God, keep HD23, if you lose that you are reducing chances if you take out some of those points. Some of the points in HD23 are being taken out today if we vote for amendment 42. So that is my opinion, I have been following rural plannings day in, day out for 17 years that is my honest opinion. I respect what Shay is trying to do here

today, but I really think that you are going to have people who will not get rural planning, and everyone knows it's hard enough.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Timmins.

CLLR FORTUNE: Chair.

CLLR FORTUNE: Very quickly. Maybe Shay might make a comment on why he doesn't agree with keeping HD23 the way it is. I am trying to understand before I vote on it.

CLLR S CULLEN: I thought I answered it. With my amendment the economic and social need are clearly defined, Tom. I don't think that is the case with Edward's. The National Planning Framework are identifying economic and social need as the criteria for rural planning. Now, we have added in a lot of text to make that for people who are applying. But essentially social and economic need are the two key indicators for rural planning. I hope that that answers it in some shape or form.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you for that. Member, you have heard the arguments for both. Both councillors want the best for rural people, there is no doubt about that and rural applicants looking for one-off houses. Vote amendments are similar but different, so I am sure you have read both amendments, amendment 42 and 46. So I am now going to hand over to Lorraine for a vote on amendment number 42 which is proposed by Shay Cullen and seconded by Avril Cronin.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. You have explained the process very well. We are taking the amendments in the order they have been received.

[Vote taken]

MS GALLAGHER: That is 22 for and ten against. So that amendment is carried.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going to move on to amendment number 72 proposed by Cllr John Mullen and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake. Sorcha. Over to you.

SORCHA: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. This was a proposal that was put forward by Cllr Mullen at last week's meeting. We had a discussion at the time how we felt it wasn't in the right part of the plan and we are happy to write it up as an objective for him. So, we have corresponded

together over the week and come up with a wording that we are happy to support, and Cllr Mullen is happy with.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Members is everyone in agreement with that? Any dissent against it?

CLLR MITCHELL: I am unclear which one this is?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Amendment number 72. Tourism and recreation, chapter 11.

CLLR MITCHELL: Bray harbour.

MS GALLAGHER: Number 72.

CLLR MITCHELL: Carry on.

MS GALLAGHER: Proposed by Cllr John Mullen and seconded by Vincent Blake. Withdrawn last week for rewording.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is everyone in agreement with that?

MS GALLAGHER: No dissent? All agreed. Thank you, members.

CLLR SNELL: Agreed, but in regard to develop the key settlements for bray Wicklow, it should be stroke Rathnew, Arklow, Blessington and Enniskerry. Everything refers to Wicklow town and environs, I see the word Rathnew is missing.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I bring you in relation to that.

SORCHA: It's not the subject of the amendment 72. What Cllr Snell is mentioning is that everywhere Wicklow town is mentioned, maybe in the whole plan or tourism, it's Wicklow Rathnew, I suppose that would have to be a proposal that would have to come from Cllr Snell, because it's bigger than what we are discussing here with number 72.

CLLR SNELL: If you look at the next page, it's still under amendment 72. CPO 11.27 in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland to support, the development of Wicklow, Arklow, Baltinglass, Enniskerry and Rathnew as tourist hubs. So, within this county development plan I think you have omitted the word Rathnew there. I note that last week I noted it somewhere else, twice, it was left out. But, yeah, on the very same part of the plan it's mentioned, so I just feel that it's an administration error and didn't warrant mention, but seeing as we are on it, we might as well talk about it.

SORCHA: I am clear what is being proposed so the proposal we were discussing was number 72 which related to including a new policy CPO11.28 which related to Cllr Mullen's proposal from last week. So, there would be a new objective in south and west Wicklow. There is no

other amendment on foot of 72, so if it relates to another amendment possibly from last week.

CLLR SNELL: It's not, Cathaoirleach, I am sorry for taking up the time. It's clearly just an administration error. To develop the key settlements of Bray/Wicklow, it should be Rathnew there. If you look at the next page it has Wicklow/Rathnew as tourism hubs. It's just an administration error. The County Development Plan refers to Wicklow Rathnew environs as the one area.

SORCHA: I am not sure what page or chapter or objective we are talking about.

MS GALLAGHER: I can't pick it out either.

CLLR SNELL: Proposed amendment 72 is what we are discussing. Under 11.1.4, local strategies. The strategy identifies five priority actions as follows. Develop new accommodation, develop the key settlements of Bray/Wicklow, Greystones, Arklow Blessington and Enniskerry as visitor hubs. Word Rathnew is omitted there. If you go to CPO11.7, to support the development of Bray, Wicklow, Rathnew, Arklow Greystones and Blessington. The word Rathnew has been omitted and I am asking is it an administration error or I will get someone to put in an amendment when it comes under public display.

CLLR GLENNON: Rathdrum is also omitted.

MS GALLAGHER: The five priority actions as follows. There is five bullet points in black and then the red bullet point amendment and what Cllr Snell is referring to is the second bullet point, is it, Cllr Snell.

CLLR SNELL: That is, it.

MS GALLAGHER: So, it's the tourism strategy, the strategy identifies five priority actions as follows: 'To develop the key settlements of Bray, Wicklow/Greystones, Arklow, Blessington and Enniskerry as visitor hubs.' So, you want Wicklow/Rathnew.

SORCHA: I think I see where you are coming from. If I go back to the booklet. Where it says local strategies, Wicklow tourism strategy that is lifted directly from the Wicklow tourism strategy and marketing plan. If there is a place in that plan that says Wicklow and doesn't say Wicklow Rathnew that is not part of our plan, it's what is in that plan. So, we are just copying that verbatim from what is in that plan. If you go to 11.27 which is our policy in our development plan, we do say Wicklow/Rathnew, so we have added that in when it's not in the Wicklow

tourism and marketing plan. So, we have included, if you look at 11.2.7. In conjunction with Fáilte Ireland to support it, it's there.

CLLR SNELL: That is my point.

SORCHA: That it isn't our policy, it's a sin non sis of a policy called Wicklow marketing campaign. If they just call it Wicklow, that is not what we are dealing with here.

CLLR SNELL: What we passed last week...

SORCHA: It's in that plan.

CLLR SNELL: This was passed last week, so I assume that Wicklow/Rathnew will be in our development plan that is going out on public display?

SORCHA: Yes, by cannot put the word Rathnew into someone else's document if they it didn't include the word Rathnew. We cannot put words into someone else's document. We can certainly put it as Rathnew in, but if some other agency strategy doesn't describe that as Wicklow/Rathnew, we can't assign that to them.

CLLR SNELL: Is that what is going out on public display, that is all I am asking.

SORCHA: Yes.

CLLR SNELL: Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Everyone in agreement with that amendment? No dissent. Can we take it as agreed? Okay, thank you. I think that brings us up to item number, amendment number 86.

MS GALLAGHER: Yes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Amendment number 86 is proposed by Shay Cullen. Cllr Cullen do you have a seconder for this? Seconded by Irene Winters. The Chief Executive has no objection to this amendment. Members, is everyone happy to support this amendment? Yeah. Everyone agreed?

MS GALLAGHER: All agreed. Thank you, members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So, amendment number 87 is proposed by Cllr Mary Kavanagh. Again, do you have a seconder for this?

CLLR LEONARD: I can second it.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Leonard.

CATHAOIRLEACH: And the Chief Executive does not support this amendment so, Cllr Kavanagh, do you want to come in on this.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: Thank you, I have just written a few things. First thing I want to say is that the County Development Plan, as we all know is a fairly aspirational document. Not everything that goes into it is delivered on, but at least it's allowing for the items that are contained within it to be considered over the next six years. We all know that there is a problem with the road between Dublin and Wicklow, ie, the N11/M11 which there has been talk of upgrading and widening which is going to be problematic in itself, not least because the traffic that is on it is already growing. Since Brexit there are more and more trucks and lorries on the road and HGVs. To try and stall that traffic while you are widening a road, regardless of the fact there will be environmental issues and planning issues and all kinds of issues would actually be a nightmare scenario for many commuters.

I travelled that road myself; I would call it the nearest thing to a death trap, that I travel on. It's one of the busiest roads and it's lethal. Because people get frustrated, and they can't see behind these trucks they take risks and often have fatalities on the road. So, we had a recent presentation at Wicklow Municipal District, our last meeting. It was to do with NTA funding. One of the things that came out of it was that and this really gave me a huge lift, was that the NTA were not discounting the fact that a DART to Wicklow was a possibility. Something that needed to be looked into, but whereas three years ago they may not have considered it, we are actually told that given the amount of disruption that a widening to the N11 could cause and the cost and everything else that goes with that, that it was now going to be considered a viable alternative for a number of reasons:

One is that there are no tunnels between Greystones and Wicklow. Second thing is that for a long time there were two tracks between Wicklow and New castle. There is plenty of ground there and there is also a thing coming on stream which is a battery-operated train. If you bear with me for a second. Ten years ago, nobody thought about hybrid cars and they are becoming a distinct reality for many people. So, it's not beyond the bounds of possibility that by the end of the lifetime of this development plan battery trains will be something that are being used throughout the length and breadth of Europe. As someone who lives

south of Greystones, I can vouch for how poor our public transport system is.

West Wicklow aspired to have a LUAS, a light rail system. I think the people of south Wicklow should at least aspire to be able to aspire to a light rail system. I say light rail over a LUAS for the simple reason that the tracks that exist there are 5' 3" wide which is the width of a current DART carriage. The LUAS tracks are 4' 8.5" wide, so a LUAS wouldn't work in west Wicklow without replacing the tracks. Because there are no tunnels overhead tunnels wouldn't be a problem, electrification wouldn't be a problem. It's something we can aspire to. People say, well, you know, how come, will people buy into it? Well, 30 years ago people laughed at the idea of a DART coming as far as Greystones, but they persevered, and it happened, and it changed the face of Greystones from a small suburban village of Dublin to a huge growth area. I think it would help tourism.

I think in the days when we are trying to attract people into the area, even just day trippers, I think to know that there was a DART that went all the way to Wicklow and possibly at some stage down the line as far as Arklow, I think it would have a huge impact on the economic growth of Wicklow. I just also want to say that one of the main reasons is that I put this in as well is because if we widen the N11 we can only expect to have more traffic on it. We have signed up to a climate strategy, whereby we are supposed to reduce our carbon emissions by 51% between 2018 and 2030. There is no way that would happen if the road widened, because it will bring more traffic on to the road. This would take traffic off the road. This would allow people to exist without owning a car, which happens in Dublin a lot because there is no need for people to have cars because the public transport is so good. They have the trains, the LUAS and the DART. We only have a few trains a day, a couple of trains a day, nothing in comparison with other commuter towns.

So, I am just asking that this be put in. I am not asking for Wicklow County Council to pay for the feasibility study, I am sure there is funding out there available, but I am just asking for this to be put in as something

that we can aspire to, that we could possibly seek funding from the NTA or some other European fund. That is all I want to say.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, you have explained that very well. Cllr Erika Doyle, you wanted to say something on this.

CLLR DOYLE: I would like to support Cllr Kavanagh's amend. I did suggest on foot of the Chief Executive not supporting the proposed amendment, I did submit alternative wording, which I think is with the planners. The days of one person in one car are long gone. We can't continue like that, sustainable public transport solutions, they are the solutions. One of our TDs in Wicklow, Deputy Matthews is working with the department and the minister for transport on this at the moment. It's something he knows a lot about. They are taking a look at that at the moment. So just to say that I support the amendment, or some proposed wording thereof, thank you, Chair.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Tom Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I must say, Cllr Kavanagh has made a very convincing argument of the case she is making, and I can, based on the way she has put it across there is a lot of logic and rationale to what she is saying. So, I would support what Cllr Kavanagh is proposing.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: Yes, Cathaoirleach, just want to agree with Cllr Fortune and Cllr Kavanagh. You can see she had one her research. Her most crucial point that 30 years ago people laugh at the idea of the DART going to Greystones and people mocked the idea of LUAS in the city of Dublin. Don't forget 50, 60 years ago the tracks were taken up around south county Dublin, so I think we probably should learn from our mistakes in the past. I think what Cllr Kavanagh has suggested is reasonable, as an objective to put in our development plan, if we don't put it there, I don't know why else we would put it so I would be supporting it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Behan. Someone else want to come in. Derek Mitchell and then Cllr Walsh.

CLLR MITCHELL: I would support this; I think it's a good thing to have it in the development plan. Something which we want, whether we will get it is another matter. But if we don't seek it, we won't get it, so I think it's important to push for it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: I would like to support the proposed amendment. I think this is a long-term plan. In the meantime, they are looking at an interchange in Greystones and with increased facility and to Wicklow with the hybrid battery train that Cllr Kavanagh referred to. So, this listen this is a good amendment, proposed amendment, I give it my support.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Patsy Glennon.

CLLR GLENNON: Obviously I would like to support Cllr Kavanagh's objective. I welcome her saying we are aspirational about getting the LUAS to Blessington, bearing in mind we have no new road or a bus stop, so I would hate for the councillors to think we are ahead of the curve.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We need to stick to the amendments, or we will never get finished.

CLLR GLENNON: I think it's valid because we are aspirational about getting a LUAS out here.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We will go to Lorraine for vote. Thank you.

MS GALLAGHER: Just, first of all, Cllr Erika Doyle you have a proposed amendment 87 you submitted it last week, suggest changing the wording to work closely with the NTA on any emerging proposals to extend electrified train services to Wicklow rail line. Are you moving that or withdrawing that?

CLLR DOYLE: I suppose if the, I suppose I was looking at making it more actionable. Rather than have something that can't be supported or actioned. What is Cllr Kavanagh's view on that?

CLLR M KAVANAGH: I wouldn't see why a feasibility study, which is the main thrust of the amendment, couldn't be actioned. If anything, it has to be a necessary first step. It will point the way to whether something is either viable and feasible or not. So, I would have seen this as actually the first, the beginning of the plan being, coming into place.

CLLR DOYLE: I suppose it was more the role of the Council and its place in the development plan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Listen rather than going backwards and forwards I think, Cllr Kavanagh you have explained it well. I am going to ask Sorcha to come in. Can you come in, please?

SORCHA: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. The executive and has no objection whatsoever to something along these lines being in the

Development Plan. We actually support any body that wanted a study of improving public transport anywhere in Wicklow and including down the east coast. The reason we were objecting or weren't supportive of the proposal is we are satisfied it's already in the plan. Objective 12.22 says: 'To continue to work with Iarnród Éireann on and the NTA on the improvement of mainline DART services into Wicklow and in particular to increase capacity through Bray Head and along the costal route south of Greystones.' So, it's already in the development plan. We feel it would be doubling up to say the same thing but being specific by saying it's a DART to Wicklow Town.

The objective in the plan is about services, rail service, not specifically DART. As you mentioned yourself it could be different to DART, the battery-operated train isn't the DART. South of Greystones isn't just as far as Wicklow Town. It's beyond that, it's Rathdrum and Arklow as well. So, we consider that objective 12.22 already covers what your desired outcome is from your proposal and actually is more comprehensive because it includes improving rail line further south than Wicklow Town.

I suppose, if you wanted to mention of electrification between Greystones and Wicklow it might be better to add it into objective 12.22 by saying something like "in particular to support... the improvement of the line in Greystones to Wicklow Town. So, we would be similar to what Cllr Doyle was suggesting, 'To work closely with the NTA Irish rail on emerging proposals to extend electrified train services to Wicklow Town.' We feel that the wording of it needs to be cleaner, less specific that it's only a DART type facility and it's only as far as Wicklow Town. We feel that is too limiting.

CLLR KAVANAGH: I don't mind changing DART to alternative rail services, but what I am trying to get across is that I wanted to see a feasibility study incorporated in this, and that's not mentioned in your objective. So, I think it is a very, very, important first step because I think it gives some kind of commitment, so we won't be sitting here, or somebody won't be

sitting here in six years' time wondering why it wasn't done. I don't think it wouldn't be an expensive undertaking but would point the way forward for what can be done. And it would have been, and I don't mind adding the words "south Wicklow" as opposed to "Wicklow Town".

SORCHA: Well, Cathaoirleach if that's the case what Cllr Mary Kavanagh is saying the policy that's there exactly does exactly that, because what she's saying is that she'd like to see objective to support studies being undertaken so us supporting another body doing a study won't make anything happen. We won't be doing the study it will be NTA or Iarnrod and we have that build the in to continue to work with Iarnrod Eireann on main line services, so we won't undertake the feasibility study so we have putting it in the plan will be meaningless and the Chief Executive might want to come in here because he probably knows about the studies that are undertaken at the moment but it is our understanding the ear rod Eireann and NTA are studying this as Cllr Erika Doyle mentioned and these studies and assessments are already in train, so I suppose we would be concerned to support a study that's already happening. That would be the reason we're opposing this.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Chief Executive?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Same thing, it is already covered in the County Development Plan, and in the draft, and look we will within agree with everything that the Cllr Mary Kavanagh has said but we will be working with the NTA and pushing this feasibility study done for exactly what she wants but I don't think the County Development Plan is the place for T it as covered this, and we will work with that and pushing with that.

CLLR KAVANAGH: In relation to the Luas the west Wicklow councillors questioned to put it in the County Development Plan, go on the council had objection to it and still wanted it in it, I wanted to see the feasibility study mention in this, as regard with extended rail service to south Wicklow.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK, so, Cllr Mary Kavanagh to you want me to put this to a vote to you now.

CLLR KAVANAGH: If I change the wording, regular rail service to south Wicklow.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK.

So, Sorcha is just taking that down now.

OK, Lorraine.

MS GALLAGHER: OK. Proposed by Cllr Mary Kavanagh second Cllr Peir Leonard.

(Votes taken).

32 for, all passed, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed amendment to number 88 is proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins second is heeded by Cllr Vincent Blake and heave executive does not support this. Cllr Edward Timmins do you want to come in.

CLLR TIMMINS: Well, actually I've read through this and I'm going with the Chief Executive alternative CPO so agreed to go with that then.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Agreed by everybody?

Yeah.

Thank you. Proposed amendment 89 is proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake. And Chief Executive does not support this.

So, Cllr Edward Timmins over to you.

CLLR TIMMINS: Just I just like to change the wording in that, because, you know last week we had issues over certain wordings that weren't supported by the Chief Executive. So, I'd like to just make a couple of changes to it, the headline is, - local improvement schemes. I'd like to add in as well which is also a major development plan, community involvement schemes, they're similar to local improvement schemes, this is run privately and community schemes are in public, so, community involvement schemes and local improvement schemes to add and simple wording in relation to support, because one element of road infrastructure that wasn't covered in the transport objectives. Supported development of

the CIS, and LIS schemes.

C series S and LIS short for community involvement scheme and local involvement scheme.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorcha.

SORCHA: I suppose I don't really have too much to say on that. The executive supports such schemes when they arise when funding arises so not sure it is necessary to put in the development plans, it is very much an operational matter, but the wording is improvement to the original wording which was about funding.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK.

Lorraine?

LORENA: Proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake. Is there any disagreement?

All agreed?

Thank you Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Proposed amendment number 930 but proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Cllr Gerry O'Neill. And the Chief Executive cannot support this, Cllr Edward Timmins over to you.

CLLR TIMMINS: Yeah, this is a replica of what I put in earlier chapter which was passed unanimously at meeting last Monday, it's about the aspirations promoting the LUAS extension from City West/Tallaght to Blessington. Same wording agreed by the members last Monday, so just looking for it to be inserted in the transport chapter of the development plan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Sorcha?

SORCHA: We said it all last week. This was taken out by the minister in the regional plan for highly likely the minister or the regulator will take it out of this plan, so it will be temporary addition to the plan I would imagine.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. Lorraine over tough.

MS GALLAGHER: Proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Cllr Gerry O'Neill. Is anybody in disagreement with the amendment?

No disagreement.

>>:

CLLR WINTERS: Chairman, just, it is not that I'm disagreeing, but I won't say amused, disheartened at Sorcha's comments because she's probably right the minister will take it out, which proves again they say it is our plan, but it is not really our plan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr Irene Winters.

MS GALLAGHER: OK all agreed thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: 91 is proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and Cllr Vincent Blake, and the Chief Executive ...

Cllr Edward Timmins just come in their Chairman.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Just a sec OK.

CLLR TIMMINS: Happy to withdraw because it is covered elsewhere OK.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr Edward Timmins.

And amendment number 92 is Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Cllr Gerry O'Neill. And Chief Executive cannot support this proposal. Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: This is just in aspiration on water service investment in the lakes area around Blessington, I've given a reason there, for those who don't know west Wicklow the Blessington lakes area, the lakes were created 80 years ago by the valley flooded and as a consequence in that, people in that area like in Baggily Knock and Kilbride, Valley Mount and Blessington, all the people in the rural area is disenfranchised over the last year, they can't get rural planning because if you're accept particular tank it within 200 metre of the lake, the land slopes down to the lake so all the road goes within 200 metres of the lake you can't get planning because Dublin corporation will object. If you're even within 100 or 150 metres of the feeder stream of the lake and there are many, and a

stream can be small, even dries up in the winter you're, you won't get planning, not to mention the fact the people displaced from this area and Cllr Gerry O'Neill will know this history better than I do, but I just wanted to have aspiration in the County Development Plan to help these people. And it is something that has been discussed before. So, I'd very strongly recommend this to the members thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. Sorcha can you come in for comment on this.

SORCHA: Well, I think we've set out the response there. There are obviously limited resources to spend on improving water services around the county. And the locations that we had mentioned, and this is similar what is the current County Development Plan were the biggest settlements where the highest demand for water services, and where there's people living in places and towns, good strong towns that had no development in a long time, and they're the priority for investment or places where there's existing treatment plans causing pollution risk and so on. So, that was the reason for those particular towns being mentioned. I mean, obviously we're supportive of investment in every town and village, but we were trying to highlight the key towns that really urgently require investment at this stage. We just think it is possibly too aspirational to mention the lakes around Blessington, when you won't mention every other town and village that needs money as well, and the reality is it is extensive, run ago a sue we are around the Blessington lake, we don't think it will ever be a priority for funding, certainly within the lifetime of this plan and I suppose it is misleading in that regard. There would be, other towns and villages that would be a lot bigger than the towns and villages in the rural area around Blessington lakes that's in dire need for water services and why that area would be plucked out rather than others. So, that's why we're not supportive of this proposal, we' not against the idea of it although all. Just that every possible project can't be listed in the County Development Plan that's not the purpose of the development plan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr Sylvester Bourke you wanted to come in.

CLLR BOURKE: Just to say if this goes in, I would be proposing the vines of Arklow be included because it is to get a new treatment plan, but Irish Water have refused point blank to extend the collection system for the sewage network outside the town boundary and there's a great number of people who want to connect to the sewage system but will be denied. Connections and I think that should go in the plan if they the one around the lakes goes in, the people living in vines of Arklow deserve the equal right to be in there.

CHAIR: Nobody else showing so hands over to you Lorraine.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Gerry O'Neill.

CLLR O'NEILL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach the issue around the perimeter of the lake is huge here as regards one-off planning, it is huge not only for the people applying for permission but also a big issue for planners to be able to deal with. And you know, if you look at the main benefactors of the water reservoir, is Dublin City Council with their charges of commercial rates in Dublin. And yet, they put nothing whatsoever back in this area. Even on the Greenway the talks of the Greenway, they are one group that put nothing back in the area. So, I think, we should look at this, a little bit more serious than suggested there, that, maybe, if to deprive people of planning, because of their forefathers being hunted out of the village under the lake, I mean, that's a serious and very sore issue for the people of this area. So, you know, maybe it should be put to and the authorities as such, that, there could be consideration for a main sewerage around because they can't have their cake and eat it. They can't run 300 people out of Ballinahound, their children's children are still suffering from this. If you're within 100 metres of a stream, not even a stream but a pool of water, you are out of the live planning in the area. So, I think it should be taken a little bit more serious than what it is taken. It is a total shame that, we have the Greenway on the way here at the moment and we've been told clearly there will be no toilet

facilities on the lake because of Dublin City Council's objection to any sewage facilities on the perimeter of the lake.

So, I fully support my colleague Cllr Edward Timmins there, and to take this area a bit more serious.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr Gerry O'Neill. I don't see anybody else.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: One point on that. The whole idea of the west water objective is we'd select towns and villages that need sewerage and have a realistic chance of getting it, when Irish Water is planning out Capital plan they look at County Development Plan and these are the one that is are jumping out and talked about and these are the ones we want to secure funding, we want it do every single town and village, but we have to stay at what is realistic and state that clearly to attract money from Irish Water.

MS GALLAGHER: OK, Cllr Edward Timmins do you still wish to put it to a vote.

CLLR TIMMINS: Absolutely.

MS GALLAGHER: Any disagreement with Cllr Edward Timmins' proposal, seconded by Cllr Gerry O'Neill to include the lakes around Blessington?

No disagreement.

CLLR BOURKE: Can environs, for a sewage plant. What Cllr Edward Timmins is looking for is a collection system, whereas Arklow is get a new sewerage plant but not extension to the collection system, that's the difference.

MS GALLAGHER: Chief Executive and Sorcha say where do we stop?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: We're dealing with plants here, not collection systems.

MS GALLAGHER: With he was a proposal by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Cllr Gerry O'Neill if we're in agreement, we'll move on.

CLLR ERIKA DOYLE: Lorraine no ...

CHAIR: Cllr Erika Doyle I'm not in agreement, we could add our own pitches in but with limited resources we have to prioritise so I would not be in agreement.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So, go for a vote then.

MS GALLAGHER: (Votes taken).

25 for, 6 against and one not present.

So, amendment agencies carried.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed amendment 93 is proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake and the Chief Executive supports in principle but cannot support the proposal as it dilutes the purpose of the objective, so Cllr Edward Timmins do you want to come in here.

CLLR TIMMINS: Yeah, I mean it's similar, but it is probably actually more relevant to most people, it covers the whole county. You know, when I joined the council 2004, we were given shares and investment plans and large and small villages were in it, a lot of them, and, literally nothing has happened, little or nothing has happened in the last 17 years as regards Wastewaters for small villages and it has been forgotten about, I'm sure there's good national reasons why with no water charges et cetera, why, they have, haven't been funded, but they've been over ignored this development plan shouldn't forget them. You have a list there, and you know, all very wordy, Arklow, Blessington, I know intimately, and less Blessington is on the way thank God and I'm sure Arklow and Aughrim and Tinahely, but we have to have aspirations in this County Development Plan and can't forget large and small villages when it comes to Wastewater plans, it has been ignored for almost two decades now, so I'd be anxious this goes in the plan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK, I think the Chief Executive's response will be the same as the last one, to you want a quick word.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: We're trying to pick the ones we have a

realistic chance of getting, prioritised and encourage Irish Water to fund those projects, aren't saying we don't agree with the other towns and villages, but we want to prioritise and put our best foot forward.

CHAIR: To councillors agree, anyone in disagreement.

CLLR FERRIS: I have to disagree on the same basis that money is the priority and certain areas do have to be prioritised and it is similar to proposed amendment 92. Which was passed so, we have to be consistent.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK, Lorraine, we'll go for a vote.

MS GALLAGHER: OK Cathaoirleach, proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins, seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake. (Votes taken). So that's 26 for, five against, and one not present.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Lorraine.

MS GALLAGHER: Motion carried.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Number 94 is proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake and the Chief Executive has no objection here S everybody in agreement with that?

MS GALLAGHER: All agreed thank you members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed amendment number 95 is proposed by Cllr Rory O'Connor, do you have anybody to second that?

Cllr Peir Leonard.

CLLR O'CONNOR: Just wanted to go through quickly to say we've great opportunities being so close to Dublin with gran infrastructure, and we should take full advantage of it in Wicklow so all across, so I wanted to include this.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Chief Executive has no objection to it, is everybody in agreement with this?

Yeah. No dissent there is there.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed amendment 96 is proposed by Cllr Peir Leonard. Cllr Peir Leonard do you have somebody to

second it. Cllr Rory O'Connor to second it.

Chief Executive does not support this proposed amendment, Cllr Peir Leonard do you want to come in.

CLLR LEONARD: I'd like to come in, and for all the reasons stated in the Chief Executive's response there, they're the very reasons why we would need to protect our roadside verges for wildlife and green corridors, the Irish Wildlife Trust launched an initiative, earlier in the year with some of the councils in south county Dublin and Wexford county council with pilot projects to look at biodiversity on roadside verges to protecting them and creating more awareness and, you know, just generally taking care of them. Motion is just to recognise the importance of the roadside verges in conservation and biodiversity, that's all it is to recognise it so we can work, going forward to create better policy and better ways of doing things essentially. So that's it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr Peir Leonard. Sorcha, do you want to respond here.

SORCHA: I think the Chief Executive's response is set out there in the document. I suppose we'd have concerned the conflict between protecting the conservation buy do diversity and function as part of transport network, and whether you know, keeping the roads, keeping the roads open and moving and gritted and so on, would conflict with that objective so that would be our main concern.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: I have concerns around sect, Cllr Peir Leonard and whether or not this will have impact on proposals and amendments we may make to make towns and villages nor accessible and interconnected, I don't know if that will impact that, but that's a concern I would have in relation to it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Tom Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Thanks chair, yeah, just on, while it is a very good in principle proposal, I'm wondering what impact it would have on the installation of footpaths which are vitally necessary

in lots of areas?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Irene Winters.

CLLR WINTERS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, no, the same as Cllr Tom Fortune, I really want to, see what impact it might have on footpaths, and other stuff that needs to be provided for, non-car-based transport really so that people can get out and walk and maybe cycle and whatever, so, I just think it might end up being used as a stick, so I won't be supporting it, thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Yeah, thanks Cathaoirleach. I support the aspirations behind this, that Cllr Peir Leonard brought forward and I'm just wondering, to address some of the concerns that the Chief Executive and add the words "where possible" to recognise the verges, and acknowledge some of the biodiversity where possible, and regarding safety, where it is possible, there can be an important piece of buy doe diversity puzzle thank you.

CLLR MULLEN: Yeah, again, I accept the principle of the motion, but I do have concerns that it would be used to as a stick to beat us with, rural roads, urges pedestrians, cyclists and motor vehicles use the roads and verges are of key component, particularly for cyclists and pedestrians, they're kept clear, it is easier for them to traverse the road and you know, we've a number of small usual roads, as you'd know yourself, where it is particularly dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists for their own safety and if the verges were allowed to become an additional conservation biodiversity, that would be chaos. So, while I accept the principle the practicality of it, would make it unsafe.

CLLR FERRIS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I too accept the principle in the motion, but I would have concerns about footpaths being overgrown with generally overgrown by hedges and that kind of thing. Also, there's a problem in both urban and rural areas where road signs themselves are obstructed by

hedgerows and things like that. So, I certainly wouldn't, I would be fearful that it would increase, and we have the problem quite a lot where people say pushing buggies or things like that, have to go out on the road to bypass, because the footpath is obstructed. So unfortunately, I won't be able to support this motion. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Mary Kavanagh.

CLLR KAVANAGH: Thanks chair. I'm just reading the actual wording, it doesn't say anything about allowing them to grow uncut, it just says to recognise the importance of roadside verges in conservation and biodiversity and that's an important line to have in a development plan. Obviously, they would have to have to be all kinds of considerations, but for example, I know that throughout the UK, that verges are being used to grow wildflowers in, and they're trying to roll that out over there, and I thought it was a great idea. Obviously we have some roads that are narrower than others, do I think there should be a kind of a parameters within which the council work so if a road is a certain width there would be verges would be allow today grow, and if they were less than a certain width and danger to traffic or cyclists or motor cyclist then obviously they couldn't, but the wording is just to recognise the importance of roadside versions and that's very important that we do that.

CHAIR: Thank you, Cllr Derek Mitchell.

CLLR MITCHELL: Thank you Cathaoirleach. I would be against this motion. We really badly need to get footpaths to join up, even in our rural areas between say, some large towns, like for instance Kilcoole and Newtown and there's many examples throughout the county where we need to get people walking and cycling on rural roads which can have traffic going quite fast, and I believe it is essential that we get footpaths on those, I don't want anything to try and take away from that.

CLLR WALSH: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, I would agree with this proposed amendment but like maybe I think it was Cllr Lourda Scott suggested the word where possible could be inserted but the practicalities around it, and the other members have stated there, the difficulties with the paths overgrown et cetera, and

people trying to bring buggies, and the guidelines are there, so, maybe, if the words "where possible" might give some credence.

CLLR BOURKE: Cathaoirleach, I'm concerned that we wouldn't be able to, if we adopt this, we wouldn't say trim the briars back along the beach road and other footpaths during August, they reach way out and obstruct the safe passing of pedestrians and forces them on the road so I just think, this could be a little bit dangerous and I think we should revert to what we have already, we're not doing too badly in the way we maintain roadside verges currently.

CLLR BEHAN: Like Cllr Mary Kavanagh said there, are people reading the sentence, all it says is to recognise the importance of roadside versions and conservation and biodiversity, recognising the porches of it as something that encourages diversity, and we'd have a climate change and buy doe diversity committee because we're supposed to be in favour of that. I think it is general statement, and acknowledgement of something that I think we all felt was important. And I think people are reading more in it than was intended. And I think it should be given a chance to go on public display. A lot of the motions that are passed here, the public will have comments to make on them and this is not going to be our last bite of the cherry, we will have another one on this, and I ask people give it a chance and let it go out to the public and let members of the public have something to say, rather than choking it off here today.

CLLR CREAN: Thanks chair. Again, I agree with principle but would have a concern what Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy said around accessibility I'm thinking of people visually impaired and use canes, I think we need to see, even though it is broad statement, I hear what Cllr Joe Behan is saying but implications we have overgrown versions that impact on accessibility.

CLLR CORRIGAN: Thank you Cathaoirleach, yeah, I'm listening to both sides there, and I think it is very important we recognise them, but yet the diversities of accessibility and

everything else that's mentioned but could I ask Cllr Peir Leonard to possibly, saying to recognise the importance, it is a loose statement, what exactly is she implying they would like recognised, and I think by putting the extra bit "where possible" would be great, but it would be better, especially going out for public consultation, a better explanation of what she means to recognise. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Peir Leonard back to you and there's for and against so Lorraine then for a vote. Cllr Peir Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: I'm willing to add in the words "safely where possible" and really it is really, more so the roadside verge, I've no problem with footpaths or where needed to connect communities and stuff like that, but there's a lot of secondary rural roads being destroyed and I think it is greater awareness was made to the importance of biodiversity and the importance of these green corridors, maybe an awareness campaign or something like that, more so than inhibiting the council with the safety and access and stuff like that. So, it is more so about creating awareness of the importance of the green infrastructure, the habitats that the verges provide, for wildlife and buy doe diversity.

CATHAOIRLEACH: For and against Lorraine.

CLLR BLAKE: Briefly, I think we're doing a lot at the moment to preserve the rural landscape in this regard to the fact. We're only allow today cut back around junctions of roads in terms of cut back, because all during the summer months so we're doing a lot at the moment to preserve it, so, we're actually there, doing exactly that at the moment, so, I think, adding more into it is only going to make it far more difficult for people in the rural areas, whether they're driving, walking, riding bikes or anything else out there, I think it is probably doing it out there at the moment. Thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. OK I'm going to go to

Lorraine for a vote.

MS GALLAGHER: Proposed by Cllr Peir Leonard and seconded by Cllr Rory O'Connor to recognise the importance of roadside versions in conservation biodiversity and agreement - where safely possible.

>>: "where safely possible".

MS GALLAGHER: (Takes vote).

So that's 14 for, 17 against and one not present. So, the amendment is not passed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed 97 is proposed by Cllr Peir Leonard, Cllr Peir Leonard do you have anybody to second this.

CLLR LEONARD: No. Cllr Lourda Scott I can second.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. The Chief Executive does not support this amendment so

CLLR LEONARD: Do you want to come in.

CLLR LEONARD: I had considered actually withdrawing this, but, then, you know I feel strongly about this, and feel strongly if I'm not here in a few years' time about the legacy post, when Roadstone quarry is finished and the big gaping opportunity there is for landfill with Arklow Rock, Arklow is a dumping ground, over the years, over my lifetime, for pollution, and you know, a lot of environmental really, really bad environmental legacy, so, I just feel really strongly that there's plenty of opportunity for the rock when it is completed to be used for tourism and recreation and stuff like that, and I would hate to see it being let used as the easiest quickest way to make money and environmental emergency I would hate to see it as landfill so I would like us to go ahead if possible for it to be put to the vote.

CLLR FITZGERALD: I'm totally against this motion. I'm well aware what goes on in Roadstone, but the Roadstone site will be there for many, many years, we'll have gone through many County Development Plans, and as the Chief Executive says,

he's not aware of any proposals to utilise this active quarry as a landfill site. I know that Roadstone had no proposals and I look at the environmental policy compliance with the relevant regulations and operations to international standards, continuous improvement of our maintain performance and good neighbours, there's no way that is going to be used as landfill site in my opinion. I won't be here to see it, but the fact is that there are no plans to use it as a landfill site and there never will be in the future. And to put a landfill site there, and one side of it for the sea, it won't happen. And I think, that, I just think that is putting the frighteners up to people to be honest.

CLLR BOURKE: Thank you Cathaoirleach, this is a very first suggestion that I ever heard of Arklow Rock to be used as a landfill. I don't know where it's really coming from, but I would imagine that it would be almost impossible to engineer a landfill there for a domestic municipal landfill pause there's very sharp rock and I don't know how you'd align it. Maybe, I would be totally opposing today that. It might be and possible, as perhaps for a soil recovery at some stage in the very far distant future to use that, but I don't really think it is feasible. And I don't think there's any need to put this in the development plan because I can't imagine it being a possibility.

So that's all I can say.

CLLR FORTUNE: Yeah, thank you chair. In other motions, that was before us, we have been asked why the member hadn't got it stronger, I think the EEC's response is not strong enough to say that this won't happen. To say it is not aware of any proposals, I don't think that means a whole lot because, the CEO maybe going to another job, in years to come. And it could change. I'm saying this on the basis of an experience I had my own district, where there was proposal to dump stuff into an area of uniqueness and protection, so, I think the point that Cllr Peir Leonard is raising here is a reasonable one.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: Thank you chair. Again, I agree

with Cllr Tom Fortune, I think Cllr Peir Leonard outlined clearly why she's put this proposal forward in Bray, we're dealing with an old landfill site at the moment, and rectifying decision decisions of the past as Cllr Peir Leonard said, she's putting this in to protect this area for the length of the plan, should she not be there in the future and in some ways I don't understand the concerns of some of the other councillors who made comment there's no plans for this to happen, if there's no plans for this to happen, then I don't see any concern with supporting Cllr Peir Leonard, so that's just my comments on the matter thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorcha, do you want to reply on this.

SORCHA: I just come back in and say that, you know, where there a desire at some time of the future, to sue some excavated area of landfill it would be subject to a planning protest success and the current development plan and proposed plan has extensive policies and objectives and standards against we could assess any such application with environmental protection, and visual amenity, traffic safety being at the absolute fore. So, there's no need to put in an objective to prevent something that is happening, that we've no indications it will happen and we've the tools to assess it if it were to happen. We may as well as a to prohibit a Nuclear Power Plant to be built in Bray, because there no plans for anyone to build it, so we see no need for it in the plan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I think Cllr Peir Leonard has outlined her concerns, and Cllr Tom Fortune and Cllr Pat Kennedy, we've the response, one is for and one against, Cllr Gerry O'Neill do you want to come in.

CLLR O'NEILL: We've hat issues, anyone around long enough will remember the ducting in the county, but I think they're things of the past. I'd be wary of, to develop land or develop housing or whatever, sites have to be cleared. And in our area, here in west Wicklow there's mistakes made in the past, but I don't think they're going to happen again. And you know, we do end up, we need the quarry and the stone and the gravel for

these quarries, and that creates a hole in the ground but to landfill those with proper material, I don't think is a great scene because in Blessington, there's one section of it, and there's a great job done by the people who own the quarry. And the local soccer club have a couple of pitches on the landfill site there. And the things are so you know, there can be a little bit of scaremongering around this, but the day of willy-nilly dumping hopefully is a thing of the past, and you know, landfilling nowadays is really materials that are taken from stripping sites to build houses or whatever.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. Look we're hearing both arguments, can we go to Lorraine for a vote on this.

CLLR BOURKE: I just have a suggestion Cathaoirleach that might get us out of this. you might remember when Cllr Joe Behan was Chairman of the county council there was a huge issue at Arklow Rock where Roadstone was trying to knock the top of it, and diminish it and bring it down, he brokered a deal with the amendment that it would be preserved, but that has never been enshrined in anything, any documents I've seen. So, maybe, I think we should perhaps put in a wording that would preserve Arklow Rock so it couldn't be demolished or reduced in height, from its current height. Because, you know, there was a bit of an erosion, it did actually reduce it a fair bit before Cllr Joe Behan managed to stop them. So, I'd like to see it left the way it is, and I don't believe that it will ever be used as a landfill or any intention, but if we were to put a preservation on Arklow Rock that it is only used for quarrying and left intact as it is, I think that might be acceptable to everybody.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Peir Leonard do you want to come back in.

CLLR LEONARD: Look I've the utmost appreciation for everybody that's Sorcha said there toed. But, in raiment the development plan looks great on paper but sometimes some of the things, I look at pilot plains being built on, and waterfront

zone in Arklow being walled up. All of which, are in our local areas to keep accessible, so unfortunately, I don't want to rely on the translation of text on a piece of paper, to ensure that Arklow Rock isn't landfilled in the future for future generations to be able to enjoy a healthy, wealthy town to live in. So, I'd like to keep it as it is, and if Sylvester wants to add amendment on it, I'd be more than happy to allow him to.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you want to add an amendment to that.

CLLR BOURKE: Can we come back to that and have time to think about and work amendment to it and come back towards the end.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK.

Leave it for a few minutes and I'll come back to it. Amendment 98, proposed by Cllr Peir Leonard. Do you have a seconder for this?

CLLR LEONARD: I'm going to withdraw this one, Pat because I think I didn't word it right and while I don't want the whole visit of Dublin port to go to Arklow and what is taken in Arklow lanes and golf, another disaster, you about I leave the opportunity open for some form of report to come. But not at that scale.

CATHAOIRLEACH: You're withdrawing it. Number 99 is proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake. And the Chief Executive does not support this.

CLLR TIMMINS: Come in a couple of things on this. First of all, the background to this there was a planning application last year for grouping in a green area in the centre of balloting class and refused for various reasons, one was the zoning wasn't correct but the planners in principle were not against the idea of Glamping. So, the zoning was incorrect. I'm trying to rectify that, I take on board the planners' issues are here, so I was thinking, looking to amend it to say suggest to SAC, especially area of conservation assessment and flood risk assessment, clearly that's part of any application, that is done and complete, so, look to zone it tourism and subject to SAC and flood risk assessment.

care

SORCHA: Your plan has to be SAC assessment, so everyone by law that is to have one and your development plan has to, you're not entitlement today zone or designate land unless you carry out a various stage of appropriate assessment and actually designating land for development in SAC would require you to go through process called EROPI, imperative reasons overriding public interest and get ministerial consent for this. this is EU designated site so to designate it for would contain significant additional studies and ministerial consent and setting back of the plan, won't publish a draft plan any time soon, that process would have to be integrated debated first of all, we have nowhere in the plan, and none of your previous plans have we proposed the zoning of land in SAC, because that triggers this level of considerable assessment and consent from the minister. So, you know, we cannot support the zoning or designation of land for development in an actual SAC. With regard to flood risk, we have carried out the flood risk assessment and we had JBA consultants, top flood risk assessments in the country who actually wrote the guidelines on pilot risk assessment who carried out the assessment for our development plan and they've identified this land is although high risk of flooding, and therefore, you have to comply with the guidelines and the guidelines requires you to assess whether the used propose asked consistent with my risk flood zone which is isn't, so you would be noncompliance with ministerial guidelines so the plan needs to go through layers of assessment, way before a planning application goes through project level assessment, so he would be advising you to strongly against the zoning for those two reasons, SAC impact, appropriate assessment and the fact you're zoning planned a flood plain. We raised to the planning application in last year, of course we have no objection in principle to improving tourism in a town, whatever it maybe, but this was recommended for refuse including the impact of SAC and flood risk, so as far as my knowledge S we didn't say we were happy in principle being there, but with the idea of the tourism in the

torch but not at that location, the reasons are zoned, open space in the current proposed plan is because of two issues, location in SAC and high risk flood zone, so the difficulty with the zone is it is zoned open space which we don't apply the term of glamping development that was proposed.

CLLR ERIKA DOYLE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I can't and wouldn't attempt to speak as eloquently about all the reasons why this shouldn't even be voted on, as Sorcha there, but, you know, as she mentioned it is EU designated especially area of conniver conservation, it isn't something we've come up with Wicklow and there's a reason to protect the habitats there, the flooding risk to, Sorcha, listed off the reasons there, and all of the things that it triggers quite rightly before you contemplate in a special area of conservation, so I would be strongly oppose today this chair.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We have avenue heard both sides.

CLLR TIMMINS: What I'm trying to achieve here, but to put things in context, a local businessperson is trying to develop tourism project in the centre of Baltinglass and get jobs, I don't want to do anything guess the law or SAC or anything else, one of the reasons for refusal, other one that is aren't addressed but one of the reasons for refusal was that it wasn't the zoning wasn't correct on it. So, I'm trying to rectify that, and maybe, offsite I can do it, or a bit rushed to do it today, but I'd like the planners to work with the one can't in terms of correcting the zoning, maybe through public display or whatever, or if you have any ideas to resolve this, is to work with the Zeinab would allow this tourism project to have some possibility of going ahead. That's all I'm trying to achieve here, and the wording in the planners' report is the planners do not have any, in principle are in favour of the tourism site in the middle of Baltinglass, and that's all we're trying do. Our centres and towns are dying, there's no-one living in them crab dated buildings, someone is trying to invest in the town and create jobs and the planners should be trying to work with and facilitate them with subject to all the necessary arrangements in

terms of flood risk assess et cetera and not looking to have that overridden, obviously that's going to happen and no-one suggests we're going to do that, but you will have work with people willing to invest in our towns and villages, you can't just throw them out and say sorry, we have to work better with people and that's the message I'm getting from the public generally.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Edward Timmins do you want to put this to a vote, one is against.

CLLR TIMMINS: Clearly it is not going to pass a vote here today. But I would ask, that the, that you know, forever over the next few days, I talk to the planners and see how this problem of the issue being a refusal reason to a worthwhile project, how this can be overcome to facilitate this, you know, rare investment that happens in rural Wicklow.

OK so I'm willing to withdraw it on that basis.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So, I'm clear here, so I'm confused, are you withdrawing this amendment now?

CLLR TIMMINS: Yeah.

CATHAOIRLEACH: You're withdrawing it.

I have to take a moment, we lost connection here by somebody. So, give me a minute until we re-establish connection, Cllr Edward Timmins that's withdrawn then yeah.

CLLR TIMMINS: Yeah.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK.

Members we've just lost connectivity here. So, but it is 4.28 can I make a proposal, there's about 20 amendments left we continue on as soon as we reconnect get connectivity, can I propose a time extension to we finish the plan, there's 20 amendments left, would people agree with that.

CLLR FORTUNE: Once it does not go past 7pm.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can someone second that, seconded by Cllr Gail Dunne. Thank you, we're trying to re-establish connectivity here.

CLLR FERRIS: Can we have a five-minute break.

CATHAOIRLEACH: That's a good idea.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you members, can you hear me. Fall  
gallon we're reconvened now after the break; I'll take a roll call.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So, we're on amendment 100. Which is  
proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Cllr  
Vincent Blake. And Chief Executive does not support this so  
I'm going to bring in Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Thanks Chairman.

Most of you have looked at different towns around the country  
so a lot of the radial roads have shrunk, the towns are made  
smaller and this is the case in this road, out of Baltinglass and  
out of the tone, all I'm trying to do here, is put back out and a  
little bit further the extent of the town boundary, and like all I'm  
trying to say chief is opportunity for people to build in infill site  
which there are very few you can see on the map. So, the  
effect of the thing of slipping a town means people who were in  
the town are now classified as rural. And, from my initial  
inquiries they won't qualify for rural planning either. So what  
this does is lessens the possibility of people building infill  
houses in the town who are traditionally people from the town  
have always built and it won't have much effect on the core  
strategy about zoning, you're only talking about a couple, one  
or two houses, maybe three max of infill sites in parts of the  
radial roads, I'm picking one radial road in the town do that, so I  
think it is a very minor change and would allow local people  
build in, infill sites, on the edge of the town.

Chair

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorcha, can you come in on that.

SORCHA: Well, we've set out we're not generally supportive of  
it because it you're creating more sprawl and extending the  
town out in the countryside. But look I don't think we'll fall out

over it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. So, because the Chief Executive doesn't support it, we'll go for a vote on it.

We will make it an agreement. Do members agree with Cllr Edward Timmins and Cllr Vincent Blake?

Are we in agreement with that, there's no dissent there?

MS GALLAGHER: Any disagreement?

CATHAOIRLEACH: No, all agreed.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Amendment number 101 is proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake and the Chief Executive has no objection to this one, can we take this as agreed, has anyone disagreement with that everyone in agreement, yeah?

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Amendment number 102 proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins and seconded Cllr Vincent Blake and the Chief Executive has no objection to this proposal in principle but suggested the following wording, are you all right with that.

CLLR TIMMINS: I'll run with the Chief Executive's wording that's fine.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Members agree with that?

dissent on that. Amendment 103 is Cllr Gerry Walsh it you have a seconder of that. Cllr Shay Cullen seconder.

And again, just a second Cllr Gerry Walsh. So, the Chief Executive does not support it, so Gerry do you want to come in on that for a second.

CLLR WALSH: Highlight the lands in question here, it is part of the overall Wicklow hills development, knew town mount Kennedy and lands as part of an overall service site which has seen considerable investment and infrastructure such as roads, Wastewater, pitches over the last number of years, part of this and other have already been developed, in certain around 200

units already delivered there. And, as I said, part, of this particular land here as I say, has seen considerable groundwork already so it is ready to deliver units within the lifetime of this plan, as I say, it is zoned and live planning permission associated with it, can I make the point the unit that have already been delivered the Wicklow hills development have, in over 80% of the occupiers these unit are first time buyers. And I'd be familiar with a lot of the couples that bought houses in the particular development for the general Greystones and north Wicklow area because the houses were priced just within their budget. So as was pointed out by a number of members last week's meeting the prices in the general north Wicklow, Bray area are beyond the reach of most couples, middle income areas so this particular site has met their requirement so the decision to dezone these lands which I am ready to deliver, much-needed, "affordable" in inverted commas units within the lifetime of the plan is, could interest industry. We all heard on the media over the last week in particular, of the difficulties for first time buyers and couples trying to get houses starter homes in particular and this is an opportunity to address some of that, and I don't think.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorcha, can I come to you for comment.

SORCHA: Thank you Cathaoirleach, I suppose at the outset we just say that we have to try and craft development plans for the various towns for you that accord with the core strategy and national planning framework and so on, and one of the key principles of the national planning framework is a town cannot grow more than 30% unless designated growth town, Newtown isn't but growth rate is heading towards 70% or higher given the planning permission granted there already. So, what we were trying do is craft a new zoning plan for the future of Newton that moderated the amount of housing growth and we do take on board what Cllr Gerry Walsh is saying about the high demand for these houses and that the ones built so far, and they've been reasonably affordable, compared to other houses in the north east of the county. We have to craft a plan that's best for the future growth of the town and moderate

housing growth and consolidates which means focuses development on the centre of the town where services are available and these are the lands most peripheral in the development, so, that's why we recommended the be dezoned, they do have planning permission that can be built. We're looking towards the future if these weren't to be built, then the zoning would effectively lapse, and we think that would give a better development structure for the town. But like I said, that said if the permission is live and could be built, you know during the currency of the current plan. We have to be cautious in Newtownmountkennedy because we have way overshot the kind of growth levels that are really suitable for a place like that, and we have to be cautious with zoning proposals, there's a lot of development sites within the centre of the town, that are suitable for housing development and mixed development developers looking forward with proposals for them and they're the optimal sites in the town rather than further development out of the periphery of the town.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Joe Behan you want to come in.

CLLR BEHAN: I do, and I just ask members to step back a minute and look at what is happening here. This is one the most successful developments that we've seen in County Wicklow in terms of allowing first time buyers to buy a home of their own. Because, as Gerry said, Cllr Gerry Walsh already said it was within the affordable bracket for those young couples. These are the people we are all supposed to be concerned about at the moment and we are concerned and this Survey Development Plan where we can do something for them. What have we got here now?

We have recommendation from the executive of the council not to allow any more of this or curtail it or try to control it and prevent it from any further opportunities apart from what is already got planning permission. I think that is an absolutely crazy way to be looking at this development. I come mend Cllr Gerry Walsh for what he has proposed here and seconded by Cllr Shay Cullen because what he's doing is showing us that,

this successful model has been one of the few models that have worked for us in the county. And I honestly, am amazed that the executive of the council is going to try and stop further development of that particular area. I'm really amazed at that, I wanted to ask a question at this point because I want to ask, what are the costs that the council are getting as a result of this development. Can the Chief Executive or the senior planner tell me when you add in the Capital levies, when you add in all of the other contributions that people have to make, developers have to make when they're granted planning permission, what is the average cost per house in somewhere like Newtown that goes back to Wicklow County Council?

And is that one of the reasons why so many other developers throughout the county are reluctant to start building because of the levies, and all of the extra charges they've been charged, and is that something we should be considering when we're making decisions such as this?

I'd also make a point which I made before and those of us involved in the whole situation regarding the shortage of school places in Kilcoole, will be very aware that there's a dire need for a second level school in Newtownmountkennedy as well and that's needed anyway irrespective what development happens and could the senior planner what is the situation with regard to that particular provision and surely, having future housing development, will actually make such a school more sustainable, and more desirable from the point of view the Department of Education as well. Could I just get figures from the Chief Executive or the planner, on what is the average take, by Wicklow County Council, for each of those units and at the moment in that development, which as I say has within been one of the most successful first-time house buyers' projects in this county in the last five years.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr John Snell. Knell

CLLR SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, in regard to the growth area, Newtown in particular, you know, it is in our own Municipal District here of east Wicklow, and we all know that the rate of development down along the east coast has been

significant, and therefore, some of the things like Cllr Joe Behan is talking about, schools, recreational facilities, and the like, have to play catch-up. But I wanted to speak in general if I could Cathaoirleach in regard to anyone that knows me, knows that I'm pro--housing, I'm pro-development providing all the infrastructure that comes with it is provided and legislated for. I just, at this point in this plan, I have to say that this is a very unique plan for the councillors and the elected members because the reality is that, very seldom has a plan been put forward such a significant amount of land is proposed to be dezoned or taken out, of what was the previous plan. And it was my understanding that you know, each landowner, whether he be big or small or otherwise, would have an opportunity when this plan goes out on public display, to come forward with the recommendations all 32 councillors, so I too, like Cllr Joe Behan, would urge the councillors to look at this, and a word of caution but my caution is the other way - I would prefer that councillors didn't propose to put in new zoning, didn't propose to give an unfair advantage to any developer, there's a live application and the house that is have been granted planning of this, that lasts for five years, they can get extension for four or five years. Irrespective of the zoning. I would possibly support the likes of this application, if the developer had the opportunity to come forward and discuss it with all 3

Members. There will be people out there who will have land dezoned by the end of this process, by the end of this process, whether it be ten months' time or twelve months' time and I just find that, by cherry picking individual councillors, cherry picking land that baffles me, because at the end of the day, no landowner's meant to know what is in this plan and otherwise and yet land is put forward by individual elected members, I find that, I'm trying to choose my words here, because I don't want to get in trouble. But I genuinely don't agree with this, everyone, it should be equal playing field for everybody, let it go out on public display the way it has been presented to us and then we can, I will support a lot of what developers come

forward with, if it is suitable to the community and if it makes sense, and if the vast majority of members see the merit in it but to be presented with some of the amendments that are going to be coming down the line, between now and the end of the meeting, I just won't agree with it, and I don't think it is right. And I see the merits and what some members are trying to do, in regards, they're trying to move stuff, but I just wonder who are they moving it for?

That's my concern.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Erika Doyle.

CLLR ERIKA DOYLE: Thank you Cathaoirleach. Yeah, I'd like to support pretty much that Cllr John Snell has just said. I'd be more comfortable dealing with these kinds of things at the next stage of the plan when there's complete transparency and wider context to what is going on and as well as that, we were talking there about overshooting the development of Newtown by, I don't know some incredible amount and I find it strange to talk about so for example the situation that there is in Greystones Kilcoole Newtown at the moment with schools, to talk about adding more and more houses and at the same time, talk about the lack of schools, and the lack of things that people need, we can't just throw loads of people in houses, fantastic houses well priced as they were and be dealing with the problems that come from that, in a few years' time and say, well, you know, we blaming other people and didn't know this was going to happen, we're talking about it now, we do know it is going to happen, so housing absolutely has to be forefront of our minds but not at all costs and not without anything else backing it up, it is all about the context. Thank you chair.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: , just to come back in and response to there to the comments, if you can hear me, I'm not proposing to rezone lands here as a matter of maintaining the existing zoning that has pertained to this these lands, and in relation to the schools, there's a site adjacent marked for a secondary school as Cllr John Snell knows and the only listen I brought this to the meet

something I'm familiar with the site, and familiar with a number of the couples that I've mentioned earlier who have managed to purchase, homes on the site. A lot of them are involved with my GAA club in Greystones, settled down and have their own families, and Newtown will have a successful team in time to come but these are individuals two I personally know since they were a young age and struggled to get homes of their own and now, they've acquired them so, that's where I'm coming from with this.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr Gerry Walsh. Just before I go to Lorraine, there was two questions from Cllr Joe Behan. I don't know Sorcha do you have the answers today. But he did ask two questions, one was, the levies per house and the other was the school. School land, I think was their land provided by a school was that the second question. So maybe do you have that at hand.

SORCHA: No I don't have figure levies to hand, I'm sorry with regards to schools you made a very good point Cllr Joe Behan there's no plan to provide a secondary school in Newtown and Department of Education don't seem to have a plan to provide one and yet we're going to continue these 800 house development to be continued to be built, only 200, 250 is built now, there's a knew primary school in temporary accommodation in porta cabins so there's excess of children there are in the town at primary level and no secondary school at all the idea of the new plan is moderate not stop development it is to moderate development in places where catch-up in needed in services, and I think Newtown is a perfect example of that. Absolutely, people have been able to get houses and that's a fundamental need to have

MICHELE: At the for your family, and I'm dealing with the groups all the time, the people moving to new houses are disappointed and upset with the lack of facilities in the town, maybe some are moving from bigger towns, maybe Bray and Greystones where everything was already there for them and they're surprised about the lack of school places and playing pitches and so on in the town. And the reality is these don't

come already made they take time to be delivered and it is exactly the scenario with the schools, and if you know there's no plan at the moment to deliver secondary school even though there's a perception one is definitely going to be needed so we're trying to moderate development and allow the higher levels of development to happen, where there are already the schools or playing pitches or the jobs, and to slow down or moderated the development in places where there's a lack of facilities. And Newtown happens to be one of the locations, there are other towns this is occurring as well, Ashford where there's a lot of housing being built and a lot started in the last few weeks and lack of school places so the general thrust of where we're coming from, is to moderate both in those places not to stop it from happening. In the particular of those two particular sites, that Cllr Gerry Walsh brought up, they have planning permission so they can be built tomorrow if there's that demand for housing they can get started tomorrow. This plan won't be adopted for another year. So, we can see what happens in that year but nothing you do with regards to zoning, negates that planning permission, that can still be utilised.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I did give Cllr Walsh a right to reply so I will give Cllr Behan a right to reply.

CLLR BEHAN: In relation to the schools issue I am sure that the department and the planners are aware that the Department of Education have already committed and allocated resources to build a second primary school in Newtown and it's quite obvious that they will provide a secondary school eventually, because two primary schools will be feeding that. I question whether we shouldn't be ensuring that there is a site for a secondary school. If it's not in this plan we have the opportunity over the next six or seven months to look at that. I accept that Sorcha won't have the figures, but we have the Chief Executive and

the Director of Planning. So maybe one of those could answer my question. The council extracts per unit in that particular development.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Behan.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I think it's 8,100 per unit. That is, if you class, 1, 2 and 3 development levies.

CLLR BEHAN: Is that it then? The council doesn't get any more money than €8.100?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: That is the development levies yes.

CLLR BEHAN: Any other charges the council gets?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: No.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So, we have heard both sides much the argument here. Sorcha, did you want to come back in.

SORCHA: Of course, there is land zoned for secondary school in Newtown. That is in the current development plan and the proposed development plan. There is a large zoned for a secondary school and an additional primary school. The point I am making is that the department have no plans to deliver a secondary school. It's not in their plan for the moment for Newtown.

MS GALLAGHER: We will go for a vote.

[Vote taken]

MS GALLAGHER: Okay, that is 16 for, 15 against and one not present. Motion carried.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed amendment number 104 is proposed by Shay Cullen. Do you have a second for this?

CLLR DUNNE: I will second that, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gail Dunne. The Chief Executive does not support this, so do you want to come in, Shay Cullen?

CLLR S CULLEN: I do, thank you, chairman. Very similar to the last amendment we are dealing with. This is an extension of Rockfield Development, currently under construction. I want to make the point there is 76% of the houses that have been sold in this development are all to first-time buyers. This land is fully serviced, water sewage and obviously road network. It's located beside the proposed national school, the Education Together national school next to it. The lands beside that

are actually for the secondary school, is zoned for a secondary school if the department decide to go ahead with it. If I could draw your attention to amendment 105, where it's obviously adjacent also to the proposed active open space for extra playing pitches and sporting facilities, these houses are affordable, as has been discussed earlier. Through the discussions I have had through Newtown forum and 2050 group in Newtown, this is the type of development that is required in Newtown for first-time buyers and indeed other purchasers of homes coming into the area. It's centrally located to the amenities we are talking about, schools, playing pitches and so on. And, as I said, at the outset, it's an extension to Rockfield Development that is under construction at the moment. For those reasons, chairman, I like to put forward this proposal or amendment to be forwarded, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: John Snell.

CLLR SNELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Thank you for allowing me in. I suppose, similar to the previous one, other than the previous amendment had a live application, it has planning permission. This is actually to change from active open space to new residential. This is actually to implement and put in zoned land when the reality is that the planners will be taking out zoned land further on in the process, or at least suggesting to us. I think the land that is there, if the developer could come at a later stage, like all developers are meant to, come and engage with all 32 public representatives, how they are aware of what is going on now is beyond me. That land is strategic located to what we are talking about. The possible progression of expanding schools and putting in extra school places for the growing population in Newtownmountkennedy. I am not against keeping in land that is zoned residential. I will be supporting, at some stage, but I can't support something that is being presented here today, not by the landowner, because the landowner, in theory knows nothing about this. The landowner has no engagement at this level of this draft development plan. That comes in a number of weeks' time, so it's beyond me how it's being presented here. I feel for the people who will lose out, who have had land zoned, who haven't had the opportunity of individual councillors speaking up for them at this stage. I believe that everyone should be given an equal and fair due process and they are not getting that at this stage. I believe that this should be put to one side, I would encourage

councillors to withdraw these amendments and allow the developer to put them forward themselves. Allow the community engagement and the public participation to engage, allow public representatives to engage. This is trying to shovel stuff in the back door, before it goes out on public display. That is contrary to what the County Development Plan is all about, in my opinion. I just, I am totally and utterly opposed to this stage, the way this has been done, I am not opposed to housing, I am not opposed to integrating new first-time buyers into communities. We have all outlined that (sound distortion) I don't support that, but I don't support most of the 32 members know nothing about. It's not fair and it's not right and I would ask the movers of this amendment to withdraw it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Sorcha, can I bring you in, please.

SORCHA: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I suppose the fundamental difference between this proposal and the last one is, as Cllr Snell mentioned, there is no planning permission on this land just as yet. There is planning permission on land to the north of it, where there is development under way at the moment. This land is the most peripheral land of all the land that was previously zoned in the previous development plan. So, we would have some concerns about zoning this land.

The second thing is compared to the previous proposal from Cllr Walsh, which was the Canadia development, that development, albeit the locals aren't happy with the level of services that are being developed, but they are willing to provide parks and playing fields as committed to. This doesn't bring any planning gain, it brings houses of course but there is no payback or planning gain for the community, it's just houses. At least the other development is bringing something with it.

Finally, I would add that this would bring about another 70 houses. That needs to come off another town for your core strategy to balance. So, you would be increasing the growth rate in Newtownmountkennedy and you have to take that off somewhere else, or else the numbers don't add up in the table. There obviously isn't a counterproposal where that would come out of, the Canadia development was a bit different because it already had planning permission, this is new fresh development, so it means, you are increasing the growth target for Newtown by another 70

houses which is let's say 200 people, so there is no proposal which town that is to come off as instead. So those are the reasons we wouldn't be supportive of this proposal.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay Cllr Gail Dunne.

CLLR DUNNE: I am supporting this; I have heard both sides and to be fair I think you should put it to the vote.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR D O'BRIEN: Just a quick one for Sorcha, a plan is supposed to reflect sustainable development, it's one of the big aims of all development plans and does this proposal represent sustainable development?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Sorry, Cllr Dunne, did you ask me a question.

CLLR DUNNE: No, I just asked you to put it to a vote for the members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Has anyone, I am going to be fair and give everyone their chance, I am not going to rush anyone. Shay Cullen, you wanted to come in.

CLLR S CULLEN: A couple of points made earlier there. I don't know exactly what Cllr Snell's inference is, but my only priority here is to provide people looking for homes who are denied homes in Bray and Greystones and areas they can't afford to buy a home in. That is my only interest in this, in case there is some other underlying suggestion there that I am not aware of. That is my only interest in this. The second point I want to make, chairman, is this was zoned in the existing plan and it was proposed that it could go into active open space. So, it's not actually active open space at the moment, okay. It's development land, so I just want to clarify those two points, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Ferris.

CLLR FERRIS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Cathaoirleach, I probably agree with most of what Cllr Snell said there. Sorcha was saying earlier there are 800 houses being built in Newtownmountkennedy.

Amendment number 103 was passed just by one vote, Cathaoirleach, just by one vote to allow for more housing development in Newtownmountkennedy, with no sign, no promise of amenities like the new school. Here we are, as Sorcha said, with another application in Newtownmountkennedy which would result in 70 houses. Now, I really feel Newtownmountkennedy is a small town, we are not talking about

larger towns. I don't know, I just think this is grossly overdevelopment for Newtownmountkennedy and I cannot support it. I would urge the other members not to support it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. No, I am completely against this amendment. It's not sustainable development. For all the talk about having land zoned for educational purposes, I invite the councillors to come and look at Greystones and see how long the land in Greystones was zoned for secondary school and we are still very far away from obtaining an actual building as yet. It's been an absolute crisis here in terms of school places and it's still ongoing. I have a question for Sorcha. If for some reason this amendment is passed and it's agreed that 70 extra houses can be built in Newtownmountkennedy, how do we decide where they are gotten from? Like they are going to have to come off somewhere else, like you said to make the tables balance. So, what happens if this amendment is passed?

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will ask Sorcha to answer that and then I am going for a vote.

SORCHA: There were two questions. The first question is, is it sustainable development? I suppose it's what your definition of sustainable development is, but it's right at the periphery of the town, on greenfield land at the moment. It's further away from existing facility, whether that be bus stops, schools and shops. So, we would say it's the least sustainable of form of development you would get in a town of that type. In terms of where the numbers come from, that is your decision and your core strategy. The difficulty is that if these extra numbers are added on to Newtown and we are going to have to put that into a core strategy table, in table 3 of your plan. We will have to put a note that when you to the up everything in the final column, it doesn't add up to the number, the target that you started with. We will have to like state it there, because anyone, a member of the public, minister, whoever it might be, will be able to see that the target is 11,000 and whatever houses. When you to the up the total let's say it's gone up to 12,000 by the time, we have finished these rezonings, so it will be obvious there is a discrepancy, so there will be no way to resolve it, unless the members propose to resolve it themselves by taking it out of somewhere else. I would imagine we would get submissions from, I know we keep

mentioning the Regulator, not just the Regulator, but members of the public and so on, who are concerned about sustainable development, who are saying why doesn't everything add up, why is there more houses in Newtownmountkennedy? Why is it Ashford or wherever it might be, being able to overshoot its target when the core strategy doesn't provide for that. I suppose that will come around at the next amendment stage so we will be back where we started at the amendment stage trying to deal with that surplus of units.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going to go to Lorraine.

CLLR S CULLEN: Can I come back in one more time.

CATHAOIRLEACH: No, you have been in twice already. Cllr Cullen, I have to be fair to everyone, to be honest about it.

CLLR S CULLEN: I want to withdraw the amendment.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Oh, right.

CLLR S CULLEN: Is that clear.

MS GALLAGHER: Yes, councillor.

CLLR S CULLEN: I am going to let the landowner in due course put in his own submission if necessary, but for the moment isle going to withdraw, after listening to the discussion I am going to withdraw.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Cullen. The next one is yourself again. It's amendment 105, do you have a proposer for this one, or a seconder I mean? Cllr Cullen do you have a second for it.

CLLR S CULLEN: I don't. It's basically open space if anyone wants to second it.

CLLR DUNNE: I will second that.

CLLR S CULLEN: Okay it's fairly self-explanatory. There is land in and around the GAA club in Newtown and the proposal is to put it forward as active open space. I think the CE has no objection.

CATHAOIRLEACH: No objection.

MS GALLAGHER: Agreed. Thank you, members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: The next one is amendment number 106; it's proposed by Sylvester Bourke. Do you have a seconder for this?

CLLR BOURKE: In actual fact these amendments were proposed by all the members of the Arklow Municipal District and the executive changed it to Sylvester Bourke, which is fine, so I am going to ask one of my fellow councillors to second this.

CLLR FITZGERALD: I will second that.

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Annesley.

CLLR BOURKE: This is very straightforward, it's to rezone a piece of land in Rathdrum to provide for four houses for family members. It's on a family-owned piece of land. It was actually, in the last plan it was within the boundary of the town. It has been moved out of the boundary in the current plan proposed by the executive, I am asking it to be put back in. This was the subject of a piece of, this piece of ground was subject to an application. The last time we were doing the Rathdrum plan it came in a day late as a submission by the owner of a family to provide housing for four family members. I remember on that day, the director of planning said that it's a day late coming in, but that if an application came in, it would be looked at sympathetically. Now it wasn't, but I feel that this was unfair, and, on that basis, I am proposing to put back right what should have been done. So, this is my recommendation, my proposal there, will second it and put it to a vote.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Sylvester Bourke. The Chief Executive does not support this, can I bring you in, Sorcha.

SORCHA: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, just to be, clear, this land wasn't zoned in previous plans, so this is new zoning. The councillors are doing a very difficult job at the moment with this development plan having to consider the dezoning of land, in light of our new obligations under the NPF and so on. No more so in Rathdrum where there are proposals to dezone quite a bit of land around the periphery of the town. I suppose to zone fresh new land for residential development on one hand, while you are dezoning, I suppose is worrisome. I suppose it goes against what you are trying to do in the remainder of the plan, which is to moderate the amount of residential zoning in order to comply with our new growth targets and so on. Yet, on the other hand, this is a brand-new zoning that hasn't been zoned before. We do acknowledge it's only for four houses, but I suppose we have concern about the inconsistency there.

CLLR BOURKE: Could I add it is serviced as well. The water and sewage services are into the site, just at the site.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: It's quite a foot loose site as well, it's a good bit outside the core boundary. It doesn't say it's for family members. I know Sylvester Bourke said that, but the actual amendment doesn't say that. One alternative would be to let the family members themselves come back and make the proposal.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: Apologies, Cathaoirleach, my question was, was planning permission on the land, but actually Sorcha answered that already by confirming it wasn't previously zoned.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Does anyone else want to come in on this? Cllr Bourke wants to put this to a, is everyone in agreement or is there dissent?

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: Not in agreement.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay I will go to Lorraine.

MS GALLAGHER: Okay, Cathaoirleach we will go to a vote. Proposed by Cllr Sylvester Bourke and seconded by Cllr Tommy Annesley.

[ Vote taken]

MS GALLAGHER: Okay 15 for, 16 against and one not present. Motion not carried.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Amendment number 107 is...

CLLR FORTUNE: Can I make a quick observation?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.

CLLR FORTUNE: I am unhappy with what is going on at the moment with our plan. I mean, at best all of these should be going out on public display for the public to make comment and then we as councillors when it comes back in can look at it objectively taking on board what the public are saying. Cllr Snell made an important point. This is supposed to be our discussion, the developers shouldn't have any input into this. I am not happy with what is going on here.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, we will note that. I need to get on with the plan here, in fairness I am going to note what Cllr Tom Fortune has said, going to ask that it noted but going to carry on with the plan. 107 is by Sylvester Bourke again. Do you have someone to second this? I will second this for you.

CLLR BOURKE: You will second this. This is straightforward. It says subject to compliance with retail planning guidelines and the sequential test, which means that if a site can't be found, within the main street, only then would it be looked for outside the main street. Land zoned for new employment at the Corballis Commercial Park may be considered

for development of a supermarket. That is the council-owned site where the funeral home is located outside Rathdrum.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorcha, do you want to come in on this and then I would like to say a few words on this myself.

SORCHA: I suppose we have set out there we would have concerns that this wouldn't be a good location for retail in the town. Particularly that it would undermine the primacy of the town centre for retail. As local councillors are aware, we are endeavouring to get RDF funding to do a major project in Rathdrum for regeneration of the town centre and to open up the land for development. We made an application last year and it wasn't successful, but we will be fighting for that again. There is land that we feel very strongly within the town centre that would be suitable for a supermarket if there is a demand for that. By allowing one to go quite a bit outside of the town core, in the periphery would undermine everything we are trying to achieve for the community in Rathdrum, so we would be proposing to this proposal.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Anyone else want to come in? Cllr Erika Doyle.

CLLR DOYLE: Just a quick comment if we are talking about town centres being gutted and desolate and not surviving. We shouldn't be enabling out of town centre card-dependent development. One kind of leads to the other, so I won't be supporting this, thank you, chair.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I like to say a few words on this. Cllr Behan, I won't interrupt you.

CLLR BEHAN: Thank you, chairman. I want to support it, because, as I would see it and from what I know of Rathdrum. Obviously, I am not as well versed in Rathdrum as yourself and other members are, it's quite a congested town and for an opportunity for a proper supermarket to be built it probably will need to be somewhere outside the town. I think what is being proposed here is very reasonable. I presume it has the support of the other members if I am right? I think it might have, if Sylvester Bourke has, I think he said a few of these motions came from the Council and the member themselves. I think it's very reasonable and I would be happy to support it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Behan. I suppose this was one that I was moving myself with some of the other members. Sorcha is absolutely correct when she says we applied for RRDF fundings and was unsuccessful, I also believe she is 100% correct that under the retail

planning guidelines that the supermarket should be located in the town centre. I fully agree with that. Having said that, we have one site in the town centre that is suitable. We don't own any other land in the town centre, and we do have a traffic problem in Rathdrum. For us to move this to the and all we are saying here is if it was to fail the sequential test, that another site would be on offer. That site is about 200 metres from the town centre. It also adjoins a large housing estate on the right-hand side and a smaller housing estate on the left side. There is also going to be new road coming down if planning is granted for a 93-house development, if they were successful in securing a site. We are not trying to take it out of the town centre, so we are not, all we are saying is that a second site would be available, if it failed the sequential test for the town centre. There is a site in the town centre, I fully agree with Sorcha, it is the correct site, if it was available, but there is an awful lot of building blocks to be put in place if that was to happen. While we don't have a large supermarket at the moment and there is the region in Rathdrum and the surrounding hinterland, probably 750 families travelling to other areas to do their shopping. That is all we are saying, it's only a secondary site we would be putting it in as. That is all I am going to say. People can make up their own mind. Anyone else want to come in on that?

CLLR FITZGERALD: I fully agree with what you have said Cllr Bourke and yourself. I am very much au fait with Rathdrum and the difficulties within the town there. That site would be an ideal site if nothing else is available. I would be supporting the motion.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr M Kavanagh.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: I was going to say that a supermarket in a town the size of Rathdrum, a decent size supermarket is an absolute requirement these days. They are everywhere. Rathnew only has a smaller population, much smaller population than Wicklow, but it's not a new Aldi out there. That brings people into the place, it makes people, it modernises places and I think it just takes, I think it enhances towns and villages to have decent supermarkets, so I will be supporting it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Anyone else want to come in on this? Cllr Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: Look it, there is different arguments for this. I know it might displace a bit of shopping in Arklow, but I think with COVID and lockdown and the involvement of some community groups and when

shopping was having to be delivered to people, it really emphasised the need for a supermarket in small rural communities like this, so I would be supportive of it. It's near enough to the town centre to add to the town centre and it's a good plan B.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Anyone else want to come in on this? Lorraine.

MS GALLAGHER: Okay, Cathaoirleach, amendment 107 proposed by Sylvester Bourke and seconded by Cllr Pat Kennedy.

[ Vote taken]

MS GALLAGHER: That is 25 for, six against and one not present.  
Amendment carried.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Amendment number 108 is proposed by Cllr Sylvester Bourke. I will second this one for you.

CLLR BOURKE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Yes, this was in relation to Rathdrum relief road. The executive is showing a particular relief road which would actually, it's an indicative road, but it would do a lot of damage to Parnell Park which is the centre piece of the public realm in Rathdrum where it's proposed to come out there. You can see there is AA1 coming down to C there below the Church of Ireland. That would be unfavourable towards the future of the park and the local community wouldn't be happy with it. So, it's proposed that the B, the indicative line B would be an alternative that would be acceptable. So that is what is being proposed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I come in on this?

CLLR BOURKE: Yes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I have been working with Sorcha and the planning team over the last few days and we have agreed on the wording that would be acceptable, I think to both the community and to the planning team and maybe Sorcha would read that wording out. Do you have it with you, Sorcha?

SORCHA: I do, but Lorraine you would have emailed it around to the members.

MS GALLAGHER: Yes, Cathaoirleach, or yes, Sorcha! Sorry. Yes, indeed.

SORCHA: So, everyone should have it in front of them.

MS GALLAGHER: Emailed this morning.

SORCHA: What it would say is the development of these lands provide an opportunity to provide a new street to the east of main street, the design be of which shall be determined following detailed survey, consideration of options and public consultation. So, the plan will be very vague and non-committal about where exactly any road would go. It would be subject to future public consultation and design work. I suppose the reason for that was we were concerned about actually showing on the plan exactly where roads would go when there wasn't a full detailed survey, that those alignments were feasible. But, so Cllr Kennedy, the Cathaoirleach has proposed a modification to this proposal that is in the original booklet.

CLLR BOURKE: I am happy enough with that, Sorcha.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Members, everyone happy with that? Does anyone want to come in on that? It means there would be a detailed survey done of the options there and that there would be a public consultation that would take place with the community before anything would happen. Is that all right with everyone? Would that be agreed?

CLLR BOURKE: Agreed.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you, members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed amendment number 109 is proposed by Cllr Shay Cullen and seconded by Irene Winters. The Chief Executive has no objection to this, so members, if you have no objections.

MS GALLAGHER: Cathaoirleach, can I come in there, I think Irene Winters has left and gone to a meeting. So could we have another proposer or seconder.

CLLR P O'BRIEN: I will second it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Paul O'Brien.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you.

CLLR SNELL: Can I just, Cathaoirleach, I welcome this, I commend the members for identifying the lands, but it was my understanding through the Town Team and through the Municipal District that they always spoke about the park and ride facilities possibly being on the other side of the road and I assume it's a different landowner. I am just wondering

in regard to the county development plan, by implementing this does it restrict another landowner from coming forward with a proposal on the other side of the road, closer to the N11?

CATHAOIRLEACH: I don't know, Cllr Cullen, would you come in on this?

CLLR S CULLEN: I suppose, chairman, I don't see how much closer to the N11 you can get to this particular field. It's effectively about 50 yards from the N11. It's a good location. I am not aware of any other land that was ever considered...

CLLR SNELL: The other land, Shay.

CLLR S CULLEN: If I could just finish.

MS GALLAGHER: Let Cllr Cullen finish, Cllr Snell.

CLLR S CULLEN: Strategically close to the N11 I have heard of no lands put forward. I think a park and ride facility that would encapture Ashford, Rathnew and Wicklow in terms of the N11 is welcome. I can see this as being a superb location, if it's decided to be looked at by the NTA or whoever decides on the park and ride into the future. That is the proposal as it is.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Snell, do you want to come in.

CLLR SNELL: I will be supporting this, but my question is does it hinder a landowner coming forward in the future? The land I am talking about, Cllr Cullen is, if you look at the map there, it's people who are familiar with where the Fawcett's Circus, once a year they set up right at the roundabout, I believe it's John Wilding's land, it doesn't matter, it's irrelevant, but I am just saying, whether that then be, maybe the Chief Executive could answer. If this is implemented now, does it restrict someone else from coming forward? The other site, in my opinion would be better, but that is irrelevant, if we can get a park and ride.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorcha, can you come in on this?

SORCHA: I suppose it doesn't prevent someone else applying for planning permission for a park and ride. I suppose questions would be asked in the assessment of any such application why isn't this site identifying as a park and ride and why is there a different site? Why is there a conflict there? We are only at the draft stage, so people can come in and make their submissions with regard to possible sites and at the next stage you could weigh up the pros and cons of the different sites that you come in with. I suppose that is the stage we are at, if there is another site you could propose that now and make a decision

regarding one or two at the end of the process. I should add that during the currency of the plan, before we get to adopt the plan, we may be getting more information on park and ride, on bus-based park and ride along the N11 from the NTA. They have set up a park and ride, so they are looking at this and looking at the optimal locations where that would be along the N11. It may well be that they come up with a report that has another suggestion altogether. So, we will bear that in mind and let you know if anything comes forward from the NTA. But look, it doesn't, putting this in now doesn't rule anything in or out, because it's only a draft plan at the moment.

CLLR SNELL: Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Erika Doyle.

CLLR DOYLE: Just a question, thank you, chair. Relating to the question about someone else putting their land forward. If we vote on this now, is this almost like an endorsement of this particular site by the council to have it voted on and supported in the development plan? Maybe I am, maybe it's a question that can't be answered, maybe it's a question of interpretation. To make it more favourable. I am not sure if I have that right or if that is, that would be a concern?

CATHAOIRLEACH: I think it would be fair to say, if this answers the question, the Chief Executive has no objection to this going forward. I know that is not quite answering your question, Cllr Erika Doyle, but I think if the Chief Executive has no, he doesn't have a problem, it is only going out on public display. Is that all right? Is everyone in agreement with this? No dissent, agreed? Okay, thank you.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you, members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Amendment 110 is proposed by Cllr Gail Dunne, do you have a seconder for this?

CLLR ANNESLEY: I will second that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Tommy Annesley. So, the Chief Executive does not support this. Do you want to come in?

CLLR DUNNE: This is the only amendment I have in the plan. I suppose the reason is because there is some community pain out of it from the local soccer club which is alongside the stretch of land. It has been zoned in the current plan. In fairness in light of what has gone on over the last half an hour I understand the councillor's concern. So, I have decided to defer this and maybe the landowner could come in afterwards

in the next phase of the development and maybe go forward that way. I think that would be the most sensible thing to do in light of what has gone on, chairman.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you so you are withdrawing it today.

CLLR DUNNE: Yes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Amendment 111 is proposed by Sylvester Bourke. Have you got a seconder?

CLLR BOURKE: I am asking one of my feel low councillors from the Arklow area.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will second it for you.

CLLR BOURKE: Okay. Basically, it's Aughrim, putting back in three pieces of that land that were rezoned in the last plan. The reason is to have a variety of sites available for local need in Aughrim. I believe we have taken far too much out. It's for a total of 14 houses and it will free up some sites. Now that Aughrim has got approval from Irish Water to upgrade the sewage plant we should see a bit of activity in Aughrim over the next few years I would be hoping. I believe this is fair and reasonable.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Do you want to come in, Sorcha, the Chief Executive does not support this proposed amendment?

SORCHA: It's similar, I suppose to the other zoning proposals in Newtown and Ashford. We tried to calibrate and create a plan that meets your new requirements with respect to your core strategy and your National Planning Framework. Hence the reason for the exclusion of the pieces of land. We don't support the addition of these back in for the same reasons as before. The amount of land rezoned won't calibrate for your growth target for Aughrim and won't calibrate with your core strategy. Again, it's very peripheral land. The land that is number 3 is the highest land in the town as well, so in terms of visual impact we would have concerns about that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Anyone want to come in on this? Cllr Mags Crean.

CLLR CREAN: I have a concern with these proposals that are looking to put back in zoned land, that it will be towns like Greystones who have a housing shortage that will suffer in having to reduce numbers. So, I just don't agree with these, if they are exceeding the population targets and other towns are going to have to make up for that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Anyone else want to come in on that. Cllr Peir Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: Look it, this development plan is all new to me. After listening to John Snell earlier on, I feel, uncomfortable, I would much prefer if developers actually put these submissions in themselves because I think all the numbers will impact everyone else. So, I just wanted to state that. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Anyone else looking to come in?

MS GALLAGHER: I think Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: Sorry, Cathaoirleach, just a question as to whether or not there is planning permission on those existing places if Sorcha could confirm that?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Before I bring Sorcha in, sorry, Cllr Snell you want to come in.

CLLR SNELL: I think if Cllr Bourke would maybe take on board maybe allowing the landowners to bring these to the, when it's out on public display if they could make a submission themselves and if they want to contact the 32 councillors and make the arguments. We won't have heard the arguments that you have heard or whatever, so I think it's more important that we let the landowners bring this and let everyone make an informed decision. I think it would be more suitable if the councillor would withdraw it at this stage, but it's his decision.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorcha, I think you can come in there. There was a question for you.

SORCHA: In relation to site number one there is actually two proposals within that. It's to zone part of it or E, just when you see the words 'Aughrim town plan ' it's quite a pale yellow, that is going from zoned to RE - unzoned to RE. Where it says Aug3 and Aug4 and number 3 there is no planning permission on those. On the site Aug4 there is an application for one house at the moment. So overall, there is no permission granted on the majority of them.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr M Kavanagh.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: Can I just say that under the principle of fairness, I think if other councillors have been requested to withdraw and have done so, I think it wouldn't be unreasonable to ask for this, because again there are some parts of this that have no planning permission already. So, it's exactly the same scenario, so it wouldn't be fair to ask

one person to withdraw and not to ask someone else to allow the developers to make their submissions and let us all judge it then on an equal footing down the line.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Does anyone else want to come in on this? The only thing I would like to say myself is the reason why there is no houses built in Aughrim is because there was no sewerage in Aughrim. There was no sewage system in Aughrim. It was great to get that announcement that Aughrim is going to be upgraded so I support Sylvester Bourke on this myself.

CLLR BEHAN: Cllr Glennon is looking to get in.

CLLR GLENNON: I fundamentally disagree with Cllr Snell's view; I would think that any councillor with a serious interest in his village or town is entitled to bring to this meeting their views about land that has been dezoned. I don't agree with his point at all that there in some way there is something remiss in it. I think it would be handing the planners unfettered control by not having input from councillors at this meeting, that is the point I want to make.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Glennon. Anyone else want to come in. Pat Fitzgerald.

CLLR FITZGERALD: I support the proposed amend. As we all know their mass been very little construction or houses built in Aughrim in many years. 15 years, 14 years for social housing. So, I fully am in agreement with this proposed amendment.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you. Cllr Erika Doyle.

CLLR DOYLE: I just wonder if councillors who are putting forward proposals that they know exceed amounts and they know it has to come from somewhere else, if they have any opinions on where this should come from?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Snell.

CLLR SNELL: Just right to reply. I don't disagree with Cllr Glennon in that every public representative has the right to engage. That is, when we are elected democratically that is our right to engage in this process. My issue is that we are engaging in a process where we are only submitting and forwarding some lands that have been taken out of the plan. I feel that is unfair and unjust. So, the individual, i.e., me, I decide to cherry-pick some land that was zoned in the last plan and move forward, at this stage. What I am saying is I want an open and

transparent process where everyone, every landowner, if their land is going to be dezoned, I think it's not fair that they don't get an equal opportunity at the next stage. When it goes out on public display. So, I am not saying that any councillor doesn't have the right to move something, but I believe that when it comes to residential and they are not the landowner themselves, so how do they know in regards, without engaging? So, what I am saying is let it go out on public display. Let the landowners come to all 32 elected members and we all make an informed decision. I think that is good practice.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Snell. Cllr Bourke.

CLLR BOURKE: I am happy to let this go to a vote, Cathaoirleach. I think we should vote on it and move on.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Lorraine.

CLLR BOURKE: I do think that Aughrim has been starved of sites, the council themselves couldn't even build houses in Aughrim because there was no sewage. That is coming, it has been announced. I think that there is a pent-up demand in Aughrim from local people who can't build, can't get sites and I think we are doing them a disservice by not providing them with sites. So that is why I am prepared to put this to a vote.

MS GALLAGHER: Okay, amendment 111 proposed by Cllr Sylvester Bourke and seconded by Cllr P Kennedy.

[ Vote taken]

MS GALLAGHER: That is 18 for, 13 against and one not present.  
Amendment carried.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed amendment number 112 is proposed by Avril Cronin and seconded by Patsy Glennon. I just want to see; the Chief Executive does not support the proposed amendment. So, Cllr Cronin, do you want to come in here.

CLLR CRONIN: Thank you very much, the proposed land has been zoned in the county develop. Plan. I am looking to keep it as zoned land. It's located in Dunlavin and anyone who knows the area will know is that

it's located beside the local playground the secondary school and the primary school. It's also located in parallel with the current council estate. It's, when you drive out you are facing the green space area. So, in the past 18 years we haven't had any private development in Dunlavin. In that space of time, we have had one council estate and three social housing estate. I am asking for this to be kept in to allow for a private development, so people from the area can continue to live in the area, instead of having to go across the border into Kildare to buy houses. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So, this is, the Chief Executive does not support this. So, Sorcha, do you want to come in here.

SORCHA: It's the same as the previous, the amount of land will overreach the growth target for Dunlavin and conflict with your core strategy and for that reason we don't support it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Edward Timmins, you wanted to come in.

CLLR TIMMINS: I would like to speak briefly in support of this. Like a lot of the land in Dunlavin has been dezoned. Dunlavin, as Avril said has had no private estates built in over 20 years. One of the intentions of this development plan, it's actually one of the policies of this development plan is that towns and villages will have a mix development between private and public housing. What this tries to do, this amendment tries to follow that plan and allow some private development in Dunlavin. I mean, if someone is interested in building a house in Dunlavin or other places in in west Wicklow, it's welcome, because there are no houses being built at all. The only show in town is social housing. So, I would very much welcome this amendment.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: The same points we have made before, the concerns if this is going across exceeding the core strategy growth target how do we balance the table? Do we have any idea of how many houses could be developed on these lands if they were rezoned?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sylvester Bourke.

CLLR BOURKE: If I could answer that question or could even deign the question about how we balance the tables at the end. Some of the speakers are making the assumption that all of these lands will be applied for, but surely the executive will know from experience that not every piece of land is going to be applied for simultaneously within the

lifetime of this plan and it's a moveable feast. Where one site in one town may reason into difficulties, others are available and can be moved around surely, wouldn't that be common sense so there is an even pace of development, rather than working through the numbers, rather than being prescriptive and saying you can only build 100 here and no more when other towns may not be reaching their targets. Surely can be moved around during the plan. I would like to ask the executive, that they have mentioned that Newtown have exceeded their growth by 70%. I can't believe that that the executive granted that number. Why did they exceed that number, it seems like they have gone way overboard, and I would love to know the reason why they were granted in in the first place? There is no explanation of that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Derek Mitchell.

CLLR MITCHELL: I would like to be involved how many houses would be involved here and if there is sewage in Dunlavin. I am conscious it's a problem that there have been no estates built for 20 years and people want to live in their own area, and this is in the middle of Dunlavin. It seems a suitable place to build, but I am disturbed that it's being held to such tight numbers by an external plan when it's such a central place to build in town.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Anyone want to come in on this?

CLLR O'NEILL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Again, I would be supportive of this motion from Cllr Cronin. My whole issue whether it be Dunlavin or Newtownmountkennedy or wherever you like, I think the inclusion of affordable and also bungalow type units for the elderly and people with disabilities. I had a motion in there later on, we should really be considering that aspect of it, with a growing, an older population and the number of houses that we have in social housing at the moment where maybe there would be only one person living in them, a three or four-bed house. I think we should be thinking ahead of ourselves a little bit and consider the position of the elderly down the road, maybe 10 or 15 years, where they reckon there is going to be up to 25% of the population would be over the age of 25. So, no matter what part of the county we are talking about, as regards building, I am all for housing, as such, but I think there should be huge consideration put into the fact that there are elderly people, a lot of elderly people, where bungalows would suit. I have tried this before, six years ago, to include mixed housing

estates and also facilities for people with disabilities. I would support Cllr Cronin's. I know that Dunlavin is again another area starved of housing, so I would be fully supportive of it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Does anyone else want to come in on this? Do you want to go, Sorcha, do you want to come back on anything there?

SORCHA: I could come back in on Sylvester Bourke's point I which know he just said to be controversial.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Well then don't.

SORCHA: Right, I won't so.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you want to move to a vote.

CLLR CRONIN: Can I say one more thing on the issue. I know we are hearing about numbers and about balancing things out, but surely there should be a balance between private houses and social and council houses. We need to allow people to have the opportunity to live in the town that they grow up in and have the opportunity to buy houses in the area as well. For me, I find it very disheartening, people that I went to school with moving to Naas or Newbridge because there is housing there. They don't qualify for social or council housing. It's important when we speak about balance that we speak about balance in terms of all aspects of housing, not just numbers, so I like to it go to a vote.

CLLR FORTUNE: Can I make a comment before we go to a vote? What Avril is saying is 100%. The problem we are wrestling with here trying to put this together properly is driven by national policy. This is driven by Government parties. I struggle with this, because we all, we are all on the same page and we all need to look after the towns and villages, but we are not being allowed do it. If we do build 1,000 houses or 2,000 houses in different places, they are going to have to be taken off somewhere else. It's an interesting exercise.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Lorraine, we will go for the vote.

MS GALLAGHER: Amendment number 112 proposed by Avril Cronin and seconded by Patsy Glennon.

[ Vote taken]

MS GALLAGHER: So that is 22 for, 8 against, one not present and one abstaining. Amendment carried.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Amendment 113 is proposed by Cllr Vincent Blake and seconded by Cllr John Mullen. The Chief Executive has no objection to this amendment? Members are you in agreement with this. Anyone any dissent? Okay.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you, members, all agreed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Amendment number 114 is proposed by Cllr Derek Mitchell. Cllr Mitchell, anyone to second this.

CLLR MITCHELL: Irene Winters did say she would.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: I will second if.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Again, the Chief Executive has no objection to this, so if members, if you are in agreement with this, we will move on. Has anyone any dissent against this? Thank you.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you, members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Amendment number 115 it's proposed by Shay Cullen. Cllr Cullen, anyone to second this?

CLLR S CULLEN: I don't.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will second this for you.

CLLR P O'BRIEN: I will second it either.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Paul O'Brien.

CLLR S CULLEN: This is a tourism zoning. It's close to the, well it's close to the reservoir there, the reservoir works or Vartry Trails as they are known. Tourism zoning that is connected to the village. It's basically to enhance the tourism offering that we have in the Roundwood area. That is effectively it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, so the Chief Executive does not support this, so Sorcha, I will bring you in.

SORCHA: Look, we are not opposed to supporting tourism, I suppose our concern is the periphery of the land, it's really outside of Roundwood and right up against the reservoir. We would have concerns about the environmental impacts we will have to run it through SEA and risk assessment. It may be that it comes back that it's okay subject to mitigation, by couldn't support it straight away.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Anyone want to come in on this? Sorry, Chief Executive, you are on mute.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Sorry, Sorcha, could you just clarify how long that will take?

SORCHA: It will really depend on what is passed here today. All the proposals have to go back to our consultants to be, to go through SEA, which is Strategic Environmental Assessment, so the policies and the words you have changed in every objective need to be changed to make sure they don't give rise to any impact. Mainly what needs to be tested are the zoning changes to see if they conflict with any protected sites or vulnerable aquifers. So that will take, cumulatively all the amendments probably take about two weeks to be done. Concurrently we will have to do an appropriate assessment of anything that is passed here today. We will try and get that done as quickly as possible. Then the outcome of that assessment, that gets published alongside the draft plan. So, say the members were to pass something today that ends up in if the draft plan, but does conflict with protecting the environment that would be flagged in the environmental report, so that the public can see there is an element to the plan 25 is environmentally worrying or problematic. At least there is public information, everyone knows that is the case so it's not being hidden. So that will take a week or two to be finalised once these amendments are finalise and are published with the draft plan.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: Can I...

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Ferris is next.

CLLR FERRIS: I want clarification from Sorcha. It says that in the Chief Executive's initial response it says equitable while it is noted that the proposed zoning for tourism only, the CE is concerned that the proposed amendment, which includes the zoning of land not previously zoned." So, does that mean that if this goes through there will be rezoning on the land?

SORCHA: This is now zoning, land that is not currently zoned so. Brand new zoning.

CLLR FERRIS: Be zoned for which?

SORCHA: For tourism. So, the land is unzoned at the moment.

CLLR FERRIS: Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Thank you, I am just a little bit confused about what development would be possible on this land if we approve this amendment today. I am concerned about the Chief Executive commenting on the potential environmental impact. It just sound as bit back to front that we are possibly voting an amendment today and we

don't know the full potential impacts of it. I am not clear on what tourism development exactly would be entailed if we do go for rezoning.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR D O'BRIEN: Quick one, Cathaoirleach. Again, we rely on Wicklow Tourism to present their vision for the county. So, is this part of what their plans?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr M Kavanagh.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: I just wanted to ask, it says tourism development, but is there any idea what kind of development are we talking about?

Maybe **glamping** or camping or caravan site or walks or trails?

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going to bring Cllr Cullen back in.

CLLR S CULLEN: This is effectively for the, the fact that the Vartry Trails have been such a success, there is potential for camping and **glamping**. That is as much as it is. It has connectivity to the village via a foot path right to the village. For those reasons it's been looked at from a tourism point of view, in terms of camping and **glamping**, yes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

CLLR MITCHELL: I would walk up there frequently on the trails around the reservoir. I always feel they are very sprayed from Roundwood village, if there was some way of getting to Roundwood village it would be a lot better at this point.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Anyone else want to come in here? Cllr Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Again, just from a tourism perspective I would like to support this amendment, subject to environmental assessments being in its favour. But generally, I just wanted to voice my approval for this, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Cllr John Snell.

CLLR SNELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. In theory I do support this, I would make note that it is on a flood risk assessment. All along by the reservoir is already marked I believe. That was something that Cllr Edward Timmins this moved in regard to the Baltinglass plan. He was discussing **glamping** as well and there was an issue with that. So, it's just to get clarity on it, but I am 100% supportive of tourism, but I think that the members would need more detail.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, I am going to bring Sorcha in.

SORCHA: Just to clarify the hatched area around the lake, the lake is shown in green and the shadow area within which this site it isn't a flood risk area. That is the 200-metre buffer around the lake, which is the kind of, I won't say it's a protection zone, it's more of a notification zone that if anyone wanted to build something that could give rise to a risk to the water quality in the reservoir that that would be a concern. So, say if someone were to put in a septic tank that would be the area that would be resisted. In terms of flood risk this site probably wouldn't be at risk from flooding per se from the reservoir, there is a water course that comes down through it, so it may well be that one of the boundaries of the site is at risk of flooding. If the actual development that is envisaged isn't designed out at this stage, the units, whether they are glamping units, that small risk could be avoided.

The main thing in this buffer zone around the Vartry reservoir is the risk on the ground water and the water quality. So, I think that is the reason why Cllr Cullen put in that this would be subject to connection of the development to mains water and wastewater services so that those potential impacts on water quality would be eliminated. So that no consideration would be given to an onsite water treatment plant. Those are like mitigation objectives. They would probably help in assisting rule out environmental impacts, like I said we will run it through the SEA process, just to make sure there are no impacts, but those two phrases probably considerably assist towards ruling out adverse negative impacts with regard to water quality.

CLLR S CULLEN: One other thing as you well know. The Dublin City Council engineer who looks after the reservoir there. All of these planning permissions and so on would be run by him and he would have the final say in term of the water and the effects on the reservoir so that is important to state that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: You have heard the arguments for and against. Cllr Cullen, do you want to move it to a vote.

CLLR S CULLEN: Yes.

MS GALLAGHER: Amendment number 115 proposed by Shay Cullen and seconded by Cllr Paul O'Brien.

[ Vote taken]

So that's 23 for, 6 against and 3 not present. Amendment carried.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Next one is amendment 116, proposed by Cllr Vincent Blake and Cllr Vincent Blake do you have a seconder for this?

CLLR BLAKE: Em.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr John Mullen. Let me check this. Chief Executive has no objection to this, so, if everybody's happy with that, any dissent against that.

SORCHA: Chief Executive isn't for this?

CATHAOIRLEACH: There's two parts to this. My apologies. Sorcha, can I bring you in?

SORCHA: Yes, this is a proposal to add back into two pieces of land in the secondary zone in sill Laleh. As you know the smaller towns have just three zone plans, primary secondary and territory, so area one is beside Kerry Foods, so the objective is to extend the boundary there and include an objective reserved for employment use and area two, is an extra area of secondary land as well which is a mixed-use zone so primarily housing and other uses, if they come about. So, the Chief Executive has no issue with designating additional land for employment use, but in terms of the other land which could be developed for housing use, again, it is the same issue as before, that, it may allow Shillelagh to overshoot its target.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, I will bring in Cllr Vincent Blake here.

CLLR BLAKE: Thanks Chairman and obviously, as Sorcha said she's no problem with the zoning of it for Kerry Foods, Shillelagh is a difficult place like Dunlavin, and in facts some of the only site in Shillelagh that can be developed is a council-owned piece of land, so we're limited to a situation that,

we won't have a problem with any housing in Shillelagh in the future because there's no land zoned for it. Shillelagh is a difficult place. There's the Derry River fault down through it, and any of that side of it, is not suitable for that development. So, it is limit in terms where we have in Shillelagh, and this one area was originally zoned for residential development and it is to rein state that piece of area, that would give some chance to build houses in Shillelagh in the future. Thanks Chairman.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Does anybody else want to come in on this.

CLLR MULLEN: Yes, just again in support of Cllr Vincent Blake's motion and again, just, all of the in relation to Cllr John Snell's comments and others, you know, it wouldn't have been going through this process if we had flexibility to change the growth figures, or if we had the right to set our own plan because this is not our own plan this, is a plan written with growth target, in a village by the regulator and I think we will be revisiting that whole issue when the time comes so again, people of Shillelagh and rural district are entitled to have a house eventually.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. Anybody else looking to come in? Cllr Anne Ferris.

CLLR FERRIS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, I'm wondering, I mean it is one amendment but there's one, two parts of it. So how are we going to vote on that?

CATHAOIRLEACH: The Chief Executive has no objections to the area one, so I think if members have no dissent on the first part of it, has any member thinks dissent in relation to area one, that's the piece of land for employment use?

No. Can we take that as agreed, that part of it?

And then the second part of its Sorcha outlined the Chief Executive's concerns there in relation to housing and it is something I suppose we've dealt with earlier on. So, we can, if Cllr Vincent Blake wants us to take that to a vote, we can take do that now.

CLLR BLAKE: Have a vote on it, as I said, we're very limited

what we can do in Shillelagh and this is one small piece of ground we might build a small number of houses on.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed by Cllr Vincent Blake, and seconded by Cllr John Mullen.

Cllr Gerry Walsh was it.

CLLR WALSH: One quick question, Cllr Vincent Blake refers to the lands, were they council-owned lands earlier in the presentation.

CLLR BLAKE: No, I said, sorry. I said at the outset the only piece of land that is probably included in it, actually it is council owned land at the moment we can develop, and this is just a small bit of addition to it, that would be privately owned land we can build a number of houses on as well.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We're voting on the second part of

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you

CLLR KAVANAGH: Is there any idea how many houses you're talking about.

CLLR BLAKE: No. Housing development in likes of Shillelagh and Tinahely are very low density, we're not talking about 800 houses in Newtown or in Greystones, Shillelagh's a small village but we do need a bit of sustainability in t

CLLR KAVANAGH: Sorry, within an area of land that size, which if you look at the other outline of buildings and stuff, it looks quite a considerable amount of land so roughly what, would you be talking about, 350, 100?

CLLR BLAKE: Not although all, development in places like Shillelagh, the planners will always insist it is low density, of low density, other than in their own council-owned lands.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. Lorraine we'll go for the Cllr Erika Doyle.

CLLR ERIKA DOYLE: Are we right, if we vote for this, we'll do that blankly without any idea about what's being - it is to zone it, no suggestion as to what could happen after that?

CLLR BLAKE: It is a boundary change to reinstate the boundary of Shillelagh, that's all it is.

CLLR MULLEN: We're not granting planning permission here, we're keeping a little piece of land in a village for the potential for somebody to apply for planning permission and go through all the hoops and all the stages they'll have to go through to get sustainable planning permission through the county council, which is as you know not easy. So, we're not granting planning permissions here. You think we were the way some people were questioning.

CLLR FERRIS: I think we know that.

MS GALLAGHER: Proposed by Cllr Vincent Blake, seconded by Cllr John Mullen on the second part of the amendment.

(Votes taken). So that is 23 for, 7 against, one not present and one abstaining.

Amendment carried.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK, thank you. So, that's the end of my pages in that book so I'm going to come back to amendment number 97 which was proposed by Cllr Peir Leonard and seconded by Cllr Lourda Scott.

MS GALLAGHER: Yes. And what was it 97?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Amendment number 97.

Cllr Peir Leonard there.

CLLR LEONARD: Yeah, I'm here.

MS GALLAGHER: She sent in the wording there over, so the proposed new wording is that this is in relation to the amendment was to prohibit any future of use of Arklow Rock as a landfill site. That was proposed amendment. So, the proposed new wording is - "That the current outline and elevation of Arklow Rock be preserved and that any future use, post-quarrying be an environmentally sensitive nature" - is that correct Cllr Peir Leonard?

CLLR LEONARD: Correct. I tried to make it more positive than second.

CLLR BOURKE: I second that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK, so the first one was proposed by Cllr Peir Leonard and Cllr Lourda Scott, so, it is already proposed, that's how we would take that. So, you're happy to propose the amended wording, Cllr Sylvester Bourke.

CLLR BOURKE: Happy enough yes.

MS GALLAGHER: You want time to consider, Sorcha. Do you want me to read it again?

SORCHA: I didn't get all of that.

MS GALLAGHER: Could I say it again - that the current outline and elevation, of Arklow Rock be preserved, and that any future use post quarrying, of an environmentally sensitive nature.

SORCHA: Thanks. I suppose the only question I'd raise is that there's planning permission as far as I'm aware for, there's current live planning permission to continue quarrying there, which may allow for some changes to the outline and elevation of Arklow Rock, so, I don't see how this would sit with that if there's consent to already existing to alter the elevation to Arklow Rock that's my only concern that there's a contradiction there.

CLLR LEONARD: Will that affect the highest part of it?

SORCHA: I'm not fully au fait of all the conditions, I will be up front of it, I don't deal with planning applications, but we will get you that information few want. I would be concerned if there's an active planning permission, that does allow for changes, albeit they may be minor to the outline and elevation, I would be concerned this objective would be somewhat meaningless if there's consent to make such changes so I wouldn't want to mislead you that, that such an objective in the

development plan would do exactly what you wanted to do. But I suppose if you were too keen to let this be voted on, and if the other members, were happy to support you it would go in a draft plan and then we could bring it through the process, and if there was conflict or needed to reword it, we could do that at the next stage.

CLLR LEONARD: I would be happy enough to do that.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: I want to point out, I don't know if I'm right, she says after the quarrying is finished so it is after any existing stuff that would be affected by the quarrying that they will be the conditions that are in. Is that right Cllr Peir Leonard?

CLLR LEONARD: It is, but what Sorcha is referring to is the preserving the outline of the elevation and live planning permission at the moment.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: OK.

CLLR KAVANAGH: Can I make a suggestion then, that the words "post quarrying" comes after – "the current outline and elevation of Arklow Rock post quarrying", in other words when the quarrying is finished and done with, be preserved and that any future use, be of an environmentally sensitive nature.

CLLR LEONARD: No, because the whole objective of preserving the outline and the elevation is that they don't quarry and don't take the look of the quarry, sort. The, it is part of Arklow's identity I suppose the current, what's there at the moment. Look I'm happy enough to let it run like that, and maybe review it at a later stage looking at the planning permission and stuff that's currently live.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Shay Cullen.

CLLR CULLEN: Just a quick observation, I feel uncomfortable talking about this, you have an active quarry in Arklow that as far as I'm aware this is no sign of it even coming close to completion in terms of quarrying. And we're talking about you know, trying to preserve it. I think this is unfair to the Roadstone, that run a successful quarry and I'm not sure that

we're, we should be speak being it, because, you know, it is a business, it is an active quarry, I really don't - I do genuinely feel uncomfortable talking about this, I don't think we should be going near it. That's my personal view.

CLLR FERRIS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I agree with Cllr Shay Cullen there. I think that the people working up, down there, in the business, it is sending them the wrong signal, it really will cause upset and needless worry with this, and as I was saying again last year, say this so Sorcha, would it be more appropriate, if appropriate at all for the Arklow town plan?

CATHAOIRLEACH: I'm bringing in the Cllr Pat Fitzgerald and Director of Planning.

CLLR FITZGERALD: I agree what Cllr Shay Cullen said there, there's no issue at Arklow Rock into the future, years and years, we'll gone through three development plans and still won't be a problem. I'm very close to what is going on out there, and I agree with Cllr Shay Cullen there, we are sending out the wrong message here. Arklow Rock there might be issues years ago but when I read the environmental policies there will be no issues at Arklow Rock in the future, and as I said, at one stage, there was a requirement for 20 million tonnes of rock, so, look, I just think, and I fully understand what Cllr Peir Leonard is coming to, the fact is that there won't be a problem out there for a long, long time, hopefully there will be no problems.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I'm going to bring in the Director of Planning, Breege Kilkenny.

BREEGE: My only comment was that maybe this would be better discussed at the Arklow Town Plan stage. You know, and it might be giving better consideration Cllr Peir Leonard at that particular point.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Would you leave it for the Arklow town plan?

CLLR LEONARD: Yeah, look it, it is beside a special area of

conservation as well Shay, there's part of the rock that can't be touched and it is a unique identity in the town. All I'm trying to do is to protect that. For the public, look I'm happy to withdraw it, and leave it in the area plan because I know all 32 members aren't fully familiar with the site.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, amendment 97 has been withdrawn. I'm now going to go to, so, that finishes the book as we have it, we have other ones we want to go through, the next one.

CLLR FORTUNE: I have to go. I'm running out of time, so I apologise.

MS GALLAGHER: 117, was it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Mine are not numbered now.

MS GALLAGHER: We've done 4. We've done 72, we've done modification 108. Cllr Mags Crean. Those ones.

SORCHA: We have five from Cllr Mags Crean one from Cllr Sylvester Bourke left off the list originally and one from Gerry's and one from Cllr Erika Doyle about walking routes, so some were left over from last week and some were new.

CATHAOIRLEACH: First one is Cllr Mags Crean and chapter to, development plan strategy. Do you have a second remember for that? Cllr Mags Crean Tom was my seconder. If I could get a seconder.

CATHAOIRLEACH: On Cllr Rory O'Connor.

Chief Executive does not support the proposed amendments so Cllr Mags Crean do you want to come in here.

CLLR CREAN: I looked through the response to save time I'm happy to accept the Chief Executive's response on each of them so the ones he doesn't support, I'm happy to withdraw, and the ones that are supported I'm happy to leave in.

MS GALLAGHER: This is withdrawn.

CLLR CREAN: Yes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Chapter six, is that withdrawn as well. Yeah.

MS GALLAGHER: Yeah.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So, chapter 7 community development Chief Executive has no objection to proposed amendments, so I need a seconder for that Cllr Mags Crean. Cllr Rory O'Connor.

OK. Thank you. And is everybody in agreement with that? Yeah.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Next one, so that's the built heritage chapter eight, Cllr Mags Crean do you have a seconder.

MS GALLAGHER: Are you withdrawing it? Yes, Cllr Mags Crean is withdrawing.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Chapter 8 does not support built heritage again, so withdrawing that one again.

CLLR CREAN: Yes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you next one is chapter 19, Cllr Sylvester Bourke management, do you have a seconder.

CLLR BOURKE: One of my fellow councillors to second that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Who was that? Cllr Melanie Corrigan.

CLLR BOURKE: I want to give background to this Cathaoirleach, over the last year, I've had a number of farmers contact me worried about their future and their viability because of cap reform and some were asking me about glamping which is allowed under the current plan but because one of them is actually in a coastal zone, it is very restrictive in the coastal zone, and I was just concerned that maybe he wouldn't get a fair hearing, on planning. So, that's why I just put this in there to give farmers in the coastal zones a chance to develop, I'm not talking about opening it up to speculators now, wholesale, I'm talking about small-scale additional farm enterprise if the farmer can comply with the regulations of waste management et cetera. It might be something the areas of outstanding national beauty maybe interested, I know caulk talking to Cllr Melanie Corrigan it is of interest in her area so I'd accept Sorcha's wording there, she helped me out and thank you very

much Sorcha, and I think I'd like to put that on display, let it out for discussion and look like the feedback, it could be too onerous for people to take down the glamping pods and put them away for the winter, it might be too much trouble more than it's worth I don't know but happy to let it go out there.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Chief Executive has no objection, everyone in agreement, no dissent on that.

OK. That's all-right Lorraine, go the that. Thank you, members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Next proposed amendment was 117, and proposed by Cllr Gerry Walsh and seconded by ...?

Ms Lorraine Gallagher Cllr Gerry O'Neill.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gerry O'Neill and seconded by Cllr John Snell.

Just a second, I'll wait what the Chief Executive.

CLLR TIMMINS: I can't be here during the discussion.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK, we'll note that.

CLLR TIMMINS: I want to elaborate because I have to by the ethics law, the land in question is owned by a family member. So, following ethics guidelines I have to declare that, and absent myself from the meeting and can I just ask, the matter has been completed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr Edward Timmins.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you Cllr Edward Timmins.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Chief Executive does not support the proposed amendment to Cllr Edward Timmins has left the meeting so Cllr Gerry O'Neill I will bring you in here.

CLLR O'NEILL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Yeah, well it is something that that's been talked about for many years for Baltinglass and what I'm trying do Baltinglass throughout the same towns in the county, Baltinglass and people of the area have been left behind here in a big way, last week, I moved this motion and I proposed two different sites, one I was then told you know that I would have to decide on one. One site was outside the village boundary. Or the town boundary and the second one which I proposed would be rezoned for the street

unit within the town. I understand what the CEO is saying in regard to the main street and maybe where he would prefer to keep this retail unit in the main street but for many, many years, I've been unsuccessful as such and maybe that there seems to be no interest in the main street in Baltinglass to facilitate the people who I might add leave Baltinglass in their hundreds every week to avail of low cost shopping in Tullow, Blessington, Naas, Carlow, et cetera. So, really, what I'm trying do here is to give the people of Baltinglass the same opportunity as towns throughout the county and throughout the country have. I think it is a shame, that they have to leave their own town to spend the money outside, and in so doing it is mainly into Kildare which would mean that the tax revenue is greater in Kildare where we lose out in Wicklow. And again, I'm not swayed by, I know there are a group within the town there with over a thousand people who have been looking for this retail unit, but I've been calling for this going back many years. We're somewhat restrained in Baltinglass, and we talk about landowners and whatever, because to my knowledge, a few people own the whole town as such so my whole concern of this is to give the people of Baltinglass, a chance. It was mentioned earlier by councillors as regards Baltinglass been, it comes in second everywhere. The like of Blessington is an envy to people of Baltinglass. They need this chance to have their own, maybe this could be the start of something good for Baltinglass, that it won't be playing second fiddle to other towns of west Wicklow. I think it is an ideal chance and has been put to me you know that other shops might suffer. But no matter what part of west Wicklow go, when the supermarket came into town the little, small corner shop disappeared regrettably. But that's probably the way life is and that's the way things move on. Could I just also mention there, that sometime along the line it is the same as going into little areas where I live here, outside Blessington, like Lacken and Ballymount and they don't have the village shop and I know, I'm not a big lover of the huge, massive foreign, low-cost retail units but to see these people and the small little village shops a thing of the past, is

sad. And maybe somewhere down the line in other day's work where we might promote them with tax incentives or whatever. I'd like to mention that in passing. With my proposal and the land, I outlined there. Again, I'd like to I believe in talking to the planners during the week, there's up to six acres on that land, I wouldn't propose the full six acres would go towards retail, because I believe, I mean low-cost retail unit because I believe that could be used maybe to build on other shops. So that's not my intention. I think, half that land is sufficient for what I'm calling for, so, what I'm arguing there is that suggestion rather would be that site that you have on your maps in front would be halved. That it would be just purely for a low-cost retail unit and it wouldn't be a case that smaller shops, could go into that area over the years. I think you know, my suggestion here, we're beating around the bush for a long time in Baltinglass for this, and it is the only opportunity and if someone else comes up with a better idea fair enough but, I would strongly propose, and I'd urge councillors throughout my fellow councillors here, to just give Baltinglass the chance of getting on a par, like any other town in the county.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr John Snell.

CLLR SNELL: Thanks this is similar to the amendment passed earlier for your own locality of Rathdrum but as Cllr Gerry O'Neill said this is within the town boundary and within my own community of Rathnew I can recall when Centra came to the a neighbourhood centre, it was probably one of the best things to happen in our community, over 11 years ago, there was concerns by people then who owned the Centra who frequented the new Aldi, that opened that would affect Centra and I know Cllr Mary Kavanagh outlined when she spoke about it the positivity it brought to our community. I look at Greystones just on the Bray road coming out of Greystones, new supermarket there, again, there's room for everybody. Competition is good. It is healthy. The employment opportunities that it brings as well, but, certainly in regard to competition, I think we should be all legislating for it. We

should be allowing for people to get more bang for their buck as such in regard to the going out and getting their weekly shopping. I know people who would have left my community to go to south Wicklow, north Wicklow, unfortunately what Cllr Gerry O'Neill is talking about, they're leaving County Wicklow, they're having to go to Carlow and Kildare. Which is criminal. And I think it is incumbent on us to try and help the people of Baltinglass, help the people of County Wicklow so that's why I would be supporting this 100% Cathaoirleach. Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: I'm looking for points of clarity just during when Cllr Gerry O'Neill was speaking there, he references not the whole piece of land that indicated here so I'm wondering if he's proposing a change to what is here as in not the whole site or just the site. And if he could confirm what the land is currently zoned for and if it is in private ownership.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Anybody else want to come in there? No, Cllr Gerry O'Neill do you want to clarify exactly by what you mean by that.

CLLR O'NEILL: What I mean there, the site there as I pointed out, it's according to the planners, there's almost six acres on that land. And again, I would be I'm just asking for half that to be zoned to are the retail unit as opposed to the full six acres, as I see, as it would be a danger there down the road that maybe more little units could be used there, which would be taken from the town which I don't want, and that's not the intention I want. So, I think, whatever area of land, maybe just half that, site would be sufficient for low-cost retail.

SORCHA: Thank you Cathaoirleach. Just with regards to the questions, the land is in private ownership and zoning in the current development plan is part residential, part strategic land bank. So, look just coming to the principle of this, we would be strongly opposed to this for significant number of reasons. This is considerably outside the town centre. And would potentially have quite a serious detrimental impact on the town centre. Baltinglass like Rathdrum we've worked hard to regenerate the

town centre and successful in securing RDF funding and there's going to be a major regeneration programme in Baltinglass in the next few years, we've also been active on implementing the vacant site levy and we have a number 6 sites on the register in Baltinglass, and we're strongly of the view there's numerous sites in the town centre of Baltinglass that would be suitable in size for a new supermarket and just to flag for you a typical Lidl or Aldi, land requirement is 0.5 acres so this proposal, halving to 1.3 hectares would be still be more than twice over the size that is needed for a discounted retailer, for example the one in Rathnew, the one in Blessington, 0.5 hectares is all they need so reducing this to 1.3 hectares would be over zoning the land for an Aldi or Lidl, I'm going to ask my colleague to share her screen with you, because I want to show you where there are other locations in the town, that would be absolutely suitable in size for this type of unit. So, if you just scroll down a little bit. This is Baltinglass town centre. And there are two sites, 1.5 hectare and 1.3, one is already zoned, and one is proposed to be town centre in the core of the town, you can see what they're in relation to the town centre, that would be obviously clearly suitable in size and location for this type of retail. They would be obviously well over size given half a hectare is needed and those sites are green fields at the moment and undeveloped. The site that's 1 about 35 hectares had planning permission previously granted for supermarket and retail before, the site 1.3 hectares previously sought housing permission for housing development back ten or fifteen years ago and it was refused on the lack of water supply existed at the time, so both are suitable for development. These are the Earl programmes, that's the first site in relation to the town centre. And you can see it is right beside the build-up area and would have good connection with the town centre. And second site is further south of the town centre, but it is very close by. It is just close by, the schools, shops, houses and so on. So, we genuinely feel there are better sites in the town centre, for this type of development and adequate land within the town centre, suitable for this type of development

and the site that is proposed, would be very prefer rational and would undermine everything we're trying to achieve in the town centre with respect to regeneration.

I would just flag as well that, I would have a little concern about zoning lands specifically for discount retailer. There's one thing zoning it for retail or supermarket but to zone is only for one type of retail, I would have concerns about whether that would be legally sound because you're excluding other types of retailers and maybe if I was one of the mainstream retailers that wasn't technically a discount retailer I might be saying, well why can't I build on it, but one of the discounted retailers can, so we'd have to ask questions about whether it is in any way discriminatory against other retail types, if it is suitable for a supermarket, why is it two particular users or group of users. You can finish that if you wish. For those reasons, we'd be strongly opposing this, and it would be detrimental to Baltinglass town centre and regeneration there off.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, I'm going to bring in Cllr Erika Doyle now.

CLLR ERIKA DOYLE: Thank you chair. Sorcha dealt with one of my questions that I was going to ask about, prescribing that it has to be a low-cost retailer which is essentially one of two, and what if one of the other stores wanted to come in. So that was just something I was going to ask about. I think considering, I would hope that maybe some of the other members giving support for this, and I understand their reasons why, would rethink on the basis of the availability of two perfectly suitable sites in the town centre. One of the members there, talked about the positivity and confidence of a retailer investing in the town and what that brings and maybe what it brought to Rathnew and I understand that, but how much better to have it actually in the town centre, rather than car-dependent trip out of the town that's pulling people away from the town centre. Particularly when regeneration is hopefully on the way. So, I would urge members to hold steady on this and look at

site actually in the town centre, which is just so much healthier for the town and the people in it.

Thank you chair.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Yeah, thank you Cathaoirleach. And I listened very closely to Cllr Gerry O'Neill's argument for this, and I understand the argument about having, whether it be discount or other large retailer locally to prevent the people having to go to different counties to get their shopping. But, you know, really, I don't understand why this amendment is being brought when there are suitable retail sites within the town centre, which is the ideal place, that's where you want to have their discount shopping, or whatever shopping retailer is, you want to keep the life in the village and keep the stores open and people of Blessington shopping there. Yeah, so I don't understand why this amendment is here with when there are perfectly good sites in the town centre, so I wouldn't be supporting this amendment.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Shay Cullen.

CLLR CULLEN: Thanks chairman, I'm quite surprised why this is brought forward, considering there's two very suitable sites within the town centre. And I would have thought that, if any supermarket, never mind low-cost supermarket if it were viable for them to come into any town, that they would make themselves available and would come to a town and obviously look at sites. So, I'm shocked to think that we're going to zone, or propose to zone land outside the town centre, when there's adequate land within the town centre. And I think Sorcha said there, that there was planning permission or suggested planning permission on the 1.5 hectares for a supermarket so, on what I have heard there is no way that I could support what is put in front of us. Thank you.

CLLR CORRIGAN: Thank you Cathaoirleach, yes, like my

colleagues, I'd be concerned about the mention of discount supermarket, and again, also, that there are two suitable sites within the town that why it needs to go outside the town. We've all seen how villages and towns have been destroyed by outside development. So, that's another thing I couldn't support either thank you.

CLLR BEHAN: Thanks, I don't want to delay matters, but I want to agree with the proposer, and we all know if we don't know we're not living in the real world that these discount retailers are a huge part now of the retail market in this country and many people need to shop in them because of the value they offer. If anybody thinks they're going to supermarkets and carrying home their shopping and not in their car is not living in the real world either. We listened to the councillors all day know their area better than anybody else and I thought he made a good argument for it and it should go on public display and test the feeling and see what they're feeling, I feel there's overwhelming support for that proposal actually.

CLLR KAVANAGH: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I'll just want to know without naming, any low-cost supermarket, if any of them were approached with a view to taking up residency on one of the two available sites and if they did, what was their problem if they turned it down?

And if they had now offered them, if this motion didn't pass and I'm not second guessing it one way or another, would they have a problem?

I'm wondering why, such a site of such magnitude is required when it is probably more than twice what is actually required according to Sorcha there. And the other thing is, that I am fully supportive of a low-cost supermarket in the area because I am sure, no more than anybody else, I've been inundated with e-mails from people who live there, who want us to support that. They're the people who live there and we should be supporting, but I want to know has that site been offered to the two, sites in the area been offered.

CLLR BOURKE: Just briefly there, is it possible that the other

two sites aren't even on the market, or are they owned by one person?

Is there possibility that someone's trying to control the market, and if so, it might be a good idea to have head room that you do, sometimes for the residential zoned land you put in more that you need to ensure you generate a flow of available sites. So might not be harm to put in an extra site because it might stir up somebody and get a development up and running so I would be in favour to support it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorcha for the last word and then a vote. It has a fair hearing.

CLLR WALSH: Just quickly, just for the councillor that proposed, would you include in relation to the definition there, of local retail, would you include Dunnes Stores for that.

CLLR O'NEILL: Are you take to me, low cost is low cost, and someone mentioned there, that there's approach to Aldi and Lidl, I certainly haven't approached anyone. I'm just sincerely throwing this out will, and I don't want to accept that these two other sites in centre of town, anyone who knows Baltinglass they're outside the town and the one I mentioned there was outside of the town if tomorrow there's a site in the town suitable for low cost shopping I'd absolutely be over the moon with it, but, I mean, we're talking and talk a we'll come back in ten years' time and this will never happen. But really what the people of Baltinglass want, instead of tracing out of the county, out of the town every day in and day out, they want their own - they want their own facility. I mean if I go in low-cost shop in Blessington there, I meet people from Baltinglass, just to give them the same chance as somewhere else.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I interrupt you there, I think you've given this a very good representation for the Baltinglass area, I think I'll fair to say you want to go for a vote on this. Lorraine.

SORCHA: Can I come in on one thing. Just to answer just

one point - the site that I showed on the map that was 1.5 hectares that previously had planning permission, that's zoned town centre and recommend it stays that way, the 1.5 Hectares is currently zoned residential and our proposal it be zoned town centre exactly for this reason because we were well aware through submissions from the public they want to see another discount retail in the town so I know Baltinglass very well and walked the town many times and that site the sect site in particular, is very, they're both very close to the town centre you about that's a new zoning, particularly to bring in that bit of competition and they're owned by different owners, not that that's a consideration in spatial planning so we have two sites, different owners suitable for discount retailing close to the town centre.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I go to a vote?

MS GALLAGHER: Proposed by Cllr Gerry O'Neill and seconded by Cllr John Snell, amendment 117.

(Takes vote).

CLLR CORRIGAN: Can I clarify, we're voting for the change of this zoning, is it? I'm confused.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes, to include this to be zoned for a low-cost retailer?

MS GALLAGHER: Voting reduction in space and zoning for mixed use.

CLLR CORRIGAN: Abstain.

MS GALLAGHER: OK.

(Continues taking the vote).

So that's 14 for, nine against, seven not present and two abstaining so amendment carried.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed amendment number 79B.

MS GALLAGHER: Yeah, just ring Cllr Edward Timmins to get him back in the meeting.

Thanks Helen.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Are you back Cllr Edward Timmins. We're

just there members, almost there.

CLLR BEHAN: I have to leave.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We should be finished.  
Just Cllr Edward Timmins.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed amendment number 79B is proposed by Cllr Erika Doyle, seconded by Cllr Anne Ferris and the Chief Executive's no objection to this amendment. So, take it everybody has read it. Has anybody issues with it, or is everybody in support of it?

CLLR MITCHELL: I haven't seen it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Erika Doyle do you want to outline what it is?

CLLR ERIKA DOYLE: Yeah, so, it's in the tourism and recreation objectives and it was reworded slightly thanks to Sorcha from when I initially suggested it. The wording reads - the development of amenity and active travel walking and cycling route between Bray Harbour north wards to Dún Laoghaire Rathdown to provide future connection to Woodbrook DART station.

CLLR MITCHELL: I did see it, but it wasn't numbered.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is everybody happy with that, no dissent to, that can we take that as carried. Yeah, thank you.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you members

CATHAOIRLEACH: I think we're down to the last one. So, this is proposed by Cllr Gerry O'Neill.

Cllr Edward Timmins second it.

So, Cllr Gerry O'Neill do you want to outline what it is. That up to 10% of housing estates include affordable units for first time buyers and elderly and people with disabilities. Chief Executive says this matter is adequately addressed in the proposed draft plan. Do you wanted to come in Cllr Gerry

O'Neill for a minute?

CLLR O'NEILL: That's the Chief Executive said sorry.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Response is it is considered that this matter is adequately addressed in the proposed draft plan.

CLLR O'NEILL: Sorry, Cathaoirleach, I don't accept that, because, as I outlined earlier, we have an increase of population of elderly, we don't have many structures in place really for people for the laddering and people with disabilities within housing estates. You know, as I said last week, we have six estates in the moment in Blessington, God only knows what will happen to them when they're built and completed. Like the one this Dunlavin, went to a housing agency and Baltinglass is a housing agency, and the six in the pipeline here for Blessington, I don't know where they're going to go, whether they're built as private, but then they could go social, or could go to a housing agency, but still no matter what way they go, there's no guarantee that up to 10% of those will be there, to facilitate people who need it. There's a group in the town here, who are more than anxious that we, we put in place, facilities for both the elderly and people with disabilities. And I can't see, even if in estate of 5 houses built in the morning and housing agency gets a hold of them, there's not the type of housing isn't there to cope with people with disabilities and elderly. As I pointed out with several meetings, we have a lot of three and four bedroom but maybe one occupant, they could be widow or widower or whatever, they've gladly move to a little Bungalow in any of these estates would free up a three- or four-bedroom house for a person on the housing list, that's not addressed properly, and this is why I put in this

CLLR MCMANUS: Are you saying up to the percentage to put up for older people.

CLLR O'NEILL: What I said there nor in my motion is for affordable, elderly and provisions for people with disabilities.

CLLR MCMANUS: A mix of all three of 10%.

CLLR O'NEILL: A mix.

SORCHA: OK the first thing is, under part five we're entitled to

seek 10% of units for social housing. There is no provision in law for us to seek any units or private development for affordable housing and we discussed this last Monday. And Cllr Edward Timmins, actually had put forward a proposal with regard to affordable housing that was reworded and then accepted today earlier on, it was proposed amendment number 37 and that was to actively promote and support the development of affordable housing accord all areas and settlement categories and avail of and maximise take up of all of any future affordable housing programmes and funds, including service, site initiatives in smaller towns and initiatives and that's been passed already, I would be concerned that objective that you've already passed which is fully compliant with the law and possibly goes as far as can you go with affordable housing would conflict with the latest proposal. With regard to Bungalows for the elderly the development and design standards of the current plan and proposed plan require a full mix of house types, including smaller houses, bungalows, ground level apartment for those who have disabilities or accessibility issues. And, in addition, I would say that the proposed development plan, includes a provision as well about universal design, principles being used in all new houses and in fact we have proposed in the proposed draft plan an objective which to be honest may, maybe outside the scope of our powers, but, we've taken a chance to see if it will wash, and it is that in policy 6.7, that in any development over 20 residential Europeans a minimal of 5% will be fully designed with accordance with the fully designed approach which is accessibility of those with disabilities or older people, and the law doesn't fully support us, requiring that of developers at the moment, the building regulations may well be on the way to being changed to do that. So, I think, the proposal new proposal with regards to affordable housing is dealt with by a proposal that Cllr Edward Timmins has already put in, and then, housing that is accessible for those with accessibility needs disabilities or the elderly is already covered by the development plan. And that's what we mean by we're happy

that's already fully addressed in the development plan. If the law changes or building regulations change that require all units to be fully accessible or certain proportion that will be integrated in the development plan, if we can, whenever that comes forward. If there's new legislation that allows us to take extra 10% of developers for affordable housing, we will avail of that, and of course, the Cllr Gerry O'Neill's goals, what he is trying to achieve with the latest objective, has been already passed and that you accepted.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: In relation to the proposal, that Cllr Gerry O'Neill is trying to put forward which I think is worthwhile and needed. Just for information, Cllr Gerry O'Neill, and Cllr Miriam Murphy and myself are both sitting on the housing disability steering committee and we're currently reviewing the strategy for housing for people with disabilities at the moment within the local authority. And the issue that you have raised there have been built in proposed amendments on that strategy so it maybe that so there maybe some of those in the strategy document and targets set so that might address some of the areas you raised, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Miriam Murphy would like to come in.

CLLR MURPHY: I'd like to echo it as well and I'd like to highlight some issues that, I suppose, when they say universal design on housing for people with disabilities, that can just you know, be very basic light switch in the middle of the wall, probably one level access from the front door, and then, sometimes in these new builds they would say, oh there's a requirement for a toilet downstairs. That toilet is actually shoved in under a stair and there's no way you would get a wheelchair user in it at all. You wouldn't get my front wheel in it never mind the whole wheelchair so I would have concerns about say the universal design being, specific for someone who has really sophisticated, specific needs, to an individual

because it needs to be strengthened a little bit, and do I appreciate the it is great to have it and I think, I know Wicklow County Council are certainly conscious of people with disabilities on their housing list, and they have been very successful, and I have to say that in the past, in providing specific needed housing but you can't go on an average, you know universal design either. So, I'd be conscious of that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK.

There's nobody else that I can see, Cllr John Snell.

CLLR SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

Yeah, we held a strategic policy committee on housing last Thursday, and indeed Senior Executive Officer, Jackie Carroll has been working on the disability strategy and it is going through a draft stage at the moment and obviously there's various agency feeding into that. And both, Miriam and I sit on that subcommittee and I know they're very proactive in terms of drafting up that plan. So that will be coming to full council as soon as it's ready. Wicklow is punching above its weight in regards to assisting people with a disability, we behaviour of the teacher all the figures last Thursday, and indeed the I'll ask the housing section to forward it out to the elected members to amount of people in the county who have a disability, people on our social waiting list, and they're very row active, Cllr Gerry O'Neill in regards to asking people to down-size you know, we're very lucky in the county in the last two years where there is housing units becoming available so it gives you an opportunity to down-size people, you're getting back a three bedroom family unit or four bedroom and people are availing of the one and two bedrooms and I know the Chief Executive is very supportive in regards to particularly one and two bedroom units going forward. The housing section have done an awful lot of work in regard to trying to help people with a disability and that's why this document is so important.

I wouldn't like to see their hands tied because as I say, in regard to the figures, we're way above national average. And it's not something that, you know, we shout from the rooftops.

But I can assure you Wicklow County Council are addressing the issues that people are finding out there. And we're getting better at it and we're getting better at providing units that will accommodate people in their needs which is an ageing population and there's a lot of units being developed now which have mobility wet rooms in them for people going forward. Should they encounter or need them, so I share the sentiments of the motion that's been moved but I think everything in it is addressed within Wicklow County Council. And I would urge the members maybe to play a part in the draft plan when it comes out to the full council chambers and have your opinions put forward on it

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr John Snell, Cllr Gerry O'Neill would you take it on board there's work going on there and it is adequately being addressed would you take that on board.

CLLR O'NEILL: I would take it on board, and I'd like to maybe get hold of that document that John has been talking about, and I mean it is still not the end of the road for us anyway, I can push on with this, later on, before the plan is adopted. I'd be very serious about it, but I would look forward seeing that document, so I'd go by that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr John Snell for that update as well because that was very important. And likewise, from Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy and Miriam as well. And so, thank you all for that update. Take it to Cllr Gerry O'Neill you're going to withdraw that for now.

CLLR O'NEILL: I am yeah. I'll wait on the document.

CATHAOIRLEACH: That, unless I'm missing something, that's them all now. Want to bring Sorcha back in there.

SORCHA: I wonder would it be useful to have a final vote to accept the draft plan with the amendments and any changes consequent because there maybe knock-on changes, we haven't talked about so that gives us the ability to talk about.

CATHAOIRLEACH: That's the last vote for somebody to propose and second drafted plan, that the whole team can take it forward now, and get it ready and printed it up and put on

public display, it is proposed by Cllr Joe Behan and seconded by Cllr John Snell am I right in saying that. Yeah. Cllr Joe Behan. Seconded by Cllr John Snell.

Just on my own half can I thank all the members for their time. And their dedication to this, this has taken a bit of time, but we took it slowly and that was the right thing to do. and we got there in the end that we have a draft plan now, and I want to thank the Chief Executive.

I'll do my wrap up then.

MS GALLAGHER: Are you happy with that, proposed by Cllr Joe Behan and seconded by Cllr John Snell.

And that's any changes consequently to the adoption of those amendments. (Takes votes) So that's 18 for and 14 not present. Thank you, members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Lorraine, Cllr Erika Doyle you had your hand up?

CLLR ERIKA DOYLE: Very quickly, I want to thank you Chair for your chairing of the last two meetings, particularly for those of us doing that for the first time, it has been an intense learning experience and to awful the team, particularly Sorcha who had to be 100% on assaults and it has been a valuable learning experience and as I said I wish now I could start again because of what I learned over the last two meetings so thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr Erika Doyle. Again, I want to as I was starting earlier on, the Chief Executive, Breege, and Sorcha an all the team, Lorraine and Helen here who is here as well and all their time and dedication over the last and always the planning team and the members because you're the people on the ground that went out and looked for the, sought the problems and trying to make a better place for all of us to live. Two little bits before I finish off, is one I want to organise a protocol meeting next week and Eirgrid who wants to make a presentation to us. So, Lorraine, I will bring you both to those.

MS GALLAGHER: We're not scheduled to meet until 14th June and Annual Meeting held on the 21st of June, so Eirgrid

want to make a presentation to the elected members in relation to their energy targets for County Wicklow, so it would mean a special meeting maybe, for an hour, hour-and-a-half or that in the meaning time so if elected members would be OK, we'd reach out to Eirgrid and talk to the Protocol Committee, I'd like to talk to the Protocol Committee because we haven't met now, we didn't meet last Monday and annual meeting is coming up and also, we're still in the COVID-19 space, so we want to keep meeting and keep those things under review and see how we'll manage the annual meeting. So, we'll reach out to the elected members, as well on that, and try and get consensus on a date.

CATHAOIRLEACH: That all right. That's great.

So, we'll be in touch with that for maybe next week.

All right, thank you. Thanks everybody and thanks very much for that.

Thanks members safe home thank you all. Oh yeah, you are home.

There you go.