

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

ON MONDAY, 3 MARCH 2025 AT 2:00PM

STENOGRAPHER: Niamh Kelly-Leahy, RMR, MBIVR

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1 PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED ON MONDAY 3, MARCH 2025 AT 2:00PM, AS
2 FOLLOWS:

3

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Good afternoon, members. Just before we commence the
5 meeting and do the roll call I have two little things I want to do.

6

7 I want to welcome Her Excellency, the Estonian Ambassador, Mrs Kairi Künka.
8 And I hope I pronounced your name right. We will speak to you know in a few
9 moments, but I officially want to welcome you.

10

11 Bo mhaith liom fáilte a chur roimh gach huine anseo inniu le haghaid ár gruinniú.
12 Bo mhaith lion cuireadh a thabairt duit Gaeilge a labhairt oiread agus is féidir leat
13 mar thaca le Seachtain na Gaeilge. Cuimhnigh, tír gan teanga, tír gan anam. Go
14 raibh míle maith again.

15

16 I hope I done that justice as best I could.

17

18 So I will ask for the roll call there now.

19 MS PURCELL: I would like to welcome everyone to the meeting both present in
20 chamber and online. If there are any issues with the online if you wouldn't mind
21 letting me know. We would ask Elected Members to keep their cameras on and
22 everybody else to keep their cameras off and microphones off. Thank you.

23

24 Councillor Danny Alvey?

25 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Present.

26 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Mark Barry?

27 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: He is trying to get in but is having problems.

28 MS PURCELL: Councillor Joe Behan?

29 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Here.

30 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Sylvester Bourke? Councillor Melanie
31 Corrigan?

32 COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: Anseo.

33 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Avril Cronin?

34 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Present.

- 1 MS PURCELL: Councillor Erika Doyle? We have apologies from Councillor
2 Malachai Duddy? Councillor Gail Dunne I know is trying to join us online.
3 Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin?
4 COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: Present.
5 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Orla Finn?
6 COUNCILLOR FINN: Present.
7 MS PURCELL: Councillor Pat Fitzgerald?
8 COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD: Present.
9 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy?
10 COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Present.
11 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Tom Fortune?
12 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Present.
13 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Patsy Glennon?
14 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Present.
15 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Pat Kennedy?
16 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Present.
17 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Shane Langrell?
18 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Present.
19 MS PURCELL: Councillor Peir Leonard? Councillor Pat Mahon?
20 COUNCILLOR MAHON: Present.
21 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Jason Mulhall?
22 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Present.
23 MS PURCELL: Councillor Miriam Murphy is trying to get online.
24 Councillor Ian Neary?
25 COUNCILLOR NEARY: Present.
26 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Ian Neary?
27 COUNCILLOR NEARY: Present.
28 MS PURCELL: Councillor Dermot O'Brien?
29 COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN: Anseo.
30 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Paul O'Brien?
31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Present.
32 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Gerry O'Neill?
33 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Present.
34 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Warren O'Toole?

1 COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: Present.

2 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Graham Richmond?

3 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Present.

4 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Lourda Scott? Councillor John Snell?

5 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Present.

6 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Peter Stapleton?

7 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Present.

8 MS PURCELL: Councillor Stephen Stokes?

9 COUNCILLORS STOKES: Present.

10 MS PURCELL: Present. And Councillor Caroline Winstanley?

11 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Present.

12 MS PURCELL: Thank you. We are working on the issues for the remote members.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: While we're waiting on that, any condolences? Councillor

14 Graham Richmond.

15 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I would just take this

16 opportunity to offer my own and other councillors' condolences for the family of

17 Brendan Stone of Barndarrig who passed away tragically Friday week ago, in

18 particular I want to mention his mother Patsy, his father Peter, his brothers Malachy

19 and Diarmuid, his sisters, Aoibhinn, Rosin, Moira and Fainche. Brendan was only

20 19 years of age. He was heavily involved in both the rugby and St Pat's GAA, and it

21 is a tragic loss for all the community. Thank you.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. I am sure every member here would

23 like to be associated with those comments. Councillor Stephen Stokes.

24 COUNCILLOR STOKES: Go, raibh maith agat, Cathaoirleach. Can I offer

25 condolences to the family of Bridget Murphy of Rathdrum County Wicklow, and all

26 of the Murphy family who are extended throughout County Wicklow, a very sad loss

27 for them. She will be missed in the community.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Danny Alvey.

29 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I'd like to offer my

30 condolences on the passing of Stan J O'Reilly who was a much-loved local teacher

31 and historian, cofounder of the Wicklow Society in the eighties and an author of two

32 published books on Wicklow Town history and folklore. He was also involved in

33 local drama groups. And earlier this morning at his funeral I joined some past and

34 present members of Wicklow Drama Group to dress in historical costumes and carry

1 1798 flags through the Main Street to give a guard of honour through his funeral
2 cortege. I know he will be remembered very fondly by all his past students and
3 many friends throughout Wicklow Town and Rathnew, and our thoughts are with his
4 wife of 38 years, Maeve, his two brothers and his extended family.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. And I am sure you done him proud.
6 Councillor Ian Neary.

7 COUNCILLOR NEARY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. On behalf of the Bray
8 Municipal District we would like to offer our heartfelt condolences to our colleague
9 Malachai Duddy on the recent passing of his father Seamus. May he rest in peace.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. And again, I think we would all like
11 to be associated with those comments. Councillor Shane Langrell.

12 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Cathaoirleach, I would
13 just like to offer my condolences to the Turner family in Roundwood. They buried
14 their mother Bridie there last week, an amazing woman who battled every sickness
15 out there for the 20 years.

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: I just have one there, unless anyone else wants to come in?
17 Jason, sorry. Go ahead, Councillor Mulhall.

18 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Yes. Just to offer condolences to the family of John
19 Doran, Kilbride. He was very involved in Kilbride GAA club, and he passed away
20 recently.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. I would like to offer my sincere
22 sympathy to the family of Willie Clarke in Rathnew. I had the privilege of
23 refereeing with Willie, and at one stage in my second career back when I had the
24 honour, when I was the National President, of creating him honorary member, but I
25 know he went beyond refereeing and I know he was involved in Wicklow Town and
26 other sports club. He will be sadly missed by his wife, Catherine and the wider
27 community.

28
29 Helen, I think the staff there, please.

30 MS PURCELL: We extend our sympathies to the families of Maureen Collard,
31 mother of our colleague and friend Dave Collard; Alan Stephenson, father of our
32 colleague and friend Sarah Keogh; and Peter Porter, brother of our colleague and
33 friend PJ Byrne.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: I will ask you all to stand for a moment's silence, please.

2

3 (Moment of silence.)

4

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

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: We will keep going, okay. We have a packed agenda so I
8 would like to get through it.

9

10 Item number 1: To confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting held on Monday,
11 10th February 2025 (copy attached). Councillor John Snell. Seconded by
12 Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy. Are we agreed? (Agreed.)

13

14 Item number 2: To consider the disposal of 0.0413 hectares or thereabout in the
15 townland of 6 Scott Park, Boghall Road, Bray, County Wicklow being the property
16 known as 6 Scott Park, Boghall Road, Bray, County Wicklow to Ms Ann O'Toole (as
17 per notice previously circulated). Proposer? Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy.
18 Seconded by Councillor Melanie Corrigan. Are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you
19 very much.

20 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Chair, can I just -- Councillor Leonard is trying to get
21 in.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yeah, we have issues with online and we are aware of it. I
23 am going to keep going to get through --

24 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Okay.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: We still have a quorum, Councillor, so I am keep going but
26 we are working on getting members in.

27

28 Item number 3: To consider the disposal of property in the townland of Abbeylands
29 Td. known as 3 Rory O'Connor Place, Arklow, County Wicklow to Michael and
30 Kathleen Morgan (as per notice previously circulated). Councillor Pat Fitzgerald
31 and seconded by Pat Kennedy. Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

32

33 Item number 4: To consider the disposal of property in the townland of Tinahask
34 Lower Td. being the property known as 19 Lower Tinahask, Arklow, County

1 Wicklow to Ms Lisa Horvaise Doyle (as per notice previously circulated).
2 Councillor Pat Fitzgerald. Councillor Pat Kennedy. Okay.

3

4 It gives me great pleasure now to invite the ambassador, Her Excellency Mrs Kairi
5 Künka of Estonia. And what we will do is, after Her Excellency speaks I will say a
6 few words and we will open up to Q&A sessions then. Thank you.

7

8 Thank you, Ambassador.

9 MRS Künka: Hello, and thank you very much for the opportunity for my
10 participation here in your session. I would like to talk a little bit about Estonia, and
11 then I have a little proposal for your Council how to cooperate in the future,
12 hopefully. And I am then open to the questions and answers as well.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: We are just waiting on the...

14 MS PURCELL: Sorry, we are having gremlins today. We are starting to get the
15 members in online.

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: My apologies, ambassador, we are having technical issues.

17 MRS Künka: I can talk without presentation, if that is okay?

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes, if you don't mind, and we can circulate it afterwards.

19 MRS Künka: Let me know how long I can speak.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Ten minutes is normally the rule.

21 MRS Künka: So Estonia, I hope that you have been to Estonia. If you haven't been
22 to Estonia you are very welcome. We have a direct flight with Ryanair twice a
23 week. And Estonia is a country in the Baltic region of Northern Europe, bordered to
24 the north by the Gulf of Finland, to the west by the Baltic Sea, and to the south by
25 Latvia, and to the east by Lake Peipus. We have 1.3 million inhabitants, more than
26 200 nationalities, around 69% are Estonians, and our country is one of the least
27 densely populated countries.

28

29 So like you see from the PowerPoint, we are very digital. So it means that starting
30 from this January 100% of services, what the country provides us is all digital. So it
31 means that we can divorce, we can marry, we can do all businesses online. And we
32 have a special ID card, and we are very proud of our digitalisation, and this is one
33 key area where we can share our best practices, and the government is another area.
34 So there special government digitalisation, and they work closely with the city

1 council, with foreign governments and this is one area where we are very, very
2 strong. We can do all of our taxes online. Health systems. So basically when you
3 will -- the person, when they give once their data to the government, so it means we
4 are using block chain, they don't need to inform the services anymore about their
5 data, it goes all online. At the same time we have the laws, so we are protected, like
6 the civilians. So it means we can always check who is looking at our data. And if
7 someone is going to misuse there are criminal penalties. It is a both-way system, and
8 it is very safe, and it is really safe for the government and the people as well.

9
10 But, to be honest, why I am really here is, Estonia is very, very strong in the wooden
11 house sector. And around 95% of the wooden house houses goes to the export, and
12 the sector is more than over 70 countries, and it has grown rapidly during the last ten,
13 15 years and the turnout has been, a couple of years ago, almost 550 million, and
14 they are building, what the Estonian companies have built are 53 metres. And the
15 main market is in Scandinavia, Germany, but you can find the products of our
16 companies in more than 20 countries.

17
18 And we have done now three visits. I have been in Ireland a little bit more than two
19 years and we have done successfully two visits to Estonia and one visit now to
20 Ireland. We've our wooden house, as I say, (inaudible) and other companies as well,
21 and if you are interested they are coming now 1st April they will be once again in
22 Ireland, and they are going to participate in National Construction Summit, 2nd and
23 3rd May.

24
25 And I have sent the letter to the city council, 23rd January. We have one Estonian
26 company called Pagano, and their product is very well-known in Estonia and
27 worldwide, and the embassy really respectfully seeks the Council's support for a pilot
28 project in County Wicklow. And the house, what the owner would like to build is
29 designed by the Irish cultural engineers and installed by the Irish contractors, but the
30 main panels, they are coming from Estonia. And Pagano, they use a cut and gauge
31 panel system. We believe that these kind of initiatives represents a unique
32 opportunity to showcase leadership in sustainable construction while further
33 strengthening the bilateral relationship between our nations. And we kindly request

1 your approval in principle or a letter of no objection to proceed with this project
2 ahead.

3

4 When I sent my letter that was a long 200 pages about Pagano and the project, and if
5 you are more interested I am really happy to put you together with the person and to
6 talk a little bit more.

7

8 And I think that is all. So really, thank you very much for the opportunity, being
9 here, and I really hope to see you one in Estonia.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much, ambassador. I think a round of
11 applause there.

12

13 (Applause.)

14

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Would you like to take a seat or are you happy?

16 MRS Künka: I can stand, thank you.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Ambassador, I want to thank you very much for coming
18 down. As we have just seen in recent days that the world is becoming a little bit
19 more fragmented we will say. I think now more than ever it is time that Europe pull
20 together, not just sharing our common values and our principles but also sharing
21 ideas like this, because I am sure the members will know that Ireland has faced a
22 housing crisis now for a number of years, and I think it is time that we start thinking
23 outside the box in terms of other construction material maybe and that. And we do
24 have a port here in Wicklow Town that imports a lot of timber from Scandinavia and
25 other pieces, so I think any ideas have to be welcome to explore. Thank you very
26 much for sharing your country. Who knows, one day we will get to go and see it.
27 But no doubt I will be accused of being on another junket at that stage, but anyway.

28

29 Councillor Orla Finn.

30 COUNCILLOR FINN: Ambassador, I would like to thank you very much for that
31 presentation today, and to say that I have actually visited Tallinn, a fabulous city,
32 quite a few times. I worked with the European Commission on a programme called
33 PHAR, which was one of the pre-accession instruments to assist applicant countries
34 in their accessions to the EU. I have to say Estonia is a beautiful country and Tallinn is

1 the most beautiful city. I just wanted to say that, to welcome you and to thank you
2 for the presentation and to say that it looks like an extremely interesting project.

3 Thank you very much.

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Anyone else like to come in there?
5 Councillor Tom Fortune.

6 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Thanks, Ambassador, for your
7 presentation. Just curious on the homes you are talking about, you said 53 metres.
8 The manufacturer, are they supplying the home fully assembled or are you just
9 supplying the timber and then it is assembled here, the country that makes the
10 purchase?

11 MRS Künka: There are different options, but in the main what they do is they
12 prefabricate it already in Estonia. Estonian companies, we have more than 200
13 companies, some of them are bigger and I know around five or six Estonian
14 companies, for example Harmet who is already in the UK market, they would like to
15 come to Irish market as well. And Estonian companies, they all have the European
16 Union Certificate, and example Palmatin, one of our companies, they started NSA
17 process to get a certificate as well. So there are options. You will get the
18 prefabricated of the elements, so that they would just put everything together here in
19 Ireland, and ship over, or there are these kinds of boxes or panels already. But they
20 install everything, kitchen and toilets and bathroom already inside and then they are
21 brought into the country and then they assemble. It goes like the boxes all one to
22 each other. And the house in Norway, Bergen, this is the one which is 33 metres, but
23 I am very happy -- I brought a book and some presentation as well, I am happy to
24 leave you, and from this book you will find the biggest one or the key companies and
25 their houses, the pictures, what they do.

26

27 And as for the Estonian foreign policy, I mean it is of course to help Ukraine as
28 much as possible, so it mean that they are in the Ukrainian market as well, and it
29 took 175 days to install and to build a kindergarten, and schools, yes.

30 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Just to finish my question. Typically what would a
31 53-metre cost, roughly?

32 MRS Künka: It is difficult to answer --

33 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Okay.

34 MRS Künka: -- the cost of the house.

1 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Just ballpark, even.

2 MRS Künka: Because it depends. We are calculating our costs. How much is the
3 cubic metres. But at the same time it depends what kind of materials are you using.

4 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Okay.

5 MRS Künka: And we always are asked what is the cost of the house or the boxes,
6 then we got the answer from the builders.

7 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Okay.

8 MRS Künka: Can you tell me what is the price? I think it is a cubic metres between
9 €1,000 and €2,000

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: We will get you a discount, Tom.

11 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: I am curious because the cost would be interesting
12 because the cost of them here and putting them in here are astronomical.

13 MRS Künka: The cost is cheaper. I know. The cost is cheaper. The houses are
14 sustainable, and they are cheaper, the real estate is cheaper in Estonia. And of course
15 the cost, the value of the cost is that they're all prefabricated, already done inside and
16 the materials and the electricity.

17 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Yes.

18 MRS Künka: That they are using. But for a long time they will ship them to Dublin,
19 Galway, America. In the long-term they are cheaper, so this is what we have figured
20 out. But I think it is once again between the builders; they need to negotiate.

21 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: All right. Thank you.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Gerry O'Neill.

23 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. That's for your presentation.

24 And you certainly come at the right time to sell houses, prefabricated, because we've
25 only recently announced that you can build a 40-square metre to the rear of a house
26 here. So there should be a market there for you. I am just wondering, what's special
27 about your timber as such. You know, usually here the timber that you use for the
28 prefabricated timber would be North American or Canadian pine or whatever. How
29 would it compare to that? Or is it a native timber that you are talking about? Is that
30 what you supply, a native timber, is it? Or is it a Canadian or North American and
31 just manufactured in your country?

32 MRS Künka: The wooden houses has been part of our culture, like, you are building
33 everything from concrete, this is the same kind of relationship, and we have the
34 experience more than one hundred years, even longer. And recently our companies

1 have been in the foreign markets; we got back our independence 30 years ago.
2 During this time they have the experience with their products, with different
3 climates, in Scandinavia. We are using a 3D sustainable MMC approach. We have
4 experience in different climates, in different markets. Of course we are using
5 Scandinavian timber, and we are using Estonian timber. We used to use Russian
6 timber but not anymore due to Ukrainian war. It means we have the knowledge; we
7 have the experience, and we have the innovation, and we have the architects, and we
8 have the factories. And 95% of 200-something companies, it goes abroad. We are
9 in more than 70 countries. The wooden house sector is one of the strongest in
10 Estonia. And of course the digitalisation is another part. So this is the experience,
11 sustainability, MMC, and of course the quality of the timber.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much. Councillor John Snell.

13 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yes, thanks, Cathaoirleach. Thanks to the ambassador for
14 coming here today, and for presenting to us. In my former life I was lucky enough to
15 work in the industry in regards to providing timber structure houses and I had the
16 pleasure of working with people from your country, Estonians here in Ireland. Also
17 Lithuanians, Latvians, and Polish. And I have say that they are all very good drafts
18 crafts people, good at what they do. I know the products you are talking about, and I
19 think it is timely in regards to this country. And I think we have been very open in
20 County Wicklow to exploring anything that is out there on the market, through the
21 Housing Strategic Policy Committee we have been open to explore, and the best
22 value in the industry. I know your products is good. As was mentioned, a lot of the
23 timber is coming from Scandinavia. And we are very lucky in County Wicklow that
24 we are in a county where a lot of people that have a wood industry background,
25 indeed a number of them in this chamber today. I look forward to working with that
26 group, exploring if there is anything that can be done. Because we have seen,
27 unfortunately, not through your country but through other products, that our
28 government, the previous government, unfortunately have been found wanting when
29 it comes to bringing in modular homes that were coming in not very cost efficient at
30 all. The modular homes that they were purchasing was actually coming in very, very
31 expensive. A lot of them was over €400,000, which is crazy money in any language.
32 So I know that you are not here trying to sell something like that, that your product
33 will be very, very good, and we look forward to working with you. And thanks,
34 Cathaoirleach.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Graham Richmond.

2 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. And thank you,
3 Ambassador, for your presentation. And just following on from my colleague
4 Councillor Snell there, whilst you're not trying to sell the homes you're doing a good
5 home. And from a personal point of view I would like to see us adopting more of
6 these initiatives. Thank you.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. I think that's everyone that wants to
8 come in, unless there is anyone online? No. Thank you again, Ambassador, and if
9 you have a few moments I would like to present you with a memento of Wicklow.

10 MRS Künka: Can I just say what makes Estonia special, that you will remember, the
11 houses are fast, flexible, quality, experienced, tradition, innovation, sustainable, safe
12 and stylish. Thank you.

13

14 (Applause.)

15

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, members. Thank you for that. Going on to item
17 number 6: To consider the Chief Executive's Report in accordance with section 179
18 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, for a Bus Based Park &
19 Ride facility located to the west of M11 Junction 16 at Ashford (copy attached).
20 And just before I invite you in, just to thank you. You have been with the MD twice;
21 you've kept us up to speed on everything. I have to say that you got great support off
22 the MD only last Monday, from all the councillors, and I have to say that thank you
23 very much for your cooperation during this process. We look forward to maybe
24 hopefully getting a lot more support today. Thank you very much.

25 MR BOWES: Okay. Thanks, Cathaoirleach. That's members. I am joined this
26 afternoon from my colleagues from the Park and Ride Development Office, Elaine
27 Conlon and Oliver Dalton. I will start by giving a brief summary of the CE's report
28 on the proposed park and ride at M11 Junction 16, Ashford, and the outcomes of the
29 statutory public consultation under Part 8. My colleagues will then assist in
30 answering any questions that you have.

31

32 So full details of this are contained in the CE's report and in the Part 8 documents
33 which remain available online on the Council's website. The proposed development
34 is a strategic bus park and ride facility located 1.3 kilometres east of Ashford and to

1 the west of M11 Junction 16 in the townland of Rosanna Lower. The proposed
2 development comprises a car park of 210 spaces, including 13 spaces from the
3 mobility impaired users, 21 spaces for EV charging, 20 bicycle parking stands and
4 20 bike lockers. The project also includes public lighting, CCTV, two bus bays, two
5 passenger shelters and a bus turning area. A new priority junction is proposed for
6 the access onto the R772 incorporating a new dedicated right-turn lane on the R772.
7 It is proposed to restrict right-turning movements for vehicles exiting the park and
8 ride.

9
10 The proposed park and ride is in accordance with the objectives of the County
11 Development Plan, in particular objective 12.2.1, stating: "To facilitate the
12 development of park and ride facilities at appropriate locations along strategic
13 transport corridors."

14
15 The aim of the park and ride at this location is to intercept M11 traffic that originates
16 further south and to transfer these journeys to bus from this location to Dublin City,
17 and vice versa.

18
19 The facility is expected to be served by existing bus services both private,
20 commercial and Bus Eireann. Further work is anticipated by the NTA Park and Ride
21 Development Office regarding service frequency, available passenger capacity and
22 anticipated passenger demand to clarify the optimal bus service.

23
24 The proposed facility will not compromise the function of M11 and is in accordance
25 with the objectives to reduce carbon emissions and to promote greater use of
26 sustainable transport.

27
28 Environmental impact assessment and appropriate assessment screening has been
29 carried out and it has been determined that neither are required.

30
31 A flood assessment has deemed the proposed development is not at risk of flooding,
32 and attenuation and infiltration measures are used extensively throughout the
33 development.

34

1 The feasibility of incorporating solar PV panels has been considered and assessed
2 that the benefits for large scale would be limited at this location. Nevertheless the
3 Park and Ride Development Office will engage further with industry specialists to
4 see if there is a viable model for inclusion of solar PV. This could in time lead to
5 retrofitting of a similar system at the proposed site.

6
7 With regard to the statutory consultation process, plans and details of the proposed
8 development were made available online in the Council offices from the 6th
9 November '24 with the latest date for submissions and observations set for the 10th
10 January '25. Advanced briefings were provided to the Elected Members in Wicklow
11 MD and here at the full Council meeting in November. A total of seven submissions
12 and observations were received during the consultation period. In particular,
13 residents along Rosanna Close were concerned for impacts on the junction of
14 Miltown Lane and the R117.

15
16 Additional traffic counts and modelling were undertaken which demonstrated that
17 the junction will continue to operate at level service A, with the proposed
18 development in place and that the traffic impact on this junction will be negligible.

19
20 In conclusion, it is considered that, in consideration of the various studies, reports
21 and designed presented it is concluded that the proposed development is found to be
22 consistent with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development for the
23 area. The development is, therefore, recommended for approval by the members
24 subject to the following recommendations:

- 25 1. That works are to be supervised by a qualified archaeologist. If any
26 archaeological remains are uncovered during the monitoring process activities in the
27 immediate area of discovery will be paused, and the Department of Housing, Local
28 Government and Heritage should be noted to determine an appropriate mitigation
29 strategy.
- 30 2. Works are to be carried out in line with the appropriate standards and procedures
31 for works on or around Gas Networks Ireland, Uisce Eireann and TII infrastructure.
- 32 3. A comprehensive construction environmental management plan will be developed
33 prior to the commencement of the works.

1 4. Subject to the landowners' requirements, a relocated field access to adjacent lands
2 will be constructed at location to be agreed.

3

4 So thanks, members, Cathaoirleach. Happy to take any questions.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, John, and thank you for your presentation, it was
6 welcomed last week. I notice all the Wicklow MD councillors are lining up.

7 Councillor Danny Alvey.

8 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Thank you very much, Cathaoirleach, and thank you,
9 John, for the presentation. As the Cathaoirleach pointed out, we have now had it
10 been presented to us twice at the MD, and it is an extremely welcomed development
11 for the people of Ashford and indeed further south and in Wicklow Town and
12 Rathnew. As we all know very well the N11 is getting even more congested on a
13 daily basis. I am someone that relies on the bus service into work in the city centre,
14 and it can take up to two hours from Newtown in the morning to get into the city
15 centre when it should really only be an hour. So developments like these are
16 extremely welcome. I think 210 car parking spaces is a great start. Hopefully we
17 will get to see more of these park and rides now developed all along the N11. I sit
18 on the Transport and Infrastructure Emergency Services Special Policy Committee
19 with several of my colleagues here and I know we are really keen for that to happen.
20 But I suppose the big question now will be over to the NTA in terms of bus services
21 they can provide. Of course the 133 does come to the south of this new park and ride
22 but after that it has to travel all the way through Ashford village, into Newtown
23 village and into Kilpedder before it makes its way into the city centre. As someone
24 who has had to watch full buses go past me in the morning of the 133 at peak times,
25 we are all extremely eager and hopeful that there will be a direct link provided by the
26 NTA which will service this park and ride, future ones and directly into the city
27 centre. But just to finish off, thank you very much, John, and everyone on your team
28 for engaging with us really well in our MD on this development, and we are very
29 excited to see it started and hopefully more of them in the future. Thank you,
30 Cathaoirleach.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor John Snell.

32 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Thanks to John and the team
33 again for presenting to us, and indeed to our colleagues who have come down here.
34 You presented here in October 2022, and at that stage we had four or five preferable

1 sites that you were looking at. I gave my opinion on the day that I believed that this
2 would be the preferred site for environmental purposes, for the lack of issues in
3 regards to neighbouring property, light pollution, noise pollution, and I'm delighted,
4 as I said last Monday, to John and his colleagues, to see that it's finally being nailed
5 down on what has always been the preferred site.

6

7 This Ashford-Rathnew park and ride, just to be clear that, you know, it's 2.1
8 kilometres from this park and ride to Ashford village, it is 1 kilometre from this park
9 and ride to Rathnew village. I would like to see that it is listed as Ashford- Rathnew
10 Park and Ride. We seem to have lost the name Rathnew in this altogether. And the
11 vast majority of people who will be attending this, the 210 parking spaces, will be
12 coming from the Rathnew, Wicklow Town, Brittas Bay direction. And obviously
13 there will be people feeding in from the uplands area of Moneystown, Roundwood,
14 Laragh. This is a hugely popular decision that's being made here today.

15

16 My question would be: What sort of timescale are we looking at? We know that
17 people are anxious to use what would have been a green agenda, but indeed,
18 everybody's agenda, to try and get as many cars off the road as possible and use
19 public transport. And people will be asking the question. Like, we've had
20 presentations prior to a number of the new councillors coming on board last year, as
21 I say we have been looking at this for a couple of years and we all know it takes time
22 and to be fair you have been working hard on it. But it's to get a timeframe that we
23 can let the public know because they will be asking the questions and unfortunately
24 we don't have the answers. So we would be hoping to get an answer to that.

25

26 Obviously all the queries that were raised at previous meetings, like CCTV, the
27 lighting, that you know the lighting would be taken into consideration and it won't
28 affect the night life in regards to the wildlife at night. It is a really lovely location.
29 Anyone that knows the area will know that there is a lot of wildlife in the area. So it
30 is to be conscious of all those issues. But in the main it's hugely, hugely popular
31 decision. It's really badly needed. I want to commend you for all the work that you
32 have done on this, and I am fully supportive of what you are doing. Thank you.

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: Maybe we will call it the Councillor John Snell Park and
34 Ride, will we, John?

1 COUNCILLOR SNELL: As I told you at the AGM in the municipal district I don't
2 need to see me name on the board.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Shane Langrell.

4 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Amusing. Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I'd like to
5 thank John and his team once again for your presentation. This is the fourth time
6 now that this has been put to us and yes, it is an amazing development please God
7 when it kicks off. As an Ashford man, an Ashford resident, it is amazing for the
8 community, not just Wicklow and Rathnew, but for Ashford and the uplands of
9 Glendalough, Laragh and Roundwood. And I suppose it is an amazing facility and
10 please God we can kick on, get moving on this site and please God we can get
11 diggers on site and take it from there. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Lourda Scott online,
13 please.

14 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. As the members here know, I am
15 in the Greystones district so I will just say we also welcome anything that will take
16 cars off the N11 before it gets to us would be very much welcomed. I want to
17 acknowledge and welcome the fact that you are looking for solar PV panels, whether
18 or not there is a path for putting those in place and that is certainly something that I
19 raised myself here at this chamber at previous presentations for park and rides up
20 along the N11. I welcome that.

21
22 Really my question here is: You know, there's no doubt from talking to constituents
23 in my district that the potential for park and ride is huge. People are eagerly awaiting
24 them to be built. It will hinge, the success will hinge, as I said, here before on the
25 reliability of buses that connect people into the city centre, but I realise that's out of
26 your hands. But really my question is the timeframe. We passed a Part 8 on the
27 Fassaroe Park and Ride back in November 2023, and you know, we're still waiting.
28 We went out and told people in the area about it. We are still waiting on delivery
29 around that. So it is the similar question around Ashford as the previous councillor
30 has: What sort of timeline are we looking for? This is a really important piece of
31 infrastructure for everybody along the N11 and can't come soon enough. Thank you.

32 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. John, I am going to keep going
33 because they're more commentary than questions, we really only have one or two
34 questions. Councillor Graham Richmond.

1 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, and thanks again, John.
2 Just following on from Councillor Snell about the Ashford-Rathnew, to throw
3 Wicklow at the front of it, we have the park and ride which wouldn't be great. But
4 that's basically -- currently as it stands, anyone commuting to Dublin is facing a war
5 with traffic. So anything that can contribute to it, it's really, really important that we
6 actually facilitate this and move it forward as quickly as possible and put it up to the
7 NTA to provide the services that are desperately needed. There's not a day goes by,
8 last -- the other week when schools were on half term when people expected an easy
9 ride on traffic, people were backed up and taking them well over an hour to travel
10 from Wicklow to Bray. Thank you.

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Stephen Stokes.

12 COUNCILLOR STOKES: Go raibh maith agat, Cathaoirleach. Very welcome news
13 to have another -- have the park and ride, you know, making progress. Now, my
14 only concern about whether it is this or the other two park and rides on the N11 is the
15 capacity. I raised this with the NTA when they were here, and I have been consistent
16 on this. I don't think the NTA have any idea how popular things like this are, and my
17 concern is they could become very oversubscribed very quickly. And so what I
18 question is, what are the plans, if they do become oversubscribed? They may not,
19 you know, but if they do, as I expect that they will. Because I know we're not talking
20 about Greystones, but they rode back, they said it was going to be 600 places and
21 then they came with 400 and something now I think when they came in. My concern
22 for the three park and rides, including this one, is how are they going to expand
23 capacity, you know, in the future? When they built the Greystones park and ride
24 near the railway station people laughed, they said, oh, it'll never be full, you know
25 it's too big, and now it is bursting at the seams every morning. So that's kind of the
26 warning for this and the other park and rides that I really would like to get more
27 clarity on. What are the plans for expansion? Than you.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Online, Councillor Silvester Bourke.

29 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Go raibh maith agat, Cathaoirleach. Yes, I am delighted
30 to see the plan being brought to the Council today, and I would like to commend and
31 congratulate the team for bringing it here. It will be great to see it being done very
32 quickly. I would also urge you to move on quickly to put one in Arklow, it would
33 make a huge difference to the quality for the people who commute into Dublin for

1 work. Cathaoirleach, when we couldn't get the Farrankelly roundabout, I don't think
2 we thought that we could (inaudible). So thank you, Cathaoirleach.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. I didn't get that. Councillor Dermot O'Brien.

4 COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Again thanks for the
5 presentation. I am just interested, and maybe this is already factored in, but when it
6 comes to -- I am wondering is there any technical or technological innovation about
7 people knowing that there's spaces available or not in a park and ride like this.

8 Because we can imagine, and I am sure people in the room have stories of going into
9 a park and ride and going around and around and around, and it may be if you knew
10 that there was or knew that there wasn't spaces it might help with the scenario where
11 people get frustrated, or again, its purpose, maybe to build on what Councillor
12 Stokes said, that if the capacity gets out of reach. But yeah, is there technological
13 opportunities there or maybe signage that says how many spaces there are currently?
14 And I know people -- I don't know whether they're factored into Google Maps or
15 whatever the case may be. I think that would probably add to the efficiency and
16 smoothness of access and connection with this. Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I have no more speakers there. So, John, if you
18 want to take those few questions and compliments.

19 MR BOWES: Thanks. I might pass over to my colleagues on the NTA, the bus
20 services.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry John, if will you bear with me. We have one more
22 speaker. Councillor Miriam Murphy wants to come in online. I didn't see that.
23 Apologies.

24 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Yes, I know I have been asked this at the last
25 presentation. I am sure it has been previously ...(inaudible)... and also probably child
26 buggies ...(inaudible)... I would like to make sure that that is covered in it. Thank
27 you.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Sorry, what was that? Councillor
29 Dunne, I beg your pardon. Go ahead, Councillor.

30 COUNCILLOR DUNNE: I just want to welcome this development of the park and
31 ride. For anybody travelling into the city centre Monday to Friday it is an absolute
32 nightmare. At 6 o'clock you'd be lucky to get in by quarter past 8. It is a welcome
33 development. The only thing that worries me, there is a lack of buses going from

1 Wicklow into Dublin and I am worried about that and when we have this facility we
2 really have to make sure there's the supply to the city. Thank you.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor Dunne. It is good to hear you. John,
4 sorry about that there.

5 MS CONLON: So I suppose we will try and get through all the questions that were
6 asked. So I think, Danny Alvey, thank you for your feedback. And I suppose you
7 sort of spoke about it N11 congestion. As we previously mentioned, those 210
8 spaces will assist in taking congestion off the N11 upstream of this location. And I
9 think the bus services was another item that you had asked about. So I suppose the
10 Park and Ride Development Office work to finalise a bus service strategy for the
11 site, but it is likely that the site will be serviced by existing bus services. So that
12 could be private and/or commercial bus operators that currently pass close to the site.
13 So in terms of the park and ride, it's looking like it will be operational Q4, 2026.
14 And I suppose in terms of existing bus services there can be changes between now
15 and then. So it is difficult to be completely definitive about what the bus service will
16 look like, but I suppose we will be sort of looking at ensuring the service has
17 capacity. That seems to be a crucial issue. Because obviously if we are adding
18 additional sort of patronage onto these buses we need to make sure they can
19 accommodate that. That might be adding additional services into the future.

20 MR DALTON: Just to mention -- and, Cathaoirleach, thank you for the support of
21 the members here in terms of the proposal that we are bringing to you today for
22 decision -- the NTA is working on bus services around the country at the moment,
23 and one of the things that is happening as part of the fleet is the electrification of the
24 entire network. And through that, additional buses are being made available for
25 other services around the country. We are hoping to leverage some of those
26 additional buses when that time arises. The electrification for Cork and Galway, I
27 know these are other areas, but they do present opportunities for the NTA to provide
28 additional buses on this particular route. So I am hopeful that that will provide the
29 additional capacity that you have mentioned.

30

31 In addition to that then I suppose the options for Ashford Rathnew are multi -- there
32 is a multi-pronged options available here in terms of commercial bus services that
33 are operating on the N11 which can come into the site, but also then the 133 service
34 that goes from Wicklow to Dublin City Centre. I suppose some of the wider NTA

1 proposals then as you get closer to the city centre, such as BusConnects and the N11
2 upgrade, as you will be familiar, will give that extra time saving to public transport
3 patrons as we move forward. So this is a multi-pronged attack in terms of providing
4 additional capacity to the N11.

5

6 I will give it back to you there now.

7 MS CONLON: That's all right. I think Councillor John Snell, thank you. I do
8 remember your support sort of for the site at the time and we greatly appreciated
9 that. And I suppose the reason really was that there was sort of a stream at the
10 southern end of the site which drained into the Murrough estuary, SAC and SPA, and
11 in terms of environmental, and it avoided being too close to housing as well, which I
12 think was a point you also made.

13

14 Then I suppose in terms of timescales, yeah, we're looking at opening the park and
15 ride in Q4, 2026.

16

17 CCTV and lighting were considered, and particularly in terms of the lighting we do
18 have, I suppose our ecologists does work closely with us on that and gives advice.
19 We provide a lighting design to them, and they give us feedback in terms of making
20 sure it is appropriate for the wildlife in the area.

21 COUNCILLOR SNELL: When would it be started?

22 MS CONLON: Sorry at Q4, 2026

23 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Starting or finished?

24 MS CONLON: The construction will be completed Q4, 2026. Once the
25 construction has completed we will be able to start operating the buses.

26 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Do you have a start date for construction?

27 MR DALTON: Well, I suppose in terms of that there's various aspects that we have
28 to do before we can get to shovels in the ground, so to speak. I suppose there is the
29 procurement of the contractor, there's the detailed design and all of these things take
30 time. That brings me on to Fassaroe, I think one of the elected officials mentioned
31 Fassaroe. And I suppose planning was granted for that some time ago and we're now
32 in a position where we're almost on the cusp of putting those shovels in the ground
33 for that. So it does take a period of time to get from the decision today to actually
34 delivery.

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And then, in parallel to that then there's work happening on the bus front serving these facilities, and it is a really important characteristic of them and to have that work, so that once you have the facility delivered you have the buses available to you to serve the patrons that are using it.

MS CONLON: So then I think Councillor Lourda Scott had mentioned about the solar panels. We are looking to see if we can provide solar panels on top of the bus shelters is one aspect and then I suppose there is some sort of additional space at the sort of northern end of the site. We will look at that as part of the detailed design to see what we can accommodate in terms of solar panels.

I think then Stephen Stokes, Councillor Stephen Stokes mentioned about the capacity of bus services, you know, that there are currently oversubscribed. And I suppose we will look at, as part of our bus service strategy, you know, what can be done, and just I suppose making sure that we have sufficient capacity to accommodate, you know, the additional demands that will be induced by this park and ride as well.

And just to say actually, a lot of sort of traffic analysis has been done in terms of determining the number of spaces that are required in each of these park and rides. So we haven't just plucked this number out of the air. The 210 spaces is based on data from the eastern region model. And I suppose the other thing to mention is in terms of expansion into the future, if this is oversubscribed, as you mentioned, we do have some additional space on this particular site to facilitate sort of expansion into the future if required based on demand.

I think Councillor Silvester Bourke mentioned about the Junction 20 park and share, park and ride, that's a local park and ride. These ones that we're discussing today, this one, is a strategic park and ride which I suppose would be sort of the priority projects for the park and ride, but we are going to work with Wicklow County Council as well in terms of -- and with TII as well on that park and share sort of at Junction 20 as well, because we do understand that there is quite a bit of demand at that juncture already which is a safety concern I suppose from a TII perspective. We will be looking to work together on that one.

1 Then I suppose Councillor Dermot O'Brien mentioned about, you know, if there's
2 any sort of information that we can provide to sort of tell people about the number of
3 spaces. So I suppose we design these park and rides as such so that we can collect
4 that data, and we can provide that data to TII. Now, TII, they have messaging
5 systems on the N11 and so I suppose it will be up to them to display that
6 information, but we will certainly sort of allow for that collection of data.

7
8 Then I think there was a question in relation to children's buggies being able to get
9 onto these services. Now, I suppose in terms of the park and ride we would sort of,
10 you know, imagine that these would predominantly be used by commuters.
11 However, the existing bus services do have, you know they can accommodate a
12 certain number of buggies on board, so I suppose it would be what is available on
13 those services.

14 MR DALTON: I think just to mention in addition to that, most of the fleet that we
15 are looking at at the moment, most of the bus fleet is low floor fleets, as you will
16 know from your experience as you go into the GDA. Many of the buses serving this
17 area will be high floor, but I suppose we are working with many of the mobility
18 impaired organisations throughout the State to ensure that the fleet can accommodate
19 buggies, can accommodate wheelchairs, can accommodate those with mobility
20 impairments and that's something that's front and centre in our thought process in
21 delivering park and ride facilities, not just here but all around the State.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. I just have one more speaker and I know he is going to
23 be brief. Councillor Stokes.

24 COUNCILLOR STOKES: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I am on my best behaviour.
25 Just to thank you very much for the responses, they were quite informative. I remain
26 a little bit unconvinced when it comes to the capacity expansion, because looking at
27 that map there is a little northeast corner that is available, and I am wondering what
28 is the potential extra capacity. Because my concern is that we get a year in, and you
29 have 200 spaces there, but you actually need 400 spaces. That's the potential here.
30 When I lived in Greater Manchester a lot of their park and rides for the Metro Link
31 which is their equivalent to the Luas, they would have free car parks that were
32 two-storey. This is what I am talking about, just being innovative, having a plan. It
33 may not come to pass. I am sorry to be a bit of a party pooper with these questions
34 because it is a really great announcement, but these are important questions that have

1 to be asked about capacity. But of course, I mean if the buses are rubbish, it won't be
2 used at all. I mean that is key to all of this. But if the service is great, which is what
3 we all want, what you want, what we want, then I do think that this is going to be
4 really, really popular, whether it is Ashford, Bray or Greystones. I would like to you
5 take that away and I suppose be warned early about it's good, it's going to be backed,
6 you know, as we want.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Be prepared, Councillor Stokes.

8 MS CONLON: That would be, I suppose, a great problem to have, you know, if
9 these were over capacity. But I suppose you're referring to a small section within the
10 red line boundary. Now I suppose when I am talking about expanding, it is not
11 really shown on this because this is concentrated on the red line boundary but there is
12 a significant area north of the red line boundary which is not included as part of our
13 scheme but is area that we sort of work within. If we do need to expand this.
14 Because we purchased that area of land to the north to allow for sort of expansion of
15 this, if required. Now, in the likes of Kilpedder or Fassaroe we might need to think
16 about other solutions, you know, multi-deck into the future or that sort of thing, but
17 at this location certainly we would be looking to expand to the north of that location
18 because we do have the space there

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Alvey, I know you're going to be quick as well.

20 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Yeah, I will be quick.

21 Unfortunately I have to retract some of my positivity from my earlier statements on
22 the knowledge that we are going to be relying on existing bus services here, because
23 I really just don't think that is going to be adequate. Unfortunately we have a
24 situation now in Newtownmountkennedy where I live, relying on the 133, that we
25 have a race southwards for people to try and get on those buses in the morning. So
26 the 7am, 7.30, 8am as they come in. People are driving southbound, parking up so
27 they can jump other people, potentially get a place and then see other people having
28 to wait on the side for the next service. What is going to happen here now as I look
29 at this park and ride is people from Newtown are going to be forced to drive to
30 Ashford in the hope of getting a place if we are relying on the existing bus services
31 and scramble for places there, and by the time it comes into Newtown and Kilpedder
32 they might as well say good luck. So I urge you and the NTA to go back and
33 consider the plans again. By the time Q4, 2026 comes around, there will be several
34 hundred new houses being built in Newtown, Ashford, more cars on the N11, more

1 demand for these bus services. So many people have moved out of Dublin, the
2 Greater Dublin Area, and they all travel in there to work. I am very concerned now
3 about this plan. I really hope a direct service or extra services can be delivered as a
4 matter of urgency to accompany this park and ride. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: You're more than welcome. And I think, Councillor, you
6 make a very valid point that we all agree with, because we all get the complaints
7 every day even though it is out of our hands. I know, speaking to other councillors
8 over the last number of weeks, nothing to do with you, but the NTA seems to be a
9 problem. Councillor Scott is online, and we have a lot of issues in Bray and
10 Greystones at the moment. But take away the positives from today because there's
11 more positives than negatives. There's concerns more than negativity. I am sure
12 they can be addressed. Thank you very much again for your time and effort.

13

14 I need a proposer and seconder. Councillor Snell. Councillor Alvey. Agreed?
15 (Agreed.) Thank you very much.

16

17 Okay, members, we're going to go on to item number 7 on the agenda: To consider
18 and adopt County Wicklow Heritage Plan in accordance with Local Authority
19 Heritage Plan Guidelines produced by the Heritage Council (2024) (copy attached).

20

21 I invite Deirdre, our Heritage officer, to speak on this, please.

22 MS BURNS: Thank you, Chairman. I suppose just to recap. I was here last
23 November, and we presented the Draft Heritage Plan, and from your approval it went
24 out for consultation for a six-week period. We had a total of nine submissions. The
25 Wicklow Heritage Forum, which is the group that is put together to produce and
26 implement the plan had a look at it and have made suggestions, and that's the report
27 that you all have. The report on the submissions. And arising out of that we have
28 one additional proposed action in the Heritage Plan.

29

30 Just again a recap. I suppose the Heritage Plan is a strategic document, it is a
31 five-year strategy for how Wicklow County Council will manage heritage for the
32 next period. It is produced in accordance with national policy and with the
33 guidelines set out by the Heritage Council. So I suppose we would be asking you, I

1 can go through the submissions if you want, we will be asking you to adopt or amend
2 the plan as you see fit.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Deirdre. I think everyone has got the plan. So I
4 will open the floor there to Councillor John Snell.

5 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah, thanks, Cathaoirleach. First and foremost, I just
6 want to commend Deirdre for all the work that she does within the Heritage Office
7 and indeed for all the citizens of County Wicklow. It's an honour to serve on the
8 County Wicklow Heritage Forum. There's 19 members on that forum and they met
9 last week out in Clermont Campus. This, it's great to get this document in front of all
10 32 members and I know the members will have gone through it. It's something that
11 hugely important in regards to going forward, we have to have our strategy in place.
12 Deirdre has done a huge amount of work right across the county and anyone that has
13 had the pleasure of dealing with her within her confines of the job will know that she
14 takes everything on board. She is dealing with a large amount of groups throughout
15 County Wicklow, a huge diversity to the membership of the forum that takes on
16 board all aspects of heritage, history and everything else in between, including
17 biodiversity as well. I recommend this document for passing here today to all 32
18 members. I encourage you, if you have any questions either here today or at a later
19 stage to engage with Deirdre Burns and her team. A fantastic job that they do, and,
20 as I say, it is an absolute honour to put this in front of the members and seek your
21 support.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Just before you go, Councillor Snell, are you happy enough to
23 propose it?

24 COUNCILLOR SNELL: I'll propose it, yes.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Leonard online.

26 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Yes, I would like to support it and second it there. It
27 is fantastic work, the whole team did massive work on a very, very ...(inaudible)...
28 budget. I suppose I say this every year, but like I mean Deirdre can highlight the
29 budget that she is working on to achieve some of the things, there's scope for so
30 much in the county. We had a bigger budget for the Heritage section in the county.
31 It may be that people in government ...(inaudible)... in their parties, so maybe take
32 some of that information and I think it is just ...(inaudible)... and I think for the
33 county that we have, natural assets that we have, really it doubles or triples the funds
34 that we have. I mean we really ...(inaudible)... I would like to thank Deirdre and the

1 whole team there. They're amazing. And Yvonne Whitty as well, she's the
2 community archaeologist that we have. Thanks.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Dermot O'Brien.

4 COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just a quick one, to
5 again to pay a tribute to the forum, to Deirdre for the work. I always appreciate
6 when I read a report that shows when somebody makes a submission that it's
7 responded to, and that when appropriate that a new recommendation lands in the
8 document. So that, to me, again is an example of how the forum operates and the
9 sincerity of the engagement with the public. So it is fascinating to see a world where
10 technology develops at a pace that is incomprehensible at times but that we still
11 retain space for maintaining connection with culture and heritage from the past.
12 Great work and very much support this. Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. There's no more speakers. So,
14 Deirdre, can I thank you as well. I have had the privilege and honour of attending a
15 number of your events since I have been elected Cathaoirleach and I can safely say it
16 is not just a job for you, it is a passion for you, and we get the love. And I think it is
17 fitting here today that this has been brought here today, as was mentioned, earlier
18 with at the passing of Stan O'Reilly and his funeral; Stan would have been very
19 proud of this and supportive of it, as we all are.

20

21 We have a proposer and a seconder, are we in agreement? (Agreed.) Thank you
22 very much. And thank you, Deirdre.

23

24 Okay, item number 8, I have two estates I am going to take them separately: To
25 consider in accordance with section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 and section 180 of the
26 Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the taking in charge of the
27 following estates. So I am going to Ashcroft, Delgany. Councillor Stokes. I am
28 looking for -- Louise Fennelly Gaskin. Agreed? (Agreed.) And the next one is Sika
29 Woods in Enniskerry? Councillor Melanie Corrigan and Councillor Aoife Flynn
30 Kennedy. Agreed? (Agreed.)

31

32 We will move on now to item number 9: To consider the Chief Executive's Report
33 on submission to the draft Blessington Local Area Plan 2025 and to consider whether
34 to make or amend the plan otherwise than as recommended in the CE report, or not

1 make the plan, in accordance with section 20 of the Planning and Development Act
2 2000, as amended (copy attached).

3

4 Just as a way of introduction, I will come to you in a second, okay, so we're here to
5 consider the Chief Executive's Report on submission to the draft Blessington LAP.
6 The Chief Executive recommended the making of 27 amendments to the draft plan.
7 These are in front of you in document marked No. 1. Also in front of you today is
8 document labelled Document No. 2 where you will find a set of additional
9 amendments that the Elected Members intend to propose today.

10

11 A couple of words before I start and open up the floor. We did learn from the last
12 plan three weeks ago, and rather than trying to alternate between the Councillors'
13 submissions and the Chief Executive's recommendations we learned from that, okay,
14 so what I am proposing today is that we will be starting with Document No. 2 which
15 is the Councillors' submission. It is only when we are finished with Document No. 2
16 that we will go on to Document No. 2.

17

18 Now, before we open it up I am going to remind and ask the members, I can't change
19 the way we do our business here today. There was a long discussion here three
20 weeks ago about the format and proposal, but I can't change that. We are where we
21 are today. And I hope to be able to get through it.

22

23 Councillor Gerry O'Neill.

24 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I am asking for this discussion
25 on the Local Area Plan for Blessington be postponed for the ten days or 14 days, or
26 whatever we're allowed, and the reason being that there's a few, two, three, four, five
27 groups that haven't got their submissions in or would like to get an opportunity for
28 them to be considered by Councillors, and this hasn't happened. And some of these
29 are a small, local nature, and they have been there a long, long time. Their families
30 have been there a long time beforehand. Just in the interest of fairness, I know there
31 has been great time given to the bigger submission, and the more articulate developer
32 or whatever, but I just ask that we would give these people a chance. I have no
33 guarantee as to what they would bring forward or whatever. I am willing to talk to
34 the -- anyway, there could be three, four, I don't know and see what they bring

1 forward. So for the sake of fairness I would ask that we would put this meeting off
2 till we have another two weeks. And we waited ten years, so surely we could wait
3 another ten days. Go raibh maith agat.

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I have a number of speakers. I am going to ask
5 that you keep your contribution to a minimum but also keep it professional and
6 polite. Councillor Pat Kennedy.

7 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Cathaoirleach, I don't agree
8 with postponing this item and having a special meeting. As a former Cathaoirleach
9 myself of this Council, and I have been through County Development Plans, and I
10 have been through local area plans and I think from my experience always the same
11 amount of time is given to each area. If we need another ten days on one, we need it
12 on another and another and another. Time-framed is time-framed. I would be very
13 surprised if the Blessington plan didn't get the same time as everywhere from the
14 planners. I wouldn't be in agreement with having a special meeting to deal with this.
15 Thank you.

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Just for the record, because I am just
17 comparing Wicklow, because that's the latest one we've had, to the day we got the
18 same amount of time. I want to make that known here so we don't -- Councillor
19 Aoife Flynn Kennedy.

20 COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. My issue is
21 exactly the same as Councillor Kennedy, to be honest with you. We are eagerly
22 awaiting Bray's, and I just don't want any delays. And while at the same time I don't
23 want to object to anybody having their say, Councillor O'Neill, in any way. So I am
24 just wondering do we have any details of the extent of those who were or were not
25 made a contribution, do we know what that is, do we know how often there was
26 opportunities for people to meet and discuss beforehand just to get some sort of a
27 thing? I am conscious I don't want to create precedent but at the same time I stop
28 anyone from having their say. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Graham Richmond.

30 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. To back up the previous
31 two speakers, Councillor Kennedy and Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy the fact that
32 having recently completed a Local Area Plan, I checked this beforehand. The same
33 amount of time was given to the day to the Councillors in this area. As Councillor
34 Kennedy said, if we delay this one we're setting a precedent. And I think there was

1 ample time given for people to raise submissions, and I just think that we start
2 delaying this area plan all we're going to do is spend time delaying every
3 development plan and then we're not going to get any of the work of the Council
4 done. Thank you.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Peter Stapleton.

6 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Chair. Just as a member of the
7 Baltinglass MD and somebody who worked on this Local Area Plan and worked
8 very hard alongside the planners, I would like to thank the planners for the work they
9 put in to deliver the plan to the members on this date. I do think it is a noble
10 intention of Gerry's that there could be submissions out there that we didn't get to
11 that might potentially crop up in the next few days, that it would be nice for us to
12 consider. That will always be the case. There will always be a fear out there that
13 there may be submissions we missed. As Councillor O'Neill also pointed out, there
14 has been ten years for people to come forward and discuss this plan with their local
15 elected reps. Of the specific cases that I know, there is one that is quite unfortunate,
16 that individual got their dates mixed up, but because I don't think that even if we
17 came back and considered that, and it changed, that it would have any material
18 impact on the development of the plan. I think we have put a good plan together and
19 I am happy to vote on it today.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: And just for the record, in case we are asked, any of the
21 Wicklow MD members, we were approached by a number of individuals and
22 developers after the date as well, and our answer to them was that we have a County
23 Development Plan in two years' time and we will look at that in two years' time, but
24 unfortunately we did enforce the rule in Wicklow by saying the deadline had passed
25 and we were happy to proceed. But the comfort for them was that we would be back
26 in two years' time to look at the County Development Plan, and where the Local
27 Area Plan would be consumed by that. So we will be reviewing that. So the people
28 know.

29
30 Councillor Shane Langrell.

31 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Thank you, Councillor. Yeah, I'm with the rest of
32 the members. I don't see why this should be put off from today. Like you just said,
33 Cathaoirleach, we have gone through the same. Our Local Area Plan got amazing
34 support from the Council. I can't get my head around why we would want to put this

1 off. And, Councillor, it is two weeks away. Realistically we've only -- we'd have to
2 come back in here again for a special meeting for this. Me personally with work
3 commitments I'd just -- I don't -- I'm not going for that one. I'd like to get it done
4 today. Thank you.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Joe Behan.

6 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Cathaoirleach, first of all, I had the pleasure of attending
7 one of the meetings in the west and I also attended one of the meetings in the east, as
8 we were all invited to, if we could attend. I have to compliment the Councillors in
9 the two municipal districts and the staff led by Sorcha; there was a very, very
10 positive spirit I felt at both meetings that I certainly attended. I was there, I suppose,
11 more to inform myself than anything else when the time comes to take the votes.
12 But unfortunately, and while Councillor O'Neill can't really say this, I want to say
13 this, he wasn't able to attend the meeting that I attend in Blessington due to illness,
14 which is nobody's fault. But he has been talking about this plan for ten years and I
15 feel, while I am sure every effort was made by the staff, and I know it was, to
16 facilitate him, I think that what he has requested is a tiny little bit of leeway, given
17 that this in fact, based on an email we received from the Director of Planning, this is
18 going to be the last town plan that we're going to have in this Council, because after
19 Wicklow and Blessington are done it looks like the whole system is going to be
20 changed. And we're going to be changing our county plan rather than having
21 standalone town plans. Given that is the situation, I don't think there's any precedent
22 worries there, because this is not going to arise again, and I think in fairness to
23 Councillor O'Neill, given his long-standing commitment to the town and his many,
24 many times bringing it up, we should create a little bit of space. And no matter what
25 is said at the top, it is our decision. There are time constraints put on us, but in many
26 cases they're constraints that we can actually decide to remove ourselves. For
27 example, when it comes to proposing additions or changes or amendments, officials
28 refer to you must get it in by a certain date, you have to get your amendments in by a
29 certain date. No, we don't. I could put down an amendment here today during the
30 meeting if I wished. There's nothing legally stopping me doing that. It is a matter
31 for the members. Now, I'm not going to be doing that, but I am just saying that it is
32 in our power. It is the last time we are going to be doing a town plan, and I would
33 certainly support Councillor O'Neill's request, particularly to give him the

1 opportunity as a public rep to have the input that I think he should have into this
2 process.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Just before you switch off your
4 microphone, are you happy enough to second it?

5 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: I am very happy to second it.

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor John Snell.

7 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah, thanks, Cathaoirleach. Again, look it, I am
8 disappointed to be honest that we are in this situation. You know, through whatever
9 circumstances, to find ourselves in this situation, and I know when it comes to a
10 Local Area Plan that it is so important that the six Elected Members pull together, as
11 happened in our district, as happened in the west district and now we find ourselves
12 with a bump in the road as such. But it is not a major issue. It is not a major issue to
13 overcome, because it is not taking one day, one hour or one minute out of the
14 Greystones plan, the Bray plan or any other plan for that matter. It is talking about
15 coming here for a special meeting in seven days' time or 14 days' time, depending on
16 which is decided. And we did discuss that option in our municipal district. The
17 meeting was held on the 10th February, and we did talk about perhaps having to
18 push it out till the 17th but thankfully we found enough time within our own busy
19 lifetimes to come together on multiple times to fit everything in for the 10th.

20

21 Like, hand on heart, when you're dealing with people who this is their locality, this is
22 where their bread and butter is, this is their local plan. Gerry O'Neill has sat here
23 unfortunately, elected in 2014, slightly after the last Local Area Plan was
24 implemented in Blessington, he now has the luxury of having another colleague from
25 Blessington elected onto these chambers here and there's two of them here that this is
26 their local plan. I don't mean that in any disrespect to the other four councillors
27 because it is your plan too. As Councillor Stapleton said, he's invested a huge
28 amount of time. I am sure Avril Cronin, and all the other members have done the
29 same, Patsy Glennon, it is your local plan, and I am not diminishing that one second.
30 I genuinely am not. But there is no hurry here. There is no rush. You can do this in
31 seven days. And if people have work commitments, well, you make a decision, you
32 make a decision do you go to work or do you come here. Because this is my work,
33 and I am coming here. And if others can't be here, well and good. There's people
34 missing today. There's people missing out of this chambers today. There's no issue

1 there. And it's no reflection on the people that can't be here. But this is hugely
2 important to the people from Blessington.

3

4 We were told when we implemented our own Local Area Plan 13 years ago it will
5 last for five years, and that plan was implemented for 13 years. That's why it was
6 such a busy workload to get through in our district here of the Wicklow Rathnew
7 Local Area Plan. And thankfully that's been done. We don't want to go through all
8 of what we went through there. But this is Blessington's chance, and I don't see why
9 we're -- I certainly don't want to stand in the way of anything. And if nothing comes
10 out of it so be it. Let's move on to the next item. Call a special meeting next week.
11 If the Cathaoirleach can't be here, the Leas Cathaoirleach can step in or whatever the
12 case might be. If people can't make it, others will make it. Seven days is not going
13 to make much difference to our lives, but it will for the locality of Blessington,
14 because this is something that they might have to live under for the next decade.
15 Because we were told a five-year plan turned into a 13-year plan.

16

17 And in regards of, you know, we can revisit it the next County Development Plan, I
18 am not so sure about that, I am really not. We're still waiting for figures to come
19 from the Department. You know, I would take that with a grain of salt. The six
20 Elected Members of West Wicklow are over here day in day out trying to do their
21 best for West Wicklow, and it doesn't matter if it is Tinahely, Dunlavin, Baltinglass,
22 Blessington or anywhere in between, they're doing their best for West Wicklow, and
23 I don't think we as Elected Members outside of West Wicklow should deny them the
24 opportunity to get this right. There's no rush here. Seven days. Give them seven
25 days.

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I am trying to move it on a bit too
27 because we have a number of speakers. Councillor Patsy Glennon.

28 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Cathaoirleach, thank you. Look, I am currently chair
29 of the Baltinglass Municipal District and we had several meetings on this,
30 unfortunately Gerry for a number of different reasons wasn't able to attend a number
31 of them, he did get to one with Sorcha and her team. Again, I understand the
32 concerns he's raising are genuine, but I am just going to correct John Snell a few
33 items here, and I know he didn't intend any insult or anything, but Pat Mahon and

1 myself are reared or spent our lives in the Blessington community. Gerry is from
2 Saggart, and the other councillor you refer to is --

3 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Listen, grow up.

4 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: No. You listen, Gerry, for a second.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, Councillor. Councillor Glennon, go on please.
6 Councillor O'Neill, please.

7 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Councillor Mulhall is from Coolboy. Just to put the
8 record straight. Pat Mahon and myself are more genuine Blessington people than
9 anybody else here. Even though Gerry doesn't like hearing the truth ever sometimes.
10 However, despite --

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, Councillor, can I just say, at the very beginning I asked
12 for people to be polite and professional.

13 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Hear, hear.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: And that goes for everybody.

15 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Hear, hear.

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: So, Councillor Glennon, can you make your point there
17 please and keep going?

18 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: My point is that despite the wrath there, I think if it
19 can be facilitated by all the members here, not by any one or two, I have no difficulty
20 with it being put back to next Monday. But I fear that we will come in here and
21 there will be little engagement. I do fear that.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

23 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Because I have experienced it over the last few weeks.
24 Thank you.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy.

26 COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Sorry, Cathaoirleach, and I will keep this
27 really, really quick. For me, this is more than just about this plan, it is about all the
28 stuff we do and looking for extensions. And you're right, Councillor Behan, we do
29 have the authority to look for extensions at different times but that will create an
30 environment where work will slow down, and we will really struggle to get things
31 done. I know Sorcha and the team have made themselves really, really available
32 during this process, as they did the last time, and I think to be fair to them and
33 everyone else I think we should just get on with the work that needs to be done.
34 Thank you.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Winstanley.

2 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I would like some
3 clarification, if that's okay. I just wanted to know whether the requests for an
4 extension is due to Councillor O'Neill not having enough time to participate in the
5 process because of being sick or whether it was because of his original argument that
6 there was people that didn't get to be involved from the community in the plan? I
7 just wanted to seek clarification on that. Thank you.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor O'Neill, I have one more speaker and
9 then I will let you back in. Councillor Mulhall.

10 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Yeah, thanks, Cathaoirleach. The first thing I would
11 like to thank Sorcha and the planning team for their help and support over the last
12 few weeks. I suppose from my perspective with respect to the 2014-19 plan I didn't
13 see anything come out of it from Blessington. It wasn't worth the paper it was
14 written on, to be honest. We seen no positive development. So I will kind of ignore
15 that one. On the plan, I suppose from the initial meeting, I did outline my concerns
16 on the timeline, but to be honest, I worked within what was there, focused on what
17 we needed. I put days into it, evenings into it, weekends into it, Saturdays and
18 Sundays. And I engaged with everyone who made contact with me and continued to
19 do it earlier today as well. For those, there are occasions where people were late to
20 the races as such through, you know, either through fault of their own or through no
21 fault of their own, it doesn't really matter, they were late. They messed up their
22 deadlines and stuff. Of the three that I am aware of, I have contacted the three of
23 them, I have made them aware of my position, and how I feel on each of them, and
24 you know I don't see myself changing a whole lot over the next week as regards the
25 three things that I am aware of. There could be others, but they have not made
26 contact with me.

27

28 The other thing as well is just as regards where people are from and stuff, I just see
29 myself as from the district, representing South and West Wicklow, no particular
30 village or town or anything else. So thank you.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor O'Neill.

32 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: I'd like to, yeah, just to refer back to Councillor Glennon
33 there.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: And, Councillor O'Neill, I admonished him for being
2 impolite.

3 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Sorry?

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: I admonished him for being impolite. I am asking you to be
5 polite now as well.

6 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: I want to point out very clearly, I don't know where he's
7 getting the bit about Gerry O'Neill being from Saggart. He's a former garda in the
8 area --

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Now, Councillor O'Neill, I am trying to be fair here.

10 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: -- I thought his intelligence might be a bit better than
11 that. To put on the record here I am from the Crookshane in County Dublin, barely
12 on the Dublin border, straddling the Kildare-Wicklow border and that's where I was
13 born and reared. In Crookshane. Right. So that'll give you an idea of the
14 intelligence of the gardaí who at the time --

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor O'Neill -- Councillor O'Neill, you have
16 clarified -- sorry, Councillor O'Neill --

17 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: It's not the level of their intelligence when they need to
18 get --

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: You have clarified where you're from and thank you for that.

20 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Can I move on and answer Councillor Winstanley there.
21 I represent the West Wicklow area, the Blessington area, and I wasn't co-opted on. I
22 took topped the poll again in 2,000 votes. I command a fair bit of respect in the area
23 I believe. I have been involved in the Local Area Plan and the planning and am
24 passionate about it. I realise that, you know, we are making decisions in here today
25 and they can affect our children, our grandchildren. We decide on bad planning
26 today -- well, I don't know. I want to get this thing right. And I am passionate about
27 the proper planning in our area in any part of Wicklow. And I have been very much
28 involved in all the public meetings, et cetera, et cetera I suppose -- in actual fact we
29 didn't speak too much about this at local level. At our municipal district the Local
30 Area Plan was very seldom discussed, which it should have been. And also at the
31 town team level, at one occasion it was on the agenda for discussion and was taken
32 off. So I think we could have done a lot more as elected representatives for the area.

33

1 But just to get back to your point, I happened to be away with an operation on my
2 eye for one week, seven days. That's all. I was only missing for seven days. And in
3 those seven days there was amendments proposed and seconded by other
4 Councillors, some issues I had been working on for the last two years, but they were
5 proposed and seconded by other councillors. Fair play. I don't care who proposes
6 and seconds it. There are ones that I fully support. But I was only away for seven
7 days, and this happened within that period.

8

9 Again just finally, Cathaoirleach, could I make a plea there, you know that I want to
10 thank Councillors Snell and Behan, it is just those 14 days we're looking for, ten
11 days, or whatever it'd be. I just want to be fair to the smaller people. The people that
12 I am talking about in my area are small business people, some are small business
13 people. They did slip up. It is nothing to do with me, absolutely nothing whatsoever
14 to do with me. They just didn't -- for whatever reason they didn't understand the
15 process, and I can't see any big reason why we don't give everyone a fair crack at the
16 whip. I know there was a lot of time spent with the Cairn Homes people and
17 whatever, and there's plenty of time given to them but I would like, to give them the
18 chance to get their tuppence into the ring for this. God only knows whether, you
19 know, they might come back in ten days' time or they mightn't, but we want to give
20 them this chance. I know this morning they have been talking to me and other
21 Councillors and, you know, they're very upset that they missed the closing date, and
22 they were more than anxious to contribute.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Avril Cronin.

24 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Thanks very much. I just want to say, first of all, that I
25 think every member that sits here, whether they got co-opted, if they got elected on
26 the fifth or 20th count it makes no different, once we come in here we are all
27 Councillors and we all represent our communities. It doesn't matter Gerry, to be
28 honest. Everybody that's here has the same right and the same say once we come in
29 here as Councillors. So it doesn't matter how people got here, that they got her, and
30 they deserve the respect as every other Councillor.

31

32 With regard to the Local Area Plan, I just want to acknowledge the support that we
33 got from the planning team. They were on hand for the numerous calls, emails, back
34 and forth, the trips across the gap to meet us, to go through everything. We were

1 never pushed to have things done by a specific time during our meetings. And on
2 my behalf I feel that I put huge time and effort into my amendments and into my
3 proposals, and I know that a number of other Councillors did as well. A Local Area
4 Plan is very time-consuming. We all want to do what we feel is right for our
5 communities and for the communities that we represent, and I firmly believe that the
6 proposals and time and effort that we put into this plan really does merit the
7 dedication that we put in over the past number of weeks. However, I do feel that if
8 Councillor O'Neill feels that he needs extra time I will be happy to support his
9 propose. As I said to him last week, I am happy to sit down with him and go through
10 to assist him in any way that I can. But I am very happy with the amendments that I
11 have put in and the proposals and the work that I have done over the past number of
12 weeks. Thanks

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Just before I bring in other speakers, and I have
14 three more, I just need to put on the record, there because a precedent has been set by
15 the Wicklow Local Area Plan. And I am speaking on behalf of myself now and the
16 other Wicklow people come in after me, the Wicklow MD. We have set a precedent
17 by telling people they were out of time and that they can come back in two years'
18 time. So when I say we're going to be put in a very difficult situation here today if
19 this goes through it will be an understatement, because we felt that we were doing
20 things right and we were cruel to be kind in a way. And some of these people are
21 known personally to me, and they're not big developers, they're not big, you know...
22 We also had the option here, we had a member on dialysis ringing in because he felt
23 it important to be part of the meeting, while at the same time another member was on
24 the screen on a Zoom meeting. So we had to Zoom people in with them on speaker,
25 so we did try and accommodate as best you can. But if you understand my
26 predicament here, I'm not speaking as Cathaoirleach, I am speaking as a Wicklow
27 Councillor.

28 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: You could have asked for that extension.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: I know that. We didn't, because we felt we were doing things
30 by the book and we put a huge amount of effort into our own Local Area Plan. So
31 just bear in mind that a precedent has been set by the Wicklow LAP and will put us
32 in a very, very difficult position. Councillor Jason Mulhall.

33 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Yeah, thank you. I suppose, you know, we have put a
34 lot of time into it, you know, on the phone and in person. It wasn't just that at the

1 MD meeting which occurred on the -- I think our last MD meeting was a week ago
2 or whatever. So we had done a lot of work prior to that. Yeah, so I suppose from
3 my perspective this Local Area Plan has been coming around since probably 2013
4 when I first got involved in the local community and have been looking at it since
5 then with community groups, not as an elected rep, and following it from that
6 perspective, and just County Development Plans in between as well. So, you know,
7 there has been a lot of work. Prior to being elected here, I worked with the groups in
8 the town, and we had a number of meetings where we, you know, took input from
9 the community's side and inputted that into the plan. From my perspective I think
10 we found balance between development, residential, community needs and stuff.
11 And, you know, whether or not we need an extension, I don't know for sure, I don't
12 know what will happen with those outstanding ones between now and whenever it is.
13 I am just not clear.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I just have a couple more speakers. Councillor
15 Fortune.

16 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Yeah, just an attempt maybe
17 to give an option. First of all, I know the hard work that Sorcha and her team puts
18 into this process. I mean they are extremely, totally professional and they make it
19 easy for us in lots of ways. So I want to acknowledge that. But I also want to
20 acknowledge the fact that circumstances -- I mean Gerry was sick for seven days.
21 Like, he was in hospital. You know, these things happen. We don't have control
22 over it. And I am just wondering, and I do recognise that postponing today for a
23 week or whatever is a time problem, and I understand that. So is it possible that we
24 could take a break and that the Councillors from the west could have a meeting for
25 whatever it takes and to go through what Gerry is talking about and just see is it
26 practical and if they come back and -- because at the end of the day we, me, and I am
27 speaking for myself obviously, but most Councillors here are from different districts.
28 So it is easy for us to come in here and sit and listen and make a vote on something
29 that affects the district of Blessington, that district. I mean we wouldn't like -- I
30 wouldn't like if what happens in our district be influenced by someone from some
31 other district if you know what I mean. That's the nature of things in this particular
32 scenario. So I just think maybe we should make an attempt to see can we facilitate it
33 today.

34

1 I have sat at meetings on plans here in this chamber that went on until 1 and 2
2 o'clock in the morning. Now, I am not suggesting we do that, but that was the facts.
3 That's the way it works. Until the approach that Sorcha and her team take, and
4 short-circuited all that and made it all very, very professional and sorted it out. But I
5 am wondering can the group, can the six Councillors maybe just get together for 20
6 minutes, half an hour, whatever it takes, and just see is there a solution today, that
7 you don't have to drag this thing on? And I do understand, I do honestly understand
8 where Gerry is coming from. The man was sick for seven days, that's a fact and I
9 think we should consider that.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: I don't think anyone is --

11 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: I know that. I think we should consider it.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Are you finished, Tom?

13 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Yeah. Well sorry, Chair, I am proposing that we take
14 the break and let the six members meet.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: I might come back to that.

16 COUNCILLOR SNELL: I second that.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: We're going to finish off the speakers before we come back to
18 that.

19 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Fair enough.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Pat Mahon.

21 COUNCILLOR MAHON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Firstly, I won't sit here and
22 apologise for being co-opted onto the Council. I am very proud to represent the
23 people of West Wicklow and my family, and it is a great honour to sit here. That's
24 my first point. My second point is I'd like to thank Sorcha and her team for the
25 excellent work they done. She made everything as simple as she possibly could, and
26 it was great to work with her. I would also like to thank my fellow Councillors in
27 Blessington for all the hard work they put in night and day. We all know who done
28 the work and who didn't do the work. And that's quite obvious. And that's here
29 today. So that's all I want to say. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: You're more than welcome. Thank you. Councillor Graham
31 Richmond.

32 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I will be brief. It is just
33 to follow up on, Councillor O'Neill said you could have asked. We discussed this at
34 length amongst the six of us that we would ask for a suspension, and the decision we

1 came to as six Elected Members it would be unfair to the other Elected Members in
2 the chamber, in a case where we, as the members of this municipal district, had a
3 longer than one week to discuss it. And as we said we made accommodation was
4 one member who is on dialysis, another member wasn't able to do it, so we came
5 around the obstacles. I will leave it there. Thank you.

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Aoife Flynn Kenny.

7 COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Sorry, Cathaoirleach, I promise I will try and
8 make this my last time. There's been a lot of commentary here about people having
9 their say. This is about a timeline and whether or not going forward, for not just this
10 thing but for everything else we do, whether we stick to timelines or whether we
11 allow people to variate timelines depending on various different circumstances. And
12 I absolutely take your point, Councillor Fortune, there was times when this Council
13 would stay until the early hours of the morning. Thankfully we have more
14 family-friendly working policies. I think it is the impact of more women around the
15 table. I certainly don't have anyone to mind my kids until 2 o'clock in the morning,
16 so thank God times have changed. And we certainly don't want to go back to that
17 either.

18
19 There was deadlines set out. People worked extremely hard to come to those
20 deadlines. Things happen, absolutely. I am assuming this process wasn't a weeklong
21 either. You know, what I mean. That it was much longer than that and that there
22 was plenty of opportunities. So if there is genuinely something to discuss I have no
23 objection to the district going out and discussing that, but if there's nothing to
24 discuss, purely the option that maybe somebody might bring something in, I really
25 don't see, Cathaoirleach, what is the advantage to doing that at all. Thank you.

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Peter Stapleton.

27 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Yeah. Look, just to say I don't think there's going to
28 be any massive achievement in taking a break to go outside the room. We've talked
29 as six Councillors from the Baltinglass MD before this meeting to see if we could
30 come to some sort of a solution. In terms of just, like, some of the comments that
31 were made about, you know, if we don't get it right today we'll never be forgiven. I
32 think there's at least five Councillors who think that we put a good plan together.
33 Gerry, if he's been pouring over this for the last ten years, seven days, shouldn't make
34 a massive impact in knowing whether it is a good plan or not. If it was a situation

1 where you were actively saying to the Council, look, we need to have a break
2 because this is detrimental, what we have included in this draft plan at the moment is
3 not right, we need to make an amendment, but to come here and just say we need a
4 delay in time just in case maybe someone hasn't -- will make a tiny little addition, I
5 don't think is reason enough to break with the protocol that has been established.
6 Just because we can do something doesn't mean we should. Thank you very much.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: I have one more speaker. Councillor Lourda Scott online,
8 please.

9 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I want to point out
10 ...(inaudible)... continue for the meeting to be extended much longer, I would just
11 urge we make a decision as to how we're going to proceed, please.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: I wholeheartedly agree. There's no more speakers. We have
13 a proposer. We have a seconder. Would you like to speak, and I will put it to a vote
14 then?

15 MS EARLS: I think it might be useful, because of some of the comments made
16 about timings I thought it might be useful to give some clarity about the timelines for
17 this plan. So I suppose first of all, yes, the members asked about the Wicklow plan,
18 the Blessington plan was exactly the same period of time as to the day as was given
19 out. The issue then about submissions being received. Just to be clear, members, the
20 draft Blessington LAP went out on public display for six weeks from the 30th
21 October to the 11th December. That was a period of time for submissions to be
22 received, and we received those submissions. The Chief Executive's Report was
23 written on the basis of those submissions. So there isn't any further opportunity for
24 submissions to be made officially to the plan. The Chief Executive's Report went out
25 on the 31st January to the members, again in line with what happened with the
26 Wicklow plan. We, as the planning team, have been available since that date to go
27 through the plan with the members or any queries or anything that they had in
28 relation to the plan since that date. And I suppose unfortunately I am old enough to
29 know why this protocol was brought in because I was here back in 2004 until 4
30 o'clock in the morning, and it was following that particular County Development
31 Plan that the protocol was introduced. And the purpose of the protocol was, as many
32 of the members will be aware, it was to ensure a good, clear process of dealing with
33 any proposed amendments to development plans. So it was agreed that the members
34 would put in their proposed amendments in advance of the County Development

1 Plan, that the planning forward team would be fully available to all Councillors to
2 help them prepare those or give them advice on any amendments, and that meant
3 then that the report which you received last Friday issued in advance to all the
4 Elected Members and gave them time to consider the proposals and that they could
5 make an informed decision. That is the reason the protocol is there. It certainly has
6 worked exceptionally well since its introduction. So that's just to give some clarity
7 on timelines and timeframes and protocol. Thank you.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Director. There is a proposal. Quickly.

9 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: I just note Document 2 there, even if it was to proceed
10 there is an amendment that I have in since yesterday it's not included in that.

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you want to answer that?

12 MS EARLS: Yes. Councillor O'Neill, you sent in an email last night with some
13 amendments. It's past the time for us preparing any maps or assisting you, and there
14 was no reasons on it. So that's why it wasn't included in that document, because that
15 document issued on Friday. So if you wanted to put that amendment forward today
16 we would need to you to kind of give us the reasoning for it and also the maps
17 showing the area that you want amended, because we couldn't put it into the
18 document, because the document had already issued.

19 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: I clearly in my motion last night, I pointed out, I gave the
20 number, the details, the whole lot. I mean every other amendment that went through
21 from other Councillors were provided. What's the difference of my one from last
22 night? I gave the details --

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, Councillor. First of all, I think the main obvious
24 reason for me is that it didn't arrive in Friday. So it couldn't have gone out to all of
25 us for us to study. It only came in what time last night.

26 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: I am quite entitled to --

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: We're not saying you're not entitled to.

28 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: -- at 11 o'clock in the day.

29 MS EARLS: And again, Cathaoirleach, to say that is absolutely correct; that if any
30 elected member wanted to put in an amendment today there is nothing to prohibit
31 them in the law from doing it. All I am saying is that we had a clear protocol for the
32 last number of years, and we had engaged with all the Elected Members on both
33 plans in relation to this. So we issued the document as per the protocol last Friday
34 with all the amendments that we had received at that point, with all the maps that had

1 been prepared and what the proposal related to. We got your email last night; we
2 couldn't include it in the document. So it would be a matter for you to bring that
3 proposed amendment to the meeting today.

4 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: In the County Development Plan I put an amendment in
5 on the day.

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: I think, Councillor, no, no, they're saying the reason it's not in
7 the document is because the document went out Friday. So we can't go back in time
8 to change something that went out.

9 COUNCILLOR SNELL: But it could have been printed out and handed the way
10 these were handed today.

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: They were printed on Friday.

12 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah, but they were only given today.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: I just have a copy of your proposal. I can read it out. It was
14 at 21:37 last night, and it says: "Proposer: Councillor Gerry O'Neill." We haven't
15 got a seconder for it. "Reference: 212157, page 225. I propose that the lands at
16 Burgage More, which are within the settlement boundary of the town, should be
17 zoned for the following reasons. The development will remove the notorious bad
18 bend at Nolan's Corner, it would include two much-needed playing fields, it would
19 include a park and ride facility taking parking away from the town centre, it would
20 provide the much-needed footpath from Nolan's Bend. I propose that 150 housing
21 units would be zoned for RN1." That's the proposal.

22 MS EARLS: Again I suppose to be clear, Councillor O'Neill, there's no issue, if you
23 put that proposal forward today you are entitled to do that. All I am saying is that we
24 as the Executive haven't examined the full proposal and what we have done in the
25 document issued on Friday, we have put in a response to the proposal. So all I am
26 saying that we haven't done that today. So where the protocol allows for that
27 document to issue with information with opinions, we just haven't done that in
28 respect of this one.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Snell.

30 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah, thanks, Cathaoirleach. Would it be possible to get a
31 copy of that for all 32 members? It clearly states the reasons why Councillor O'Neill
32 is putting it forward. I have read through the documentation on amendments that's in
33 front of us, some of them don't have very much community gain and yet I'm hearing
34 reasons in that proposal that's in front of us for community gain, also with common

1 sense in regards to strategic infrastructure, such as the road network. So there is
2 quite clearly reasons why it should be presented to the members.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I just intersect for one second, all right?

4 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yes.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Because I don't want us to diverge off on two different paths
6 here and no one knowing where we're going. There is a proposal here today at the
7 moment and a seconder that this meeting be put off. Either we do that, or we talk
8 about the plan.

9 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Could we do that, Cathaoirleach, in conjunction with the
10 six members discussing this motion as well, the amendments -- this amendment
11 being attached to what we have in front of us?

12 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: My amendment.

13 MS PURCELL: The first proposal was to adjourn -- postpone agenda items number
14 9 and 10 and hold a special meeting in relation to that. Proposed by Councillor
15 O'Neill and seconded by Councillor Behan. The first proposal should be voted on
16 first.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.

18 MS PURCELL: And we propose to go ahead with that vote.

19 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: My point is we can't proceed with our drafts unless this
20 one is included, the one that I put in last night.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor, sorry, I am going to ask the Chief Executive to
22 clarify something.

23 MS O'GORMAN: Councillor, you can make an amendment from the floor.

24 Councillor Behan already spoke about that. Any member can at any stage. So if the
25 vote is taken either to defer these items or not, and if the decision is taken to proceed,
26 there is nothing to stop you from making your amendment from the floor. And if
27 you have a proposer and seconder, we will copy it, and circulate it to all the
28 members, if that's how the meet something going to proceed. If the meeting goes
29 ahead and we go through the two items, absolutely you can make an amendment.
30 There's nothing to stop you from doing that. There never was. The only issue that
31 arose is that the document issued on Friday and your submission came in on Sunday.
32 You can always raise it from the floor only if the item goes ahead. It can be
33 discussed then next week if it goes to next week.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Here is what we are faced with here now at this second, all
2 right. We either vote on Councillor O'Neill's proposal or he withdraws it, and we
3 continue with the plan, and obviously he makes the amendment, which he's entitled
4 to do, which we've all agreed on, but at least we can start working on the plan now
5 and proceed. It is either one or the other. We either go to vote now to propose or it's
6 withdrawn. Councillor O'Neill.

7 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Cathaoirleach, can I just point out again the reason
8 I'm -- the other five Councillors from the Baltinglass Municipal District got the same
9 lobbying this morning as I did from these individuals who are feeling a bit cheated
10 they didn't get their considerations in. And, you know, it's nothing to do with
11 Councillor Gerry O'Neill's right eye that he had an operation on. I want to get that
12 out of the way. Forget about my eye. I am talking about; it's the people who have
13 been calling us all morning about being felt done by.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor O'Neill, can I take it you're not withdrawing your
15 proposal?

16 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: I am not withdrawing it.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Well then, we're going to go to a vote.

18 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: But I am also insisting that what I have done legally here
19 in putting in the amendment last night should be here and should be here for people
20 to read. We have seen it before being done here.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, Councillor O'Neill, no one is saying you can't do that.
22 We're saying you can do it. What I am saying is now I have to operate within the
23 parameters, and the parameters I have at the moment is I have a motion down to
24 suspend the meeting or delay the meeting for a week or so. We will come to a date if
25 we have to, but I can't keep going talking about a plan if you want -- so I am asking
26 you again, do you want to go ahead with the vote to push the meeting back, or do
27 you want to continue working on the plan today and continue working on that
28 submission that you made last night?

29 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: No. I want to propose postpone the meeting.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. We will go to a vote. Councillor Glennon just wants
31 to come in as the MD chair, and then we are going to a vote.

32 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just I'd like confirmation
33 from perhaps Leonora or the Chief Executive, that these items are all up for

1 discussion starting in a year's time and will end up in a plan in two years' time. I
2 think that's very important.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: That has been confirmed.

4 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: I would like just that confirmed.

5 MS O'GORMAN: Absolutely.

6 MS EARLS: We will be starting the review of the County Development Plan in the
7 next two years. SO that's an open-door for the consideration of any further
8 submissions.

9 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Thank you.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going to say for the third time, that's what we told the
11 people in Wicklow when they came to us late and we wouldn't let them make a
12 submission.

13

14 Helen, will you call a vote, please?

15 MS PURCELL: So the proposal proposed by Councillor O'Neill and seconded by
16 Councillor Joe Behan is to postpone agenda items --

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: For those online, can you mute yourselves, please?

18 MS PURCELL: Sorry about that. So it is proposed to postpone agenda items
19 number 9 and 10 and to hold a special meeting in relation to same. If you are in
20 favour vote 'for' and if you are against please vote 'against'.

21

22 Councillor Danny Alvey?

23 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Against.

24 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Mark Barry is not present. Councillor Joe
25 Behan?

26 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: For.

27 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Sylvester Bourke?

28 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Against.

29 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?

30 COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: Against.

31 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Avril Cronin?

32 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: For.

33 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Erika Doyle?

34 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Against.

- 1 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Malachai Duddy is not present. Councillor
2 Gail Dunne? The microphone was on there. I will come back to you, Councillor
3 Dunne.
- 4 CATHAOIRLEACH: He's online anyway.
- 5 COUNCILLOR DUNNE: Against.
- 6 MS PURCELL: Against. Loud and clear. Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin?
- 7 COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: Against.
- 8 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Orla Finn?
- 9 COUNCILLOR FINN: For.
- 10 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Pat Fitzgerald is not present. Councillor Aoife
11 Flynn Kennedy?
- 12 COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Against.
- 13 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Tom Fortune?
- 14 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Abstain, because I made another proposal.
- 15 MS PURCELL: Abstain. Councillor Patsy Glennon?
- 16 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: For.
- 17 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Pat Kennedy?
- 18 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Against.
- 19 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Shane Langrell?
- 20 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Against.
- 21 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Peir Leonard?
- 22 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: For.
- 23 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Pat Mahon?
- 24 COUNCILLOR MAHON: For.
- 25 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Jason Mulhall?
- 26 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: For.
- 27 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Miriam Murphy?
- 28 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Against.
- 29 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Ian Neary?
- 30 COUNCILLOR NEARY: For.
- 31 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Dermot O'Brien?
- 32 COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN: Abstain.
- 33 MS PURCELL: Abstain. Councillor Paul O'Brien?
- 34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Against.

- 1 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Gerry O'Neill?
2 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: For.
3 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Warren O'Toole?
4 COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: Abstain.
5 MS PURCELL: Abstain. Councillor Graham Richmond?
6 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Against.
7 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Lourda Scott?
8 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Against.
9 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor John Snell?
10 COUNCILLOR SNELL: For.
11 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Peter Stapleton?
12 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Against.
13 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Stephen Stokes?
14 COUNCILLOR STOKES: Against.
15 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Caroline Winstanley?
16 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Against.
17 MS PURCELL: Against. Ten for, 16 against, three not present and three abstaining.
18 So the proposal is not passed.
19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor O'Neill? You want to say something?
20 MS EARLS: Yeah. Members, just while maybe you're discussing the rest of the
21 plan we will arrange to circulate the amendment that Councillor O'Neill had from
22 last night.
23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you.
24 MS PURCELL: Did we get a second proposal for Councillor Fortune?
25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you want to withdraw that now given the basis we're
26 going to work on Councillor O'Neill's?
27 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: I am attempting in some way to see can we facilitate
28 Gerry without causing a whole --
29 CATHAOIRLEACH: That's what we're going to do. But we don't need to make a
30 proposal. Leonora said we're going to work on that now.
31 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: I'm happy enough.
32 CATHAOIRLEACH: Are you happy enough to withdraw it so we can move on?
33 MS O'GORMAN: Any member is entitled to make an amendment from the floor. It
34 will be discussed. It is going to be circulated now.

1 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Gerry has put that amendment forward as part of the
2 process.

3 MS O'GORMAN: Yes. As part of the discussion.

4 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: I withdraw it.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: You're happy enough to withdraw that?

6 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Yes, absolutely.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, members. We will go to Document No. 2.

8 Couple of things before we start. I need to get a, famous last words, time extension.

9 What I am proposing is we go until we get this Local Area Plan --

10 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Eight clock, nine o'clock?

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: No. Until we get it done. I am proposing we keep going until

12 we get it done. We should be able to get it done. Can I note by the way, I am

13 proposing we go through to get the Local Area Plan, more than likely we don't get to

14 the Chief Executive's Report, and I am conscious of time and family arrangements.

15 What I am proposing is, we go through the Local Area Plan, we get the Local Area

16 Plan done and we leave the Chief Executive's Report unless we do get through this

17 quicker than I think, but you can obviously email in your questions, and we can get

18 back and discuss it at the next meeting. Is everyone happy?

19 COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Yes.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: I propose it. Secunder? Agreed? (Agreed.) Now, we just

21 have to get through it. I ran out of water too. Can I propose we have a five-minute

22 recess? Agreed? (Agreed.)

23

24 (Short adjournment.)

25

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: Members, we need to do a roll call again. I am going to ask

27 for patience. And we will be out well before eight o'clock.

28 MS PURCELL: I am going to do a roll call to confirm who is present.

29 Councillor Danny Alvey?

30 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Present.

31 MS PURCELL: Councillor Mark Barry? Councillor Joe Behan? Councillor

32 Sylvester Bourke?

33 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Here.

34 MS PURCELL: Councillor Melanie Corrigan?

- 1 COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: Present.
- 2 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Avril Cronin? Councillor Erika Doyle?
- 3 Councillor Malacháí Duddy sends his apologies. Councillor Gail Dunne?
- 4 COUNCILLOR DUNNE: Present.
- 5 MS PURCELL: Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin? Councillor Orla Finn?
- 6 COUNCILLOR FINN: Present.
- 7 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Pat Fitzgerald is not present. Councillor Aoife
- 8 Flynn Kennedy?
- 9 COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Here.
- 10 MS PURCELL: Councillor Tom Fortune?
- 11 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Present.
- 12 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Patsy Glennon?
- 13 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Present.
- 14 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Pat Kennedy?
- 15 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Present.
- 16 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Shane Langrell?
- 17 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Present.
- 18 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Peir Leonard?
- 19 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Present.
- 20 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Pat Mahon? Councillor Jason Mulhall?
- 21 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Present.
- 22 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Miriam Murphy? Councillor Ian Neary?
- 23 Councillor Dermot O'Brien?
- 24 COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Anseo.
- 25 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Paul O'Brien?
- 26 CATHAOIRLEACH: Present.
- 27 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Gerry O'Neill? Councillor Warren O'Toole?
- 28 COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: Anseo.
- 29 MS PURCELL: Councillor Graham Richmond? Councillor Lourda Scott?
- 30 Councillor John Snell?
- 31 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Present.
- 32 MS PURCELL: Councillor Peter Stapleton?
- 33 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Present.
- 34 MS PURCELL: Councillor Stephen Stokes?

1 COUNCILLOR STOKES: Present.

2 MS PURCELL: Councillor Caroline Winstanley?

3 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Present.

4 MS PURCELL: Councillor Joe Behan? No. Councillor Avril Cronin?

5 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Present.

6 MS PURCELL: Councillor Erika Doyle?

7 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Present.

8 MS PURCELL: Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin?

9 COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: Present.

10 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Miriam Murphy? No. Councillor Ian Neary?

11 COUNCILLOR NEARY: Present.

12 MS PURCELL: Councillor Gerry O'Neill?

13 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Anseo.

14 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Graham Richmond? Councillor Lourda Scott?

15 Okay. Thank you.

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, members. We're now on Document No. 2. And same

17 format as a number of weeks ago. And we will get through it, okay. So we were all

18 on Document No. 2. So the first amendment, Council Amendment No. 1 is proposed

19 by Councillor Gerry O'Neill. Do you want to speak on it? You don't have to. Can I

20 have a seconder first? John Snell.

21 COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Jason.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you want to do it?

23 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Go ahead.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Jason Mulhall. Councillor O'Neill, do you want to

25 speak on it?

26 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Again, it is just something I feel

27 very strong about, you know, that the input from local elected reps into the design or

28 the changes in the Market Square in Blessington. I would be concerned over the

29 years, the input of other groups, you know, in more or less persuading officials to

30 move in one direction. I think it is very important that the elected reps have an input

31 into the likes of how the town square in Blessington is designed. At the moment

32 there, you know, there is talk about pedestrianising it, and I think that the business

33 people in the town square have to be notified, have to be kept in touch there, you

34 know. That it is not a nice thing to be told, you know, to come out in the morning

1 and you find that your parking bays are gone. So it is very important we keep in
2 touch and work together on this, and I think we can work together on it. But it is
3 very important that the local business people are kept informed from the word go.
4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. I have a proposer, a seconder. Are
5 we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you. Okay.

6

7 Number 2. Proposed by Councillor Patsy Glennon. Seconded by Councillor Avril
8 Cronin. Agreed? (Agreed.) Do you want to speak on it, Patsy?

9 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: No, no, it's okay.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Item number 3. Councillor amendment. Proposed by
11 Councillor Peter Stapleton. Can I have a seconder? Councillor Pat Mahon. Peter,
12 do you want to speak on it?

13 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Just very briefly.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Just bear with me one second. I would ask you to keep it
15 brief, not just you, but anyone coming in keep it brief.

16 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: No, very briefly I want to really thank Sorcha and
17 the team, and just to note that it went through several iterations. The whole idea is to
18 make sure we have enough zoned land, and that land isn't hoarded throughout the
19 duration of the plan so that Blessington can develop and fulfil its full potential. Very
20 happy to propose it.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Just for those online, I am going to keep my microphone
22 switched on in case they wonder why I come up on the screen. Councillor
23 Amendment No. 4 -- Agreed? (Agreed.)

24 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Sorry, Cathaoirleach.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Snell.

26 COUNCILLOR SNELL: In regards to Amendment 3, and as you go down the red
27 text is being implemented. 75% of Priority 1 New Residential Lands have been
28 activated, i.e. consent obtained and development initiated, or after three years
29 following adoption of the Local Area Plan less than 50% of the Residential 1 Priority
30 1 lands have been activated."

31

32 Are we agreeing to implement that? That in the Wicklow plan, Priority 1 was that
33 75% of the lands have to be developed before Priority 2 lands could be activated. In
34 the Blessington plan, on the wording of this, which I do agree with, I agree with the

1 thinking behind it, because we have seen in Local Area Plans, including the
2 Blessington plan, and the Wicklow plan previously where lands wasn't developed
3 and developers sat on the land. Now, we're putting it into -- we, as Elected
4 Members, because we're always told it's our plan, we are now prioritising the land
5 that we're building on, Priority 1, and Priority 2 then will be more or less strategic
6 land bank until 75% is developed. I had a major concern about that because I felt
7 that it was giving an unfair advantage and it was unbalancing the marketplace, if not
8 enough land in the Local Area Plan was zoned Residential 1. I am unfamiliar with
9 the Blessington plan, as I would have been very familiar with the Wicklow-Rathnew
10 plan. I agree with Councillor Stapleton's wording there. That's what we're agreeing
11 to. I am just asking, what's the consequences of two plans with different wording?

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: SORCHA OR LEONORA, do you want to come in?

13 MS EARLS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. They're two standalone plans. So this is a
14 proposed amendment by one of the Elected Members. So you will see the Chief
15 Executive isn't supportive of the amendment but they're two separate plans. So the
16 wording that is adopted in each plan is the wording.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Your microphone still on there.

18 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah, thanks, Director. Again, as I say, I agree with this,
19 so I will be supporting it, and then do I have the opportunity to come back in the
20 County Development Plan and regularise the Local Area Plans through the context
21 of the County Development Plan?

22 MS O'GORMAN: Yes.

23 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Thanks, Director Earls.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Are we agreed on No. 3? (Agreed.)

25

26 Moving onto Councillor Amendment No. 4. Proposed by Councillor Cronin.

27 Seconded by Councillor Patsy Glennon. Councillor Cronin?

28 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Yes, this proposal as you can see, a huge amount of
29 work has gone into this proposal. We were back and forth, and we were, we had a
30 lot of discussion with the landowner as well as community groups. This particular
31 proposal is in relation to proposed development within close proximity to the town
32 centre. As you can see from the proposal, the development shall also include sports
33 facilities on the zoned land with a design and layout such as support buildings, a
34 running track with an athletics field in the middle, changing facilities, a building for

1 changing facilities, a multi-sports all-weather pitch as well as a seven-a-side pitch as
2 well. Over the years since I have become Councillor one of the things that we have
3 always been asked for is more sporting facilities and more community facilities
4 within the area. This is a really exciting opportunity for Blessington. It's a
5 development that will work in tandem with sport facilities. So basically we are
6 zoning the land in the hope that we will have community gain, we will have our
7 much-needed sporting facilities in the area. As outlined, we will have the running
8 track with the athletics field in the middle, we will have a multipurpose all-weather
9 pitch and a seven-a-side pitch. This an exciting opportunity for Blessington. When
10 we are considering lands we always have to look at what we can bring back to the
11 community, and I think this really is a great opportunity for the community to gain
12 something back from this development. So not only will it bring much needed
13 homes to the Blessington area, but we will also achieve much needed sporting
14 facilities in the area.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. And well done. Are we agreed?

16 (Agreed.) Councillor O'Neill.

17 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Cathaoirleach, can I just support this in a big way. I
18 have been involved in this project for over a year now, well over a year, and talking
19 to the developers and from the word go, as I pointed out earlier on, and throughout
20 the years there, I am very anxious to see Blessington grow, but I am also to see -- I
21 have also insisted that we must grow infrastructure with facilities. I have had several
22 meetings over the years with these athletic clubs. I am delighted that the
23 developer -- if everything goes according to plan that we will have a running track,
24 an eight lanes surrounding running track on the pitch there. This type of
25 infrastructure is needed, and I am only delighted. I actually -- while I was away for
26 the week the proposal came in from other Councillors and that, but I have been
27 working on this for a long, long time, so I am delighted to support it.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Mulhall, do you want to speak on this
29 or the next one? This one? Go ahead.

30 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Yeah. Just to welcome this amendment proposed by
31 Councillor Cronin. As Councillor O'Neill says, it is something we have all been
32 looking at, we have all been working with community groups for a number of years
33 now, and I think it will make a huge difference to the town. It's probably one of the
34 true proposals that brings real community gain across a number of sporting bodies

1 for a number of different reasons, but just for the community as a whole as well.
2 And I think as part of this, the not only active open space delivery but also the
3 completion of the phase two of the Blessington Park and also the Blessington Inner
4 Relief Road are included as well. So really key components for balanced
5 development in the town of Blessington.

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Patsy Glennon.

7 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Yes, thank you, Cathaoirleach. I am happy to second
8 this proposal, but I think in fairness to all six Councillors all had an input into this.
9 No one person can claim credit for this. All six of us. And it is done on that basis.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Well done to all six Councillors. Okay. Are we
11 agreed?

12 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Cathaoirleach.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry. Councillor Snell.

14 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I just want to commend the six
15 Councillors of West Wicklow in regards to a development like this and the huge
16 community gain, but we also have to be very mindful it is a huge gain for the
17 developers, the landowners, but again, as Councillor Avril Cronin has outlined in her
18 speech, that they have delivered for the local community in regards a recreational
19 sporting facilities. My question is more to the planners in regards to the land directly
20 beside what is zoned B in Priority 1 Residential, the green and white hatching, what
21 is that land? The green and white striped patch, is that sterile land? Is it 100-metre
22 buffer zone.

23 MS EARLS: It is agricultural.

24 COUNCILLOR SNELL: So all agricultural will be shown as green and white
25 striped?

26 MS EARLS: That's that piece of land there, yeah.

27 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Thank you.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Again I think we're all agreed on that? (Agreed.) Okay.
29

30 We are going onto Councillor Amendment No. 5. Proposed by Councillor Jason
31 Mulhall. Seconded by Councillor Mahon. Do you want to speak? Are we agreed?
32 (Agreed.) Thank you.
33

1 No. 6. Proposed by Councillor Gerry O'Neill. Seconded by Councillor Pat Mahon.
2 Are we agreed? Do you want to speak? Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

3

4 Bear with me a second. No. 7. Proposed by Councillor Avril Cronin. Seconded by
5 Councillor Jason Mulhall. Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

6

7 Councillor Amendment No. 8. Proposed by Councillor Jason Mulhall. Seconded by
8 Councillor Pat Mahon. Are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

9

10 Councillor Amendment No. 9. Councillor Mulhall. Seconded by Councillor Pat
11 Mahon. Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

12

13 Bear with me. Council Amendment No. 10. Proposed by Councillor Glennon.
14 Seconded by Councillor Cronin agreed? (Agreed.)

15 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Cathaoirleach.

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Are we going back to No. 10 now, is it?

17 COUNCILLOR SNELL: 10. No, just an observation, and I suppose again a
18 question not for the Elected Members, for the planners, in regards to industrial land.
19 Industrial land -- and I understand there's a housing crisis and we all know that, but
20 we also know that there's an employment crisis as well not too far away. By that I
21 mean it's a crisis if you have to spend an hour and a half in your car commuting to
22 work and another hour and a half commuting back home from work. The balance
23 needs to be right in regards to industrial lands. So I am not interfering with the plan,
24 I am just hopeful that there's an overall observation in regards to the amount of land
25 zoned for industrial, to give people employment within the locality. And again, it's
26 not somebody sticking their nose in from outside; I am an elected member of County
27 Wicklow, and I want employment in County Wicklow, and I am just making that
28 observation. I will support all these amendments, it is just an observation, and I am
29 asking the direct question to Leonora and her team in regards it: Are we comfortable
30 with the amount of industrial? Because I note in a lot of the amendments we're
31 losing industrial for residential.

32 CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you want to take that?

33 MS EARLS: Cathaoirleach. So, yeah, we would consider that there is a quantum of
34 employment-zoned lands there to meet the need.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Are we agreed? (Agreed.)

2

3 No. 11. Proposed by Councillor Peter Stapleton. Seconded by Councillor Mulhall.
4 Do you want to speak on it? Are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

5

6 That's it. So what I am proposing to do now, we're not forgetting about you, I am
7 going to go through the Chief Executive's amendments now because we just need to
8 give the planners a little bit more time and then we will come back to Councillor
9 O'Neill's amendment then, okay? I want to keep it flowing. Here's where I need the
10 cooperation of the members of the west.

11

12 So we're going to proposal No. 1. Okay. So I am looking for proposers and
13 seconders, and agreement. So if the Councillors from the west can help me here we
14 will get through this as quickly as we can. Part A, No. 1. And a proposer? Patsy.
15 And a seconder? Peter. Don't mind me using your first names, just trying to get
16 through this. Agreed? (Agreed.) Thanks for the reminder.

17

18 No. 2, town centre regeneration opportunity. So we're on No. 2. Proposer?
19 Councillor Peter Stapleton. Secunder? Councillor Pat Mahon. Thank you very
20 much. Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

21

22 No. 3, OP7, Horseshoe Arch and back lands. Proposer? Councillor Jason Mulhall.
23 Seconded? Councillor Peter Stapleton. Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

24

25 Going onto No. 4, OP8 north. Just at the bottom of the page here. Proposer?
26 Councillor Peter Stapleton. Seconded? Jason Mulhall. Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank
27 you very much.

28

29 No. 5, housing targets and extant planning permissions. Proposer? Councillor Jason
30 Mulhall? Seconded? Avril Cronin? Agreed? Go ahead, hang on. Councillor Snell.
31 COUNCILLOR SNELL: So, Cathaoirleach, can this be implemented now on the
32 back of supporting the previous amendment put forward by the Councillors on the
33 75%, or is that just strategic to that land that we spoke about, that that amendment,

1 because this is saying that 75% of Priority 1 lands must be developed? So it's a
2 direct contradiction to what's been passed.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorcha is going to take that one for you.

4 MS WALSH: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. The Chief Executive in her report had
5 recommended the 75% had been inserted into that objective because it had
6 previously said "the majority of the land" in the draft plan. So Councillor Stapleton's
7 amendment builds on that, so he built in the 75% into his but added another sentence.
8 So they are compatible with each other, it is just the fact we have taken the members'
9 one, that's the one we saw first, but they don't conflict with each other. If there is
10 anywhere we come across an amendment from the Chief Executive that is something
11 that has already been agreed, conflicts, we can bring that to your attention.

12 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Thank you.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

14

15 No. 6. A proposer? Come on, guys, don't fall asleep on me now. Peter Stapleton.

16 Jason Mulhall. Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

17

18 No. 7. Proposer? Councillor Patsy Glennon. Seconder? Gerry O'Neill. Agreed?

19 (Agreed.) Thank you.

20

21 No. 8. We are on tourism and recreation objective. Proposer? Councillor Pat

22 Mahon. Seconder? Jason Mulhall? Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

23

24 No. 9. Proposer? Councillor Jason Mulhall. Seconder? Peter Stapleton. Agreed?

25 (Agreed.) Thank you.

26

27 No. 10, transportation objectives. Proposer? Councillor Patsy Glennon. Seconded?

28 Councillor Avril Cronin. Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

29

30 No. 11. Proposer? Councillor Peter Stapleton. Seconded? Councillor Avril Cronin.

31 Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

32

33 No. 12, again transportation objectives. Proposer? Councillor Patsy Glennon.

34 Seconder? Councillor Jason Mulhall. Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

1

2 No. 13. Proposer? Councillor Jason Mulhall. Seconded? Councillor Neary. Good
3 man, Ian. Keep it flowing. Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

4

5 No. 14. Proposer? Ian Neary. Jeez, you're on a roll, Ian. Seconded? Pat Mahon.
6 Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you. Keep going, Ian. I am not objecting to you.

7

8 No. 15. Proposer? Jason Mulhall. Seconded? Peter Stapleton. Are we agreed?
9 (Agreed.) Thank you.

10

11 No. 16, zoning objectives. Proposer? Jason Mulhall. Seconded? Avril Cronin.
12 Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

13

14 No. 17, specific local objectives. Proposer? Patsy Glennon. Seconded? Jason
15 Mulhall. Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

16

17 No. 18. Proposer? Pat Mahon. Seconded? Jason Mulhall.

18

19 Do you want to speak on it?

20 MS WALSH: Sorry, Cathaoirleach, I was just going to flag that Councillor Cronin's
21 revised amendment for the Cairn lands perhaps supersedes this one. They don't
22 conflict with each other, but I think it supersedes it.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Do we need to get it agreed now if the other one supersedes
24 it?

25 MS WALSH: We don't need to vote on it at all.

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: We don't need agreement if the other one supersedes it?

27 MS WALSH: Yeah.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Thank you. So we are going to No. 19 now. Okay.
29 We're on SLO4. Proposer? Councillor O'Neill. Seconded? Patsy Glennon.
30 Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

31

32 We're going to No. 20, map No. 10, land use zoning objective. Proposer?
33 Councillor Peter Stapleton. Seconded?

34 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Pat Mahon. Sorry, John, I am going to try and keep it to
2 locals as best I can.

3

4 21. So we're on map No. 1, land use zoning objectives. Again, a proposer? Peter.
5 A seconder? Gerry. Agreed? (Agreed.)

6

7 No. 22. Proposer? It's on the bottom of the page. Jason. Secunder? Peter.
8 Agreed? (Agreed.)

9

10 No. 23. Proposer? Peter. Secunder? Jason. Agreed? (Agreed.)

11

12 24, map No. 6, just at the bottom of the page here, because it's getting quite tight
13 here. A proposer? Peter Stapleton? Secunder? Pat Mahon. Sorry. Agreed?
14 (Agreed.) Thank you.

15

16 No. 25. Proposer? Jason Mulhall. Secunder? Peter Stapleton? Agreed? (Agreed.)
17 Thank you.

18

19 No. 26. Proposer? Jason Mulhall. Secunder? Avril. Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank
20 you.

21

22 No. 27. Proposer? Peter Stapleton. Secunder? Jason Mulhall. Agreed? (Agreed.)
23 Thank you.

24

25 And No. 28. Proposer? Peter. Secunder? Jason. Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

26

27 I think that's it. I told you it wouldn't be that bad. We have to wait for one more
28 amendment. So we're going to do the amendment now and then we will go to a full
29 vote. Members, it's quarter to five, if I can get this wrapped up before five o'clock I
30 am proposing to go to half five and get some of the Chief Executive's questions, if
31 that's okay with yourselves? We normally go to half five anyway. Is that all right?
32 Do I have a seconder for that? Councillor Tom Fortune. Agreed? (Agreed.) I did
33 say if I got through the plan quicker I would come back to it.

1 MS EARLS: We're going to put up Councillor O'Neill's amendment. We have
2 circulated it to all the members.

3 COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Yes.

4 MS EARLS: So, Cathaoirleach, we circulated a copy of the amendment to the
5 members present. So just for the members who aren't in the chamber, so this is
6 proposed by Councillor Gerry O'Neill. I think it is seconded by --

7 COUNCILLOR SNELL: I don't mind.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: I think earlier on John seconded it. I think, John, earlier on
9 you seconded the original. John Snell.

10 MS EARLS: So the amendment is: "I propose that the land at Burgage More which
11 are within the settlement boundary of the town shall be zoned for the following
12 reasons. The development would remove the notorious bad bend at Nolan's Corner,
13 it would include two much-needed playing pitches, it would include a park and ride
14 facility taking parking away from the town centre, it would provide the much-needed
15 footpath from Nolan's Bend. I propose that the 150 housing units would be zoned
16 RN1."

17

18 So what we might do is put up the map that relates to the submission that was made
19 in respect of that.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Councillor O'Neill, do you want to come in there?

21 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Yeah. I'd like to propose this. Again, as I pointed out at
22 the outset there, over the years, so you know it is okay putting houses in around
23 Blessington already in the town but the infrastructure. I think with this application
24 here it really shows that we can have the mix there, you know. Number one, as I
25 say, we have playing fields included in this, two playing fields. We have a park and
26 ride which would take the pressure off the town in that a lot of the traffic, a lot of the
27 car park spaces in the town are taken up by people who travel from south of the
28 county and park in the town and get their transport to the city from there, that would
29 be a huge help. I think also the Nolan's Bend here, which, you know, is a notorious
30 bend, and it's caused many a tragedy, and it is something that I for the last 50, 60
31 years have been aware of, and we've talked a lot about what we can do and what we
32 can't do, but this presentation here is clearly that we can do something about it. I'd
33 also like to point out that the footpath, you know, the few houses going out that way
34 over the years, there was never a footpath into the town for these people. So it would

1 be a brand-new opening to the town. And I also propose that the 150 housing units
2 would be zoned RN1. And the reason I am really pushing this one is that, you know,
3 there's a little bit more to it than housing. We passed some motions here today on
4 developments, on rezoning from industrial to housing, and the reason I supported
5 them here was that I thought the industrial area wasn't -- there wasn't a suitable area
6 for industry. But with this proposal on the southern end of the town, I think we are
7 getting a lot for the community, and that's what my aim is, whether it be the running
8 tracks or the sports fields in the town, we are way, way behind as regards the
9 infrastructure for a growing population of young children. There's 600 kids playing
10 soccer in Blessington, and they have to actually -- they have to go to another county
11 to play their games. They go to Kildare. And we don't have that. We're starved of
12 it. And I know from being involved for almost 50 years now with the boxing club. I
13 mean I started a boxing club myself in Blessington way back in the beginning of the
14 eighties, and the struggle there in an old 130-year old shed which we still have going
15 to this day. You know, we were always left behind as regards the infrastructure, the
16 sporting facilities, et cetera. I think that this project here is worthy of consideration
17 in the big way. I think it will open the southern end of the town, it will bring in, it
18 will bring the park and ride facilities there, it will remove the corner, Nolan's Bend.
19 And I honestly think that we should really look at this, in all sincerity look at the
20 plan that's there in place and hopefully consider it. And I think it would be a good
21 thing for Blessington. I will finish off by saying that it includes the infrastructure for
22 young people and playing fields, et cetera. So I think it really merits that. It is not
23 just a residential --

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

25 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: The facilities are there, are proposed as well.

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Peter Stapleton?

27 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Yeah. As someone whose almost *raison d'être*
28 when it came to the Local Area Plan was trying to push more zoning of residential
29 land it will seem strange that I will be quite strongly against this proposal.
30 Councillors have a responsibility to those who elected us, and I just can't see how
31 any of us could stand over this piece of paper and say that this is responsible
32 planning, to push this through at the very last minute. And like, you know,
33 everything it talks about is great and things I'd like to support, more residential
34 zoning. Unfortunately we're at the cap of the residential zoning within our Local

1 Area Plan. We've pushed to the point of deciding that the most important residential
2 sites that we have selected are the ones that we have as RN1 and then RN2. The idea
3 that this development would include much-needed playing fields, would include a
4 park and ride, like I mean what certainty do we have that this development is going
5 to provide those things? Are they in there as an SLO objective or is it just that this
6 might be something that will happen? And just, like, despite my push for, you talk
7 there about conflicting things of the amount of housing and the need for
8 infrastructure to come alongside it. We have zoned a significant amount of land in
9 Blessington for zoning to be developed over the next two to three years. I think the
10 amendment I have put in to push that if 50% aren't activated that RN2 lands be
11 developed means that they will be developed. But we need the infrastructure to go
12 alongside this. This just seems like adding additional residential on top without that
13 to work alongside it. Given we've another two years to revisit this as well.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Jason Mulhall.

15 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Yeah, thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just to be clear, I will be
16 voting against this proposal as well for a number of reasons. There are no strategic
17 local objectives included. So we've no guarantees what will happen. There has been
18 no discussion. It only came to us on a -- like that, last Thursday, and that doesn't
19 even match up with what Councillor O'Neill is proposing. The RN1 proposal from
20 Councillor O'Neill is actually RN2 in what we're given. They're not two playing
21 pitches. The proposal was for one playing and some other stuff. I think it's going to
22 create sprawl. There's been no engagement, as far as I know, with TII, NTA or
23 anyone else as regards road realignments. I think there are limited commitments. I
24 think there are environmental concerns with proximity to the lakeside. There's no
25 way that I could see to support this. I do think there are merits in it, there are things
26 that could be worked on, but it needs time. And to Peter's perspective, as regards,
27 you know, doing the right thing and proper planning procedures, I don't think that is
28 any way informed. Also, when we talk about residential, the big thing that
29 everybody forgets here from Blessington is that there are 500 to 600 units in County
30 Kildare that are zoned residential for Blessington, they're going to be built in County
31 Kildare. As regards social housing lists, Kildare's lists are going to go down. No
32 infrastructure, no payments to Wicklow at all but we will provide all of it. So that's
33 500, 600 units. We also have enough zoning in the town at the moment to, you
34 know -- realistically the population of Blessington is going to push towards 10,000

1 people. We're at 6,250 people at the moment, and we don't have capacity or services
2 for those people. You know, playing fields are very important but it is not the only
3 thing we need. We need community facilities. We need community centres. The
4 existing zoning as well, that's proposed from the CE's draft, it does include industrial,
5 it does include public utility, which is park and ride facilities. I think it is not fully
6 thought out, I think it needs a lot of work and, you know, and not just a couple of
7 days. I think it is something to consider. Maybe the developer needs to work with
8 the local elected representatives and bring it to for the next County Development
9 Plan. I think it is too loose and will potentially result with us, you know -- there's no
10 guarantee that the road realignment will occur, there's no guarantee that there will be
11 two roundabouts off it, there's no guarantee of access into this these lands. They're
12 bounded by one side by the N81 and they're landlocked on the other side by County
13 Kildare. I couldn't support it in any shape or form the way it is put forward. I think
14 it needs a huge amount of work. Thank you.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. We have no more speakers to come in. We will
16 go to a vote because there is a proposal in and a seconder. Do you want to come in
17 very quickly, Gerry, now? Very quickly.

18 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: In fairness now, could I answer those there? I mean
19 Councillor Stapleton arrived there that this only arrived on the scene lately. That's
20 not true. I know both yourself and Councillor Mulhall are new to the Council, but
21 these people have been talking to us for way, way over a year about this, this
22 development.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry now --

24 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: So it is wrong to suggest, you know, that this only
25 happened, you know. Councillor Mulhall might say about 600 units in Kildare. You
26 know, that's not actually correct. There's no planning application in for 600 units in
27 Kildare at the moment. There's 240 all right.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Can we stick to the proposal we have here now, please?

29 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Sorry. Also it is not correct to say that this land only
30 serves one side, that it is bound by the N81 one side. It is both sides of the N81.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Councillor Avril Cronin.

32 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Thanks very much. I have to say I think people have
33 made some very valid points on this proposal. I would rather more detail on it, to be
34 honest. As Peter said, it only came to my -- it only came on my radar on

1 Wednesday, and that was actually when I was invited to a meeting by another
2 Councillor. I had no knowledge or no communication with the landowner prior to
3 Wednesday. And I stated at our meeting on Wednesday that I felt that it was very
4 difficult to make a decision in such a short period of time. For me, I'd feel that if I
5 am making a decision I need to have a good lot of time and consideration to be
6 given. However, it's very hard to vote against a proposal of houses and community,
7 community benefits, but on this occasion I do find it very difficult to vote on
8 something that we haven't been given enough time to vote on.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Two more speakers. Then we're going to go for a
10 vote. Sorry, three more speakers and then we're going to go for a vote. Councillor
11 Peter Stapleton.

12 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: No, just to clarify that I wasn't saying that this
13 concept maybe only was originated today, but the first I heard of it was on Friday.
14 And actually, to be honest, to hear that you have been considering it or been
15 engaging with it for the last year, and we have been discussing the Local Area Plan
16 for the last four weeks, some of which you were engaged with, and that you didn't
17 bring it to my attention is a little bit disappointing. But, look, that's where we are
18 and that's why I suppose without information I can't vote positively on it. Thank
19 you.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Mulhall.

21 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Councillor Timmins is well aware of it.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, keep going.

23 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Just to clarify. Maybe I did misspeak there. It is 500
24 to 600 residential units are zoned in County Kildare rather than have full planning.
25 240 have full planning. I assume the others will come fairly soon as well. The plans
26 themselves, there was a proposal put in as part of the process. I think it was roundly
27 rejected by the planners. I think if there was something to be done with it the work
28 would need to have been put in and I don't think the work has been put in to be
29 perfectly honest.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Glennon, and then we're going to go
31 for a vote.

32 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Just that I'd like to add that I think there's a lot of
33 positive in this plan, but I do think it is premature. I think it is something that the
34 Council could engage with the developers. And if half of what they say is

1 contractually tie-downable that it is worth engaging. And again I asked earlier the
2 question of Leonora, that this matter can come back before the Council on the
3 County Development Plan when a lot more work and detailed work could be done.
4 There is some very positive proposals in this, so I agree with Councillor O'Neill on
5 that aspect, but I think it is premature. That's my view.

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Helen, can we go to a vote, please?

7 MS PURCELL: Okay. So we are voting on the proposal put forward by Councillor
8 Gerry O'Neill, seconded by Councillor John Snell, that: "Lands at Burgage More
9 which are within the settlement boundary of the town shall be zoned for the
10 following reasons. The development would remove the notorious bad bend at
11 Nolan's Corner, it would include two much-needed playing pitches, it would include
12 a park and ride facility taking parking away from the town centre, it would provide
13 the much-needed footpath from Nolan's Bend. I propose that the 150 housing units
14 would be zoned RN1."

15

16 If you are in favour please vote 'for' and if you are against please vote 'against'.
17 Councillor Danny Alvey?

18 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Abstain.

19 MS PURCELL: Abstain. Councillor Mark Barry, not present. Councillor Joe
20 Behan?

21 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: For.

22 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Sylvester Bourke?

23 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Against.

24 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?

25 COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: Against.

26 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Avril Cronin?

27 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: For.

28 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Erika Doyle?

29 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Against.

30 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Malachai Duddy is not present. Councillor
31 Gail Dunne?

32 COUNCILLOR DUNNE: Against.

33 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin?

34 COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: Against.

- 1 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Orla Finn?
- 2 COUNCILLOR FINN: Abstain.
- 3 MS PURCELL: Abstain. Councillor Pat Fitzgerald is not present. Councillor Aoife
- 4 Flynn Kennedy?
- 5 COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Against.
- 6 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Tom Fortune?
- 7 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Abstain.
- 8 MS PURCELL: Abstain. Councillor Patsy Glennon?
- 9 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: For.
- 10 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Pat Kennedy?
- 11 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Against.
- 12 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Shane Langrell?
- 13 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Against.
- 14 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Peir Leonard?
- 15 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: For.
- 16 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Pat Mahon?
- 17 COUNCILLOR MAHON: For.
- 18 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Jason Mulhall?
- 19 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Against.
- 20 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Miriam Murphy?
- 21 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Abstain.
- 22 MS PURCELL: Abstain. Councillor Ian Neary?
- 23 COUNCILLOR NEARY: For.
- 24 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Dermot O'Brien?
- 25 COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN: Abstain.
- 26 MS PURCELL: Abstain. Councillor Paul O'Brien?
- 27 CATHAOIRLEACH: Against.
- 28 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Gerry O'Neill?
- 29 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: For.
- 30 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Warren O'Toole?
- 31 COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: Abstaining.
- 32 MS PURCELL: Abstain. Councillor Graham Richmond?
- 33 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Against.
- 34 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Lourda Scott?

- 1 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Abstain.
- 2 MS PURCELL: Abstain. Councillor John Snell?
- 3 COUNCILLOR SNELL: For.
- 4 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Peter Stapleton?
- 5 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Against.
- 6 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Stephen Stokes?
- 7 COUNCILLOR STOKES: For.
- 8 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Caroline Winstanley?
- 9 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Against for now.
- 10 MS PURCELL: Against. So it is nine in favour, 13 against, three not present, and
11 seven abstaining. So it is not passed. The motion is not passed.
- 12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, members. So just to reach out to the West
13 Councillors, can we have a proposer for the plan and a seconder? Councillor Avril
14 Cronin, Councillor Patsy Glennon. Are we in agreement or do we need a vote?
15 Okay, we are going to a vote. So you're voting -- just to be clear you're voting for
16 the old plan now.
- 17 MS PURCELL: I will read it out to you. So: "The members resolve to amend the
18 Draft Local Area Plan in accordance with the amendments approved at this meeting
19 and given that said proposed amendments constitute material alterations to the Draft
20 Plan resolve to publish notice of the proposed material amendments and any changes
21 consequent to said material alteration for public consultation."
22
- 23 So, are we clear on that?
- 24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yeah.
- 25 MS PURCELL: It is proposed by Councillor Cronin and seconded by Councillor
26 Glennon. Councillor Danny Alvey?
- 27 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: For.
- 28 MS PURCELL: Councillor Mark Barry is not present. Councillor Joe Behan?
- 29 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: For.
- 30 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Sylvester Bourke?
- 31 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: For.
- 32 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?
- 33 COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: For.
- 34 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Avril Cronin?

- 1 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: For.
- 2 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Erika Doyle?
- 3 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: For.
- 4 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Malachai Duddy is not present. Councillor Gail
5 Dunne?
- 6 COUNCILLOR DUNNE: For.
- 7 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin?
- 8 COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: For.
- 9 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Orla Finn?
- 10 COUNCILLOR FINN: For.
- 11 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Pat Fitzgerald is not present. Councillor Aoife
12 Flynn Kennedy?
- 13 COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: For.
- 14 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Tom Fortune?
- 15 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: For.
- 16 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Patsy Glennon?
- 17 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: For.
- 18 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Pat Kennedy?
- 19 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: For.
- 20 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Shane Langrell?
- 21 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: For.
- 22 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Peir Leonard?
- 23 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: For.
- 24 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Pat Mahon?
- 25 COUNCILLOR MAHON: For.
- 26 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Jason Mulhall?
- 27 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: For.
- 28 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Miriam Murphy? Councillor Murphy?
- 29 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Sorry, for.
- 30 MS PURCELL: Thank you. Councillor Ian Neary?
- 31 COUNCILLOR NEARY: For.
- 32 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Dermot O'Brien?
- 33 COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN: For.
- 34 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Paul O'Brien?

- 1 CATHAOIRLEACH: For.
- 2 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Gerry O'Neill?
- 3 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: For.
- 4 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Warren O'Toole?
- 5 COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: For.
- 6 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Graham Richmond?
- 7 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: For.
- 8 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Lourda Scott?
- 9 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: For.
- 10 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor John Snell?
- 11 COUNCILLOR SNELL: For.
- 12 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Peter Stapleton?
- 13 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: For.
- 14 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Stephen Stokes?
- 15 COUNCILLOR STOKES: For.
- 16 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Caroline Winstanley?
- 17 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: For.
- 18 MS PURCELL: For.
- 19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, members. While Helen is totting up there we're
20 going to go to item No. 10, and then we're going to Chief Executive's Report. I am
21 just conscious of time, it is five past, so what I am going to ask you to do, I don't
22 want anyone leaving here feeling they can't get their question in, can you just ask
23 your most important question relevant to you so then we can get everybody in. I am
24 not trying to censure people.
- 25 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: I think you are being generous, and people are exhausted.
26 If I want to send in one I will. I appreciate you giving us the chance.
- 27 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Thank you.
- 28 MS PURCELL: So that was 29 in favour and three not present. And then the vote in
29 relation to No. 10.
- 30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.
- 31 MS PURCELL: Which is the variation, the proposed variation. "The members
32 resolve to alter the proposed variation in accordance with the alterations approved at
33 this meeting and given that said proposed alterations constitute material alterations to

1 the proposed variation resolve to publish notice of the proposed alterations and any
2 changes consequent to said material alterations for public consultation."

3

4 Are we all clear on that?

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.

6 MS PURCELL: So we will take a vote. If you are in favour vote 'for' and if you are
7 against please vote 'against'.

8 Councillor Danny Alvey?

9 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: For.

10 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Mark Barry is not present. Councillor Joe Behan?

11 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: For.

12 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Sylvester Bourke?

13 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: For.

14 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?

15 COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: For.

16 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Avril Cronin?

17 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: For.

18 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Erika Doyle?

19 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: For.

20 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Malachai Duddy is not present. Councillor Gail
21 Dunne?

22 COUNCILLOR DUNNE: For.

23 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin?

24 COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: For.

25 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Orla Finn?

26 COUNCILLOR FINN: For.

27 MS PURCELL: Councillor Pat Fitzgerald is not present. Councillor Aoife Flynn
28 Kennedy?

29 COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: For.

30 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Tom Fortune?

31 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: For.

32 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Patsy Glennon?

33 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: For.

34 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Pat Kennedy?

- 1 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: For.
- 2 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Shane Langrell?
- 3 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: For.
- 4 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Peir Leonard?
- 5 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: For.
- 6 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Pat Mahon?
- 7 COUNCILLOR MAHON: For.
- 8 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Jason Mulhall?
- 9 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: For.
- 10 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Miriam Murphy?
- 11 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: For.
- 12 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Ian Neary?
- 13 COUNCILLOR NEARY: For.
- 14 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Dermot O'Brien?
- 15 COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN: For.
- 16 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Paul O'Brien?
- 17 CATHAOIRLEACH: For.
- 18 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Gerry O'Neill?
- 19 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: For.
- 20 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Warren O'Toole?
- 21 COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: For.
- 22 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Graham Richmond?
- 23 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: For.
- 24 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Lourda Scott is not present. Councillor John
- 25 Snell?
- 26 COUNCILLOR SNELL: For.
- 27 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Peter Stapleton?
- 28 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: For.
- 29 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Stephen Stokes?
- 30 COUNCILLOR STOKES: For.
- 31 MS PURCELL: For. And Councillor Caroline Winstanley?
- 32 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: For.
- 33 MS PURCELL: For.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you.

2 MS PURCELL: I forgot a proposer and seconder. Sorry. Well done, Teresa.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposer? Councillor Patsy Glennon and Councillor Jason
4 Mulhall.

5 MS PURCELL: Twenty-eight in favour and four not present. Thank you.

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: The last item on the agenda today is: To consider the Chief
7 Executive's Monthly Management Report, February 2025 (copy attached).

8

9 I understand everyone is tired. I have been here since early this morning with Irish
10 Water. So one question each, or else you don't have to ask if you don't want to.

11 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Leave it to next month.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Are you happy enough to leave it?

13 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah, leave it to next month.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Happy St Patrick's everybody.

15 COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Miriam has her hand up.

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Miriam, sorry.

17 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Sorry for asking this question.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: You're entitled to.

19 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Just going on the subject of housing, the area, and the
20 emergency number, out of hours number. And this is coming from my own
21 experience yesterday. And unfortunately, I had a leak coming through my roof and I
22 rang to get the number of the emergency. I rang, my first call at 1.38, an 01 number
23 to Dublin, got a lovely girl, and then an email. I waited all afternoon, and my ceiling
24 was dripping. At 7 pm -- I had no follow-up, and because I rang the second time,
25 and at 7 pm they again apologised but no ...(inaudible)... picking up, one of the staff
26 ...(inaudible)... The system is not working. It goes to a central number I presume. I
27 don't know if there is a time allocation of when phone calls can be got. I mean, it
28 was a very serious situation here yesterday evening. Again, like, I know this has
29 been brought up before, how do we oversee it? How do we know it is functioning?
30 Well, as we know, it is not functioning. And just some answers. Thank you.

31 MS O'GORMAN: Thanks, Councillor Murphy. Look, it is a problem. We seem to
32 have a problem with our out of hours service. We are going to review it. I mean,
33 your experience yesterday just simply isn't good enough. You know, the situation
34 where you have water leaking down through electrical fittings. That is simply not

1 good enough. So we will look into it, and I will come back to you directly on it,
2 Councillor Murphy. Thank you for raising it.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor Murphy. Just bear with us one
4 moment, we have correspondence as well.

5 MS PURCELL: Very briefly I want to draw the members' attention to Circular
6 LG05/2025 which was circulated, which is an amendment to the Maternity
7 Protection Act and also Circular LG06/2025, Increase in Annual Remuneration of
8 the Annual Members, which was circulated. Also, the closing date for the return of
9 the Ethics Forms was the 28th February so if you haven't returned it I would appeal
10 to you to return it now. Thank you very much.

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, members, and I hope you all enjoy St Patrick's
12 Day, and the best wishes to all the parades and the grand marshals. Thank you.

13

14 (Meeting concluded at 5.12 pm.)

15