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ORDINARY MEETING OF
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD VIA ZOOM MEETING

ON

MONDAY 07TH MARCH 2022 AT 2:00 P.M.

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Certify the following to be a transcript of the stenographic notes in the above-named action for communication support.

Heather Casali

Elaine McCarthy

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Good afternoon, members. Welcome to the March meeting. We will start off by doing the roll call. I will pass over to Helen.

HELEN PURCELL: Register Roll Call ... Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I ask members that are remote, make sure you use the hand function on the system so I can see it on the screen here, if possible. Thank you. We move on to votes of sympathy. Helen?

HELEN PURCELL: Two votes of sympathy. The death occurred of Jim Lavery, father of former colleague, Colm Lavery and Eddie Hanlon, the father-in-law of Pat Kirk.

>>: I want to pay tribute to my great aunt, Mary O'Brien, known to great uncle George, known affectively as 'blondie'. True to their roots in County Wicklow. I offer condolences to the rest of the family. Thank you.

>>: Can I express my sympathy to cross-border [inaudible] to sympathise with Wexford County Council, so to pay respects to the Kinsell [sic] family.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Avril Cronin?

CLLR CRONIN: Can I express sympathies to the Whelan family on the death of Larry. An ESP worker. If there was an issue locally, Larry was the man to call. Unfortunately, Larry died suddenly two weeks ago. I wanted to express sympathy to the Whelan family and to his wife. Thank you.

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

... may the souls of the faithfully departed rest in peace.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Members, we have two suspensions of standing orders, sent to us. So, I will ask Helen to read them out.

HELEN PURCELL: Submitted by Cllr John Mullen and seconded by Cllr O'Brien the members of Wicklow County Council condemn the unprovoked innovation of Ukraine by Russia. That the Irish Government use the maximum diplomatic sanction, the expulsion of the Russian ambassador from the Republic of Ireland. the second was summited by Cllr Joe Behan seconded by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald that the council agrees to request urgent meetings with the Minister

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for Transport to discuss the suspension of funding for the M11/N11 road improvement scheme as well as the need for noise mitigation measures in [inaudible] and for the suspension of a linking road to Bray.

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Section 140 motion Local Government Act, as amended in the names of Councillor O'Neil and Councillor Behan seeking to withdraw the Blessington Greenway proposals from consideration by An Bord Pleanála. I will ask Helen to read out the section 140.

HELEN PURCELL: In accordance with section 140 of the Local Economic and Community Plan as amended by the local Government reform act, we the members of Wicklow County Council, the Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council to withdraw the Blessington Greenway proposals from consideration by An Bord Pleanála. This will allow for the removal of the elements of the Greenway plan to cause serious negative impact on the lives of the people living in the area surrounding the Blessington lakes and including the installation of [inaudible] and the knockanrahan and the proposed new parking restrictions on the Blessington main street, widely opposed by the local community. The reason for the motion, the lack of meaningful consultation with the elected members of the Wicklow County Council and the public before being referred to An Bord Pleanála. We direct that the matter is placed to the members of Wicklow County Council at the forthcoming council meeting

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to be held at 2pm, Monday, 7th of March 2022. Proposed by Cllr Gerry O'Neil and seconded by Cllr Joe Behan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Before opening this, I will bring in the Chief Executive.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Members you will have received a legal opinion last Friday. I don't propose to read the legal opinion but to go through the conclusion. As follows: The suggested resolution is one if proceeded with, will be legally unsound, invalid, a breach of section 142 and or 140/10. 142 referring to acts that the [inaudible].

Can do and second 140/10 states that the rest [inaudible] furthermore, no resolution of the act can be brought to force. Of the planning of the development act as it will be an attempt to force the Chief Executive to do something that the council is not lawfully able to do. Any such resolution is void and legally ineffective. It is open to members of the council who wish that various elements of the design to be modified or amended, or those against the development as a whole to make submissions to the board and the board has wide powers of application to this, to either approve or not approve the development in whole or in part, subject to modifications the board is obliged to take all sub missions into the account in making a determination. The deadline for issues to An Bord Pleanála was last Friday. The council has

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encouraged people to engage within the process. Wished a press release to remind people of the deadline and how to make a submission. All main issues will be referred back to Wicklow County Council from the An Bord Pleanála and will be available for public access in due course. We understand and appreciate that people have concerns about certain elements of the Greenway we should let the open and transparent and the statutory process take its natural course. I cannot legally withdraw the section 177 application to An Bord Pleanála therefore the proposed section 140 resolution is considered invalid. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: That is clear in terms of legal opinion, I want to open it up to the members.

Cllr Gerry O'Neil?

CLLR O'NEIL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Thank you for allowing a few minutes on this. Just to run over things again for the benefit of colleagues there. For the benefit of colleagues in County Wicklow. The idea of the Greenway come up a long time ago. To make a long story short myself and Jim Ruckland 5 years ago proposed the second, part 8. It was a democratic process within Wicklow County Council. It was accepted.

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We moved on with the part 8. We were happy enough to work with that and any possible amendments having spoken to the people and had public consultations that we could go back to the council. I found that we were really happy with that. However, in the meantime, suddenly, this democratic decision by the people, by the council, suddenly vanished and in October 2019 Wicklow County Council gave the OK to AKOM, [sic] a consultancy company, to look at the plan and to look at the proposal for the Greenway.

Our argument here now being that being that there was no consultation with the people, with the elected representatives, with indeed our staff here in West County Wicklow, the first I heard of it as a coupler was at a Town Team meeting in December of last year, only two months ago.

In that presentation that the Town Team, there was a mention of lights and the bridge, whatever, this, that, the other but it came to me as a shock, to learn that this application was gone from the council to An Bord Pleanála without any consultation. I may, I want to make that very clear. There was no consultation with the representatives, with the people, with our engineering staff at West County Wicklow since that application or since the idea even came up in 2019 with AKOM, none whatsoever. There were briefings here and there or progress, but it was only briefings. We had no consultation absolutely, whatsoever. Again, at a meeting this week, I required with the Gardai, if they were consultant ed about this, they informed they had not been. The plan

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would mean there is another 360- housing people coming into the town every year. Roughly 800 to 900 a day. They have no, at the moment, in Blessington, we are down by about 30% of the Gardai force, so it would be a challenge. I checked with the Emergency Services in Bray; they were not informed. They were not consulted whatsoever about this.

And the risks that are involved in deciding to divide the bridges in two one being for traffic on one side and for the pedestrians and the cyclists on the other side. When word did get out, you know, the area, the people were absolutely in shock that this could be considered.

There were several public meetings in the area, and one there last week in Blessington. Hundreds of people attend the meetings, there were hundreds of thousands of submissions gone to An Bord Pleanála. There are probably thousands of signatures. It is absolutely totally wrong and unacceptable, the manner in which this was done. There is a lot of questions out there. I don't want to hold up your time, Cathaoirleach, I know there will be other people trying to get in and voice their opinion on this one, but can I say that I just can't understand here what the issue where it cannot be withdrawn. I checked here again with An Bord Pleanála. An Bord Pleanála have told me again here this morning that Wicklow County Council can withdraw this today or tomorrow.

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They can withdraw it at any time. So, what we want to do here, we would be agreeing, absolutely, I have been going back 20 years with the idea of the Greenway, absolutely, that cannot be in doubt. There are people here who are pro- Greenway but for this team to land on us the way that it landed it is totally unacceptable. Honest to God, I make a plea here today to my fellow councillors that this type of activity and the way it was done, it is not acceptable. I don't think it is acceptable to most staff at Wicklow County Council, I really don't. As regards press release again last week, there, we all had to be honest with ourselves and I'm being honest here and truly being honest and I know that the amount of people who are voicing their annoyance at this suggestion, but this press release last week is unfair again. You know, they talk about, it suggested that there are lights already on the N81, that is true to a certain extent. But we are talking about a road that is not used part of the N81, I believe nine out of ten cars don't use that route and that will be into [inaudible] or a little bridge 20 yards long. Whereas the road, the R726 is a direct route to Tullagh [sic], the route used so it is not fair to be bringing stuff like this in. Chairman I know you want to move on, but I make the plea, we can withdraw it and make a better job of this, we really can make a better job of this if we sit down and tackle it together.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Gerry O'Neil. Cllr Joe Behan?

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CLLR BEHAN: Firstly, can I pay tribute to Cllr Gerry O'Neil for his persistence in raising the issue. Until he brought it to our attention a month ago, the rest of us would not have been aware of what was actually being planned here. I want to congratulate Cllr Gerry O'Neil for continuing this battle. A battle that he should not have to be fighting and we should not have to be fighting and taking time here today, trying to direct the Chief Executive to do something he should have done already. Which is, that when a major project such as this is summited to An Bord Pleanála it was done before any consultation was done with the local elected representatives and the people who will be affected by it.

Nobody wants to be taken up time with a section 140. But I can tell you, unfortunately, it has been forced on us because the officials of Wicklow County Council and in the person of the Chief Executive although it is not being personal, but it is the Chief Executive who carries the responsibility, they have refused to listen to genuine requests by Cllr Gerry O'Neil and local people for this Greenway project to be withdrawn and made better. As Cllr Gerry O'Neil has said, nobody, he nor I nor anyone else at any stage has said they are against the Greenway. But they want a Greenway that will work and work for the people who will be most affected by it. That plea has fallen on deaf ears, it is why we have to introduce this direction here today.

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Now, I've been here long enough. I know there are a few of my colleagues that have been here long enough over the years to listen to arguments about section 140s, particularly on planning matters. While you, Cathaoirleach, may say that the legal advice is convincing, I think that is what you said, I am not a bit convinced by it. I think it is weak. I will explain why I think it is weak. I have certainly seen on at least four occasions where Wicklow County Council officials, county managers, said that they could not do something because of legal advice and in fact in the courts they were found to be wrong. They were found to be wrong.

In fact, the overwhelming response when you look at cases like this, that have gone to the courts both of High Court and the Supreme Court, even the Supreme Court, is that when councillors are, have a right, a legal right to issue a direction, Chief Executive has an obligation to follow that direction and if he provides legal advice, what the councillors have to do is to consider it but what they also have to do is to make a reasoned judgment as to whether they accept that advice or not. Just because advice is given does not mean it has to be accepted. I think that is a very important point. Particularly for the new councillors it has been prove no- one the past, law agents have got it wrong and county managers have it wrong and councillors got it right. If you look at the substance of the argument, what we have is a project that will forever damage the quality of life of many of the people who live around the lakes in Blessington.

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There have been 5 public meetings, all around the lakes. And I attended four of them, Cllr Gerry O'Neil was at five of them, you were at one, Chairman. I think that [inaudible] was at all five as well. No-one else from the Chamber was at the meetings. What I was struck was how genuine that the people were. They were not coming with a political agenda. They were farmers, housewives, mothers, older, younger people, what they all said was that the installation of traffic lights on 3 bridges, the main areas for them for getting around the lakes is going to lead to them being stuck at either end of a bridge for maybe 5, or 10 minute, every time they want to make a journey as what Wicklow County Council employed consultants have done is to propose that the road across the bridge is divided into two, one half for pedestrians and cycles and the other for cars so that the cars cannot directly pass. There are safety concerns from the abilities of ambulances and the fire engines to get across the bridges in a hurry, particularly in the summer when there is a lot of extra traffic. There is safety issue, a quality-of-life issue, an issue for people who have businesses in the town of Blessington who have seen parking spaces outside of their shop removed again without consultation, all in the make of Wicklow County Council Chief Executive and don't tell the councillors, you have to ask yourself why? It is because the councillors would spot this bid and say it is not good enough you have to have a better solution. The way it is done is to send it off to the An Bord Pleanála we had a laughable situation, Chairman, a part of it, unfortunately, when Cllr Gerry O'Neil brought it up a month ago, he was ruled out of order, he cannot talk about it! It has been spoken about in a closed

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doors meeting, at a public meeting in the Baltinglass, I raised it here in the SPC meeting in the last two weeks and it is talked about in the press, on the radio, and generally speaking among the community. [inaudible] an official of Wicklow County Council can try to force us to be silent on something that will affect people it is not acceptable to me. Going back to the question of the legal advice, Chairman, I know that others want to get in on this, and [inaudible] if you look at paragraph 111 of the legal advice ...: Says that withdrawing an application made under section 177AE for development consent does not appear to be something that the local authority or the Chief Executive can lawfully do [inaudible] it does not appear to the law agent ... that's not definitive. That's certainly a grey kind of a comment as far as I'm concerned. If you look at it from the point that I said at the beginning, High Court, and Supreme Court judges [inaudible] what we are saying is, bring it back, fix it, fix the problems that need to be fixed and then let it go to the board. Rather than taking a chance that an unelected [distortion of sound] that the staff An Bord Pleanála, staff, can make a decision for us. Use common sense you have a planning application before the council or before An Bord Pleanála you decide you want to fix it, change it, to do this or to do that you are always entitled it withdraw it. It is not withdrawn permanently but to withdraw it and fix it. I would submit, that is a reasonable request to make. It is a pity yes to issue direction to the Chief Executive to do something so reasonable, but I appeal to the members to have courage. We are sick and tired, I certainly am, and I think that other members are, to have decisions made by the Wicklow County Council without a proper consultation. If you look at the legal advice, it was

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written on the first of March, that is the date, that was last Tuesday. When did we receive it? 5.15pm on Friday giving very little time for anyone to do any double checking on that advice. That is one example. We have a Town Team questionnaire on Saturday a at lunch time to be filled in by 5pm today. We have planners at Wicklow County Council demanding you get in an amendment a month before the meeting, so, we all have to comply with deadlines, Wicklow County Council officials don't. They are attempting, as far as I'm concerned to subvert local democracy and local people by this proposal and that legal advice, I urge the members, don't accept it. Listen to the voices of the people and Cllr Gerry O'Neil instead. Thank you.

(Lots of background noise)

>>: Before Cllr Joe Behan spoke, I said that we should be looking to [inaudible] to take a vote. I think that what he has said is correct.

When he says that there is a suggestion [inaudible] I don't have the words that.

CLLR BEHAN: Said but, that the law agents' opinion was it might be possible or possibly not possible and that is not definitive. So, the members do want [inaudible] [distortion of sound] ... think we should go and do that. I also think

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that we should be trying to do the best that we can to facilitate [distortion of sound]

>>: I am giving you ample time to make a point. I will Chair the meeting; I will Chair it.

>>: Let the members in.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: In relation to the section 177AE, under section 1.14 of the [inaudible] section 177AE of the planning and the development act.

For the Chief Executive it withdraws [inaudible] in an attempt to force the Chief Executive to do something that the council is lawfully unable to do. I think that is fairly crystal clear in relation to the section 177.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Edward Timmins. Cllr Joe Behan respect others in the chamber.

CLLR TIMMINS: Thank you, Chairman. I will not repeat what my two colleagues have said previously. But I want to make a point. I'm appalled with the way that [inaudible] has been treated in this process. [inaudible] this is a stand-out

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example. Powers have been reduced and diluted over the years. We have had that discussion; I will not get into that. But the simple example, a contrast, one aspect of it, the getting rid of the park on the main street in Blessington from the Kilbride Road or the [inaudible] bank, I go past a number of businesses, the central shops, the butchers, et cetera all along there. At the stroke of a pen their parking outside of their premises [inaudible] ... nobody was consulted on that. None of the businesses...

We had several meetings, the council included with the local businesses to plain to them what the proposals were. The businesses were reasonable, they eventually decided to lose some of the parking spaces but got it back somewhere else, it was done by agreement, and it worked well, took a while, but they agreed it. Even at the end the council came through to reduce more and the businesses agree to it. The reason was, because it was simple, that was a Part 8, so it had to come before the members, so we had to be consulted. But the process is exactly the same, taking away parking spaces on the main street, it worked there because the councillors and businesses were consulted, it has been a disaster here because no-one has been consulted and there's bitterness and soreness because of this, and I was at one of the public meetings, I haven't been at them all. But I've been in contact with lots of people, I met people in Blessington and around the lakes about it. And I know the feeling, they just feel, we were completely just ignored and weren't consulted at all. I met someone else, it a public road and that public road where the farmers have land both sides of the road, have cows across, that

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public road is part of the Greenway, the farmer didn't know until three weeks ago, knew nothing about it at all. That's dreadful, that that was done. The lights are the headline figure and they're the big issue because they affect everyone who lives the far side of the lakes, just outside Blessington or valley mount or Kilbride so they're all affected by the lights. But again, no consultation. There were lots, officials said there's lots of consultation, I went through back through consultations and presentations given to us, one as recent as last September but it is a PowerPoint presentation, it doesn't show maps or proposals, lights are totally not mentioned. So, we weren't consulted, we were consulted on some things to give an opinion, but not the headline the lights the parking, and other issues and you know there's even one part where they're using the public road right up to Tullow ferries and it looks unnecessary, but the big point here is, there was no consultation, this is a disastrous way. This is blown out of all proportion completely unnecessarily. We could have reached agreement and I know there's technical challenges, and I'm not saying what the outcome is going to be to those technical challenges, I'm no expert, nobody knows but we have to do everything we can to get rid of the lights on the bridge. But, if you work with people, work through it, and have a process, people are reasonable and anyone I've met up there, they're reasonable people. They support the Greenway, even though they don't even probably fully grasp the full consequence what the Greenway will do to their area and environment. But the whole process. So, at this stage what, do we do then to make it better, to fix this problem?

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Because it is a problem. It is a problem that we've, that has been created and we can't get away from that. So how are we going to fix it?

How can we work together, the councillors, public and the officials of Wicklow?

How can we - we're all reasonable people how to work together to fix this?

We have to do whatever is good to fix this, I don't know the solution. Legal advice is by its nature vague. It is covered, it is qualified, it is very long, most of us wouldn't get from the beginning to the end because it is often confusing and often writ non-jargon language which meant to in a way alienate people generally. Who reads long legal advice with all due respect?

It is confusing, it is qualified, it has what would you say - you know qualifications on it that don't give us a black and white the answer. That's the nature of it. So, I'm really asking here today, we need to do everything we can to try and fix this problem, which has grown and made a lot of people very angry unnecessarily. A lot of people are very worried.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Anyone remote can you make sure you are muted your feedback is coming through here.

CLLR TIMMINS: The onus is on us as members. To do everything we can to fix this. I just keep harping back, when there was a Part 8, no problem, councillors consulted, work with the public and this was originally a Part 8, three or four years back but when they don't have the consultants' councillors push through the tricky bits and ignore them and hope for the best, it is wrong and we still

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have to do everything we can to try and fix it at this stage. Of course, it is fixable. There is a way around this. And, you know, we can't just think let it go ahead as it is, and everything will be OK. We have to do more than that to try and fix it right now. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Martin Allen.

CLLR LEONARD: Yeah, as somebody, I suppose, who has been affected by two major schemes, that Wicklow County Council were part of, and as an ordinary person running their own business, I know what it is like for these people that are, I know what is ahead of them as well - we had to, I had to actually run for election to get see drawings that should be on public display for what was happening in my front garden in Arklow. I've spent thousands of pounds fundraising to just to come in at an even platform to be able to like for like because when you're going up against big organisations, and big companies, who have a lot of staff, a lot of knowledge, a lot of expertise in the areas putting in planning permissions and stuff like that, for an ordinary lay person running a business, in a local community, living their ordinary day to day life, to go, to have to input the time and the expense into competing, just to fight for communication and for things that could be solved really easily from the very beginning, it just makes no sense to me. Oral hearings cost a lot of money. You've got professionals that are brought in, legal professionals, experts from a whole array of different environmental, engineering companies and stuff like that, it makes no sense for a few extra weeks at the beginning of a project to do proper consultation with the communities that are involved, I think there's

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something - we have to learn in Wicklow County Council about how to do this better going forward. I don't think the formula that we have is in place works. I think that most ordinary people, who aren't on Facebook and aren't on social implead and aren't looking at Wicklow County Council's website all the time or the planning websites all the time they don't know that three projects are ready to go and shovel- ready and more, the only way we can do this is on the ground and getting out in the communities and actively liaising, to find solutions to these things going forward. And for that reason, I support this motion and I just, want to ask one last question how can we change this going forward?

And how can we ensure the local councillors, I thought when I became a local councillor I would be privy to more information and be on the inside and know what is going on, but that doesn't seem to be the case as I want to ensure going forward as local councillors for big project it comes before us before it goes to An Bord Pleanála and whether that's a notice of motion we need to put in, or I don't know how we're able to do that but I think it is something very important going forward so that none of us are putted in this situation again. I know on behalf the Wicklow County Council the staff, the work that goes into these projects I really appreciate the work engineers and liaising later on with the evening news for the water scheme plant in Arklow, I know a lot of work can go into the works, it doesn't always have to be a fight, communicate with people, most are genuine and reasonable and want these things for our communities and I think that's what we need to work towards and just have

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for Wicklow County Council, to have values, listening, respect, you know, everything all of us want in our ordinary lives is so important. Thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr John Mullen.

CLLR MULLEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Thanks to my colleagues for spoken up to now. What I'm trying to dial it down a bit here because, Blessington Greenway has been a project that the people of the Blessington and Blessington lakes area has been wanting for 15- 20 years, the communities and Town Team and forum up there has worked closely with officials and elected representatives of this council and previous elected members who have retired over that length of time through leader funding, consultations, documents, and planning, through further meetings, further briefings, even in COVID situation we had meetings on this, on a regular basis, to try and get this project to fruition. As a county as elected representatives we all have a duty to try and improve the areas we live in. I'm from a rural area and I know how little rural areas get. I know how difficult it is for rural areas to try and get game- changing infrastructure rational changes that will bring jobs, and a little bit of sustainable prosperity to an area.

And we have to be careful that we don't risk the 15 million fully funded project by withdrawing a planning application. Withdrawing a planning application, which apparently, we legally shouldn't be cog anyway. I think it is a strategic and tactical mistake. I submitted a submission on this issue through An Bord

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Pleanála and I put down my objection to the traffic lights and to the parking, and I also suggested having been involved in managing walking trails for 15 years in my own community that the best way forward to resolving these matters is not maybe in public chambers like this, but to have an inclusive management committee on the Greenway that involves all the stakeholders, representatives of the community groups in valley mount and other Lakeside areas, representatives of the forum and tidy towns the Town Team and all the elected councillors for that district who all have been working on this project since we were lucky to be elected by the people of our district.

And I don't think anybody here today should doubt the concern that all six in the Baltinglass Municipal District have about these serious matters do with the Greenway, but they're resolvable matters but I'm convinced they are resolvable and I'm not willing to risk a 15 million fully funded project to get a Greenway which will give a future to the area, on the basis of problems that can be resolved through the process. There will be an oral hearing more than likely, I have been assured by the engineers several of the briefings we've had, since Cllr Edward Timmins said landed at a Town Team meeting in November. I've been liaising with the engineers who worked hard on the project on the backup teams and fair play to them during COVID because they came into meetings to give us the updates we wanted. This idea we've all been kept in the dark is simply not true, there were two or three issues yes, we were kept in the dark about but the rest of the project, 15 million worth we weren't kept in the dark, we were anxious for it to start. I strongly believe as tactical and

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strategic mistake to withdraw this application, even if we had the legal power I would be voting against it, because these within resolved by the engineers and people who design it and by liaising with the communities that have been sending in commissions, and want to contribute to an oral hearing and also, want to be part of a management group that will manage this Greenway as it rolls out because as I said at previous meetings of my own district, having been involved in walking trails over the years, there are unanticipated consequences and when people how we'll handle the hundreds of thousands of people who will come to the district, that's what we want. We want tourist, we want them to come to the district and yes, we're going to have to have carparks in places where we didn't think there would be, because people will behave differently when you put in, a new piece of infrastructure. I know this, this happens every year in the Glendalough valley and other areas where there's outdoor infrastructure available. People will behave differently but when you manage it, and when you give them a process that they can engage with, most people are reasonable. So, I'm suggesting to my colleagues today, to withdraw the section, I understand the passion they have from where they're coming from, but I think it is tactical and strategic mistake, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Mary Kavanagh.

CLLR KAVANAGH: Thanks chair. Yeah, two things, I'd picked up on when the proposer and seconder was speaking, one was Cllr Gerry O'Neill said in very

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definitive terms that An Bord Pleanála had said that Wicklow County Council can withdraw the application. Now I'm quite sure he didn't just make that up. I'm sure he has something like that, he's been in consultation with them and has been given that assurance, therefore I don't see why that would be a problem. And I think, if that's what was said, then, you'd have to ask well who is the expert in this?

Is it An Bord Pleanála or the law session?

So, I would like to reiterate that point that An Bord Pleanála has said maybe Cllr Gerry O'Neill could expand on that. And the other thing that was what Cllr Joe Behan said which was that if this was any one of us, an application in and suddenly we saw a major design flaw and said if this went through there would be no certainty, we could correct that design flaw down the line - then, we would have the power to withdraw that and to resubmit it with the design flaws corrected. I don't see how that would in any way shape or form jeopardise a potential funding or plans for it in the long-term. All it is just withdrawing it to correct what isn't right. And if there are so many people in an area that are so angry that they're attending meetings left right and centre, and demonstrating how angry they are and worried about their businesses, and their parking spaces and having to stop on roads and health and safety issues, when all that might need to happen is that a small pathway is built left or right of a bridge, something as simple as that, I don't see how this could in any way, shape or form, jeopardise the plans for the Greenway. I think that's very strong language to say that, because we all know that Greenways are pop

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already, everything now is about getting people out and about in the fresh air, walking, cycling, taking them off the roads in cars, my opinion that couldn't fail. So, I would just like to support the motion, I think we should go for it, and if it is, if we go for the vote and if the vote is passed then, at the very least, we should just submit an application to jaw, and see what happens then because the way it is, there's at the moment, there's just too much unhappiness out there about this. No consultation, really with ordinary people about the fine details, and the devil is in the detail. Everything sounds great, we'll have a Greenway, wonderful, but it is when you look at the nuts and bolts of it, that so many people were unaware of, that is when it really hits home and we as councillors have an obligation to the people we represent, whatever the part of the county they're in, to make sure we do things according to what they at least can input into. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr John Snell.

CLLR SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

Look, it is something that I've highlighted here on a numerous occasion and it is to say to the members the day is coming that the 32 publicly elected members will not be needed, and that day is coming sooner than we think Cathaoirleach because we're talking here about the eradication of powers of councillors, since 2014, since the Town Teams or the town councils were done away with. We had it here seven days ago Cathaoirleach, you said just there with Rory O'Connor is and Municipal District, and we were, exact same

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arguments that the councillors are making today. Lack of consultation, it was to do with the traffic management in Newtownmountkennedy and loads of proposals and everything that's happening to the citizens in west Wicklow, no consultation with the business people, no consultation with the people, natives who live there, the people who are born and reared in west Wicklow have not been consulted, even people who don't want this to be withdrawn have said they weren't consulted on two or three items and that's the items we're talking about, that's the bridges, the three bridges that all these public meetings are held about. And each and every one of you that will have the pleasure of driving a mile out the road now after this meeting will come to temporary traffic lights and I can assure you those traffic lights have been out here, at Knock Robin for the last three weeks and everybody is going every other way to avoid them, but they don't have the luxury in west Wicklow, the luxury of avoiding the bridges. No consultation with emergency services, what does that say about us as an organisation?

We didn't consult with the Gardai, didn't consult with the fire brigade, the ambulances. I know the Chief Executive has inherited this, because it is not too late to withdraw this. It is not going to affect; it is not going to affect and that scaremongering that we're going to lose this project. Everybody who has spoken and everybody who come in after me to speak supports the Greenway in Blessington, money has been achieved to support this development. But the reality is, that the beginning of this meeting we were told that the best way forward is the open and transparency with An Bord Pleanála, everyone had

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their opportunity to make a submission by Friday gone out. The same as the legal opinion. Where would you get contradictory legal opinion from Friday evening to Monday here?

It is just not possible. I don't want this council to go back the way it was unfortunately twelve and fifteen years ago where each individual public representative had to watch their back and had to go and get legal opinion and stand up to the officials and that's not the way for a good productive council. A good productive council works hand- in- hand with one another. Cllr Edward Timmins said this is wrong. And Cllr Edward Timmins is right. It is wrong. But he's put an appeal out for everyone to work together. Cllr Gerry O'Neill is relaying as a good public representative does, what his opportunities want. They want this to be challenged here in this chamber, that's why you put your posters up every five years and get elected to challenge decisions not lie down and accept what is put to you because it is wrong it is not right you know it is not right. The officials know it is not right here and yet you're going to accept it the reality is it is not too late, withdraw this, address what the people want, it doesn't matter if it is fifteen billion, they're giving, if the people don't want these three aspects of this Greenway you have to address what they want. The businesspeople are suffering in regard to parking they haven't been consulted and this all comes back to eradication of powers of public representatives and the flourishing of Town Teams and forums unelected people who have the ear of officials. If you know and can anyone, here tell me in all consciousness it was right to give money to consultancy firm to carry out

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traffic management study in the middle of a pandemic when people couldn't go beyond 5K beyond their home, where is the logic in a we're accepting the evidence, they're giving us so there's only so many cars going over the bridges in the middle of a pandemic, come on.

Put it aa vote, do the right thing this, is what happened in regard to Municipal District and full council and will happen at SPC as well, it is not right, give the people what they want.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Paul O'Brien.

CLLR O'BRIEN: I agree with Cllr John Mullen in the tense Sense we should take the temperature down. In the past I've been accused of not wanting low cost supermarkets in the west. Untrue. OK. What I want is what is best for the west. OK. I have, like all of us I received numerous emails from constituents that are upset about this. I agree with Cllr John Snell and Cllr Joe Behan and the rest that said there's a breakdown in communication, we sat in this chamber a week a said the same thing. But I have to say, Cllr John Mullen I admire you because you seem to be going against the grain here, but I will support you because as referee we look at common sense. And I think common sense has to come in here. The challenges that are facing this Greenway are not unsurmountable, they could be cured and fixed I actually went to spoke to Cllr John Mullen moment ago and asked him the procedure because I'm not fully au fait and he assured me there will be oral hearings on this, so can be looked at. I won't grandstand for political reasons and bang on the desks, I'm going to listen to reason, have common sense about it, I want to

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see a Greenway over here in the east, we've been begging for a Greenway for years now at this stage. We haven't got it. All we see is the erosion of the Murrough. I want what is best for the west, Cllr John Mullen is right, 800900 visitors was quoted, if you don't want them, we will take them and get a hotel, can we stop with the grandstanding and have a reasonable conversation and not have to read about it on social media because everyone is entitled today their opinion here today and let common sense prevail here today thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Thanks, Cathaoirleach and just listening to previous speakers there with interest, I know it was Cllr John Mullen or Cllr Edward Timmins referred to the issue and he said the traffic lights being a key ticket issue. He talked about bridges and the safety around the bridges, my question would be, or my, I'd like to see clarification around what alternative options in terms of design has been considered, that would still provide safe access, in as parliament of the process in this area. Cllr John Mullen said there's lots of consultation on the Greenway project in general to date I would agree with him in that regard. The project itself is highly beneficial for Blessington and obviously Wicklow, my concern would be that, you know if we go ahead with this proposal that there would have affected in pausing the project, we have seen M11, N11 improvement scheme and maybe funding would be stalled, else, although it is disappointing there's been a lack of consultation particularly around this issue there's other ways to address it, the key ticket issue, lights, surely that design can be looked at again, I know you have to make provision

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for cyclists and pedestrians, lights can be synchronised and all that, surely there's a way of resolving this, without interfering with the project as we say, it's a much-needed project for Blessington and the county in general and a lot of work and support has got into it to get it to this point.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Derek Mitchell.

CLLR MITCHELL: Thank you Cathaoirleach. Yeah. I would be mostly in agreement at what has been said. That, it is really quite disturbing, that these very conversation items well the parking is an issue, we all know from probably every area here has had discussion about taking away parking and sometimes it goes ahead and sometimes it doesn't, but it is always conversation.

It needs to be explained to the people who are affected by it, why this is being done. But, on the one-way bridges, I think that is something which really the Chief Executive should have spotted, was something that needed to have wider public consultation, consulting with the local councillors who have an understanding how the area is used, what the delays are, on the bridges, how heavily it is used on a Sunday, or during the week, or whatever, so, I think it is a major, really mistake of the management of the council in not getting these things brought before the councillors who would have seen the problems, and, there's much closer supervision needed for consultants if the consultants have done all this work, they need to be more closely supervised, so that this could have been stopped well before. I would echo what some representatives said, we don't want to see the money lost. It is extremely valuable product and suitable for the area, and, maybe it is best to let the An Bord Pleanála proceed,

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as has been suggested by some, so, to ensure that we don't lose the money. But I think somebody should be making a case for a different way of dealing with these bridges, in particular, for instance, in the rail bridge between New Castle and Kilcoole, the footpath has been put on a candy lever on the main bridge, can something like that be done there?

Because I think it is important that we get the two-way traffic on the bridge. So, I'd like to see that proposal somehow thought through before the hearing and An Bord Pleanála and presented by the council's modification to An Bord Pleanála thank you.

Cllr Vincent Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: Most people on the occasion, believed it was such a major idea and project that the chances of it succeeding was very slim. But the people who had the idea and the council staff as well, they persisted with it. We are where we are today because of the work done by the people invested and by the staff at Wicklow County Council, so we have that 15 million made available for the vision for the Greenway. In the proceeding years, there has been lots of presentations that I have heard with regards to it. I know of the issue that came up was probably toilets, car parking for additional cars coming to the area. And they were issues and many more brought up. Certainly, the staff have addressed the problem there is in the same way as I'm sure that they had in Mayo when they provided the two great Greenways and they had problems and got over the problems, so there is no reason we can't get over the problems. Cllr Edward Timmins mentioned the level of consultation in terms of

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parking and issues, no-one wants to see parking done away with outside of their premises but what it worked out, it was a lot of consultation, and maybe it is the case we took our eye off the ball in terms of the issues that could arise in Blessington and the Greenway, so I mention the issues there but certainly the light, and the parking in Blessington, it was never mentioned at any time to us and again, parking is a major issue for anyone who has business of or anything of that nature. At the end of the day, it will be resolved at some stage. It will be resolved it is a new bridge or whatever across the lakes, maybe that is what it takes to resolve it, but the bridges have been there a long time and there has been many issues with maintenance. At the end of the day it will be resolved whether we are with An Bord Pleanála and with all of the hearings but it is something that at the end of the day we put a lot of time and effort has gone into it by the staff here and by the people in Blessington and has been mentioned in the people in the area, mostly the farmers and those working in Blessington or Dublin, they are all decent people. The comments and the concerns made are genuine concerns we have to take them on board. Thank you, Chairman, hopefully at the end of the day it can be resolved.

CLLR FORTUNE: Thank you Cathaoirleach. I focus on what Cllr Edward Timmins and what Cllr John Snell have said. But it strikes me listening to it all, tourism is very important. I was involved in tourism for years and years in the county. In fact, when this particular project was first was involved with AKOM but today we are told that, legal advice tells us we can't do something which is the key issue before us. I looked at the legal advice over lunch. The concern that I have

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is, I don't think that the legal advice we have been given can be relied on, it clearly says that the language of it does not appear, to me that is not advice you can totally rely on. The fact that the communication part of it didn't happen. A councillor said during the course that An Bord Pleanála have said that it could be withdrawn. I can't see why, if it had to be withdrawn and put back in, it is an issue. This is a project that has to happen in the right way. The whole area of communication is absolutely, the most serious issue that we as 32 councillors face, and we should not be having this conversation here today. We talk about time and wasting time. This conversation should not have been needed. Because, the system is not communicating with councillors, the councillors are being side-lined, parked, ignored, all kinds of wrong things going on. I have soapboxed on that quite a lot in recent times. But the bottom line for me is that the legal advice is not something that I, personally, having read it, could rely on.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Pat Fitzgerald, were you looking to get in there?

CLLR FITZGERALD: If we vote against our vote to take it out of An Bord Pleanála, the act, no resolution under section 140 of 2001 can be brought to force the Chief Executive to withdraw an application under section 177. I looked at that. That is correct, you cannot be forced with withdraw the application, the question is then if the vote is against the application, the Chief Executive still has the right to leave that application with the board. It is clear. I checked it this morning. I'm a commissioner for [inaudible] and a Police

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Commissioner, the Chief Executive cannot be forced with draw the application. Irrespective of what we say. You can say what we like but if it is defeated or ... the Chief Executive can still go ahead. OK. That is my view on it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Burke Cllr Sylvester Bourke?

CLLR BOURKE: I can see a sense of history repeating itself. Myself and a few of the councillors were in the Chamber in 2004 when a similar motion was put forward to direct the manager not to do something. It was voted on and passed subsequently legal advice gotten by the councillors that ended up in the Supreme Court and four of them ended up paying 44,000 in fees, at the end of the day you wonder what it is about as the development never went ahead, it was the Red Cross Crematorium, I believe, based on the experience that I went through at that time this is similar, I believe that the motion should be withdrawn lest members end up on the slippery slope looking for more legal advice after the vote is taken, if it is carried as the manager will not act on it, they will feel aggrieved and will want justice and God know whereas it will end up. So, the opinion is that the manager does the utmost to get the problem sorted out through liaising with the An Bord Pleanála, or through whatever hearings come up to redesign with the engineers to bring it to everyone's satisfaction, to a conclusion. That is my opinion. And I'll be abstaining on the vote.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Avril Cronin?

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CLLR CRONIN: Thank you very much, Cathaoirleach. It is very disappointing that we have to have this discussion here today.

A project that was bringing great excitement to the area and to our local communities has now turned into a project that is causing a lot of frustration and a lot of anger and a lot of disappointment for the members of our community. I guess we cannot deny that communication has failed us in this process. All along, I have asked to be clear communication to ensure that members of the community feel that their voice is being heard. On this occasion, I feel that the local community feel their voices have not been heard. I know we did have many meetings along the way, but the most recent development of the bridges really caused great disappointment in the local issues, especially around the lake. I'm of the belief that communication is key. I organised a meeting last week as the Cathaoirleach of the district for six members of the district with the council officials, I felt there was a lot of discussion going on but no communication between the councillors and the officials, I felt we had to sit down, going through the issues to come up with a resolution. I met with many groups over the past number of weeks. I could not attend some of the public meetings for personal reasons, I don't think people should be called out on that. It is many reasons why people cannot attend large gatherings, but I spoke to many residents, meeting with the IFA representatives and people voiced concerns to me. I'm well aware of the issues that have been raised. I was also at that Town Team meeting when first

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informed. I have to say I was disappointed to hear there were lights planned for the bridges without our consultation.

But I have been told on many occasions that the engineers are working to look for a solution. I am putting my trust and my faith in the council staff and with the consultant, that they are trying to resolve this issue, that we can come to some sort of a conclusion that will satisfy all needs and satisfy all people's use. I am constantly working for the people of West County Wicklow, harping on about more facilities that we need, more services that we need, more funding that we need. Always trying to do my very best for the people of West County Wicklow if it comes to improved infrastructure and improved services, my heart is here in West County Wicklow, born and reared here, what I try to do since becoming a councillor I firmly agree that the agreement will bring about the developments that we badly need in the West. I do have reservations about the legal implications of the vote today. Concerned for the implication it will have if we withdraw, what it will do for funding and concerned about the submissions put in. I put in my own submission, and I know that many community groups and residents have done so as well. If we force it withdrawn, what happens to the submissions? Are they thrown out or do we look for them again? We are all in a very difficult position today through no fault of ours as councillor as we tried our best to communicate with all, to ensure that all of our voices are heard. But we are in a very difficult position today. We want to do what is right. To fight for the people of West County Wicklow but not to jeopardise any project. But I think that a resolution can be

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found. I really do hope that the council and the engineers will work to try to come up with a favourable solution.

That will work for all of the communities around the lake and for the businesses. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Anne Ferris?

CLLR FERRIS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Can I say at the outset that I really admire Cllr Avril Cronin, the Cathaoirleach of the Baltinglass MD. I think you have put out there exactly, you know, the situation as it is. Also, putting your Trust in the officials that they will get it right and address, largely, most of the problems. Fair play to you, Avril. 15 million is a lot of money to lose from the West. I think that people have to take into account the bigger picture.

I just wanted to say, Cathaoirleach, that not knowing the ins and the outs as I'm not a member of that district but I, looking at the legal advice, I think it is fairly clear what we are told by the law agent. I think that people should reflect on that we pay the law agent for her work for the council. This is not just somebody throwing out a legal opinion somewhere. I am sure, I have confidence in the law agent, that they have looked at all the insides and the outsides and the ups and the downs and the pros and the cons of this legal question.

OK? I'm not even sure that given this advice from the law agent that we can put this matter to a vote. I think that what we are being told some that it will be illegal for us to put it to a vote. I am not 100% sure of that but maybe

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someone can give clarification on it. I, you know, I think, and I think that Cllr Sylvester Bourke mentioned the situation with the Red Cross Crematorium that happened many, many years ago, it was an absolute mess. I think we have all gone on from there, I would hope that people learned lessons from it. I don't think it is good enough to say that, you know, that you can pick a word here or there out of the advice after getting it from the law agent to say, "I don't really believe that or trust that, it is only saying might, maybe or whatever." We are after getting advice from our law agent which is incumbent for us as members to take on board. For that reason, I shall not support the motion today. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Patsy Glennon? CLLR GLENNON: thank you, Cathaoirleach. Look, a lot has been spoken about this. A lot of it is very true.

As Cllr Joe Behan acknowledged I attended all five meetings and spoke at them. Not always the most popular person in the room but I explained the need for people to get submissions into the board before the 4th. That it was very important that the message is given loud and clear as the matter is before the board.

I did it on the basis that we were told that our municipal we could not withdraw the matter. That was the advice given at the municipal. Confirmed by Michael Nixon and Cllr Breege Kilkenny. So, on that basis 5 members of the council voted on matters based on that advice, I accept that people are entitled to change their mind to get further explanation, I did make a suggestion that, to Mr Nicholson at the meeting that perhaps further

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information could be submitted to the board dealing with the bridge issue, I'm more focused, and I made the submission to the board, I can say that others have made the submission to the board but the issues that concern me mainly are the lights on the bridges and the one lane of traffic. I acknowledged that will be a problem. People living on the far side of the lake are totally depending on the bridges, their only means of commuting to please bless and back and forward, some crossing them several times a day. I was assured with the sequence of lights, that it could be kept to 90 seconds, I accept that the council officials are doing their best but I ask again today at this meeting: Is it possible for the council to make a further mission is to the board, as I believe it is before the Board and I believe it is where it will stay, based on having the read the sections quoted contained within the legal advice. I urge that the Chief Executive and the Director Nicholson to look at the possibility of putting in further information to the Board and to have bridges across the lake. I think if it were done, and the issue resolved I think lots of the steam would be taken from this. This is the point of a mainly or concern to the public. The two submissions that I made to the Board that 1. And it stands out on its own as the most important thing in my view. The second is the inadequate parking planned for the number of visitors to be expected. That must be addressed. Those are the two things that the board addresses before a development commences on the Greenway. I think that all of the other issue, be it fencing, parking, lanes, all of those things can be adequately addressed in the final planning stage that we were assured of by Margaret Hartnett it has not yet taken place yet, that can be done. This is a substitute consent that has gone to

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the board. It is not a planning permission perse but a substitute under section 177. It is important to keep the focus on where we are at with this thing. That is where I stand on it. I ask that the Chief Executive and any staff give further considers to addressing the bridges in particular. And the inadequate parking. Other than, that I think it can still work. I will be hoping that the board will have all hearings that everybody can be heard under various issues. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Patsy Glennon. Before handing back to the Chief Executive, to add my own point. First to make the point I try to give everybody as much time as possible on this today as it is such an important issue for the county. Secondly, it is very sad we are in the position, potentially looking at a Greenway worth probably 15 plus million to our county. That there is no doubt that mistakes have been made along the way. I'm the first to acknowledge that. I attended a meeting in valley mount with other councillors and listened to the concerns clearly of the public. Legitimate concerns. Very well-articulated.

And on that particular night I said I would take my leave from the local councillors, that I think is the right approach to take.

(Mobile phone rings)

5 out of 6 councillors here today articulated that they would prefer not to see the process halted, in other words to continue with the application with An Bord Pleanála. And to let the An Bord Pleanála work with the couple to resolve the issues. I think that we have been given assurances about by the

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management and the engineers and the council that they are looking to resolve the issues and can resolve the issues, which is an important point to make.

Members have said here, you know, we can fix these issues, they are not insurmountable. I think that the communication has been disappointing, there is no question of that, but as the members have said, it is 15 years in the making, the economic benefit to West County Wicklow and to the county is unbelievably high terms what it can do.

CLLR FORTUNE: Forward mentioned tourism, close to my heart. The tourism potential is just massive for us. I am concerned that if we withdraw or ask the Chief Executive it withdraw the application, that, we could be pushed down the list. It is not scaremongering; it is a legitimate concern that I have. I don't want that to happen, I want the Greenway to continue. I think it is a fantastic project for the county. I don't want us to be in a position where we lose funding to the tune of 15 million and maybe not have a Greenway. I think it is a fair comment to say.

I suppose in my final point, is the concerns over the traffic lights, the safety concerns, the parking in Blessington, I genuinely believe and feel that they can be resolved. I'm asking, I suppose, the members of this council to work with An Bord Pleanála and with our management to address these issues. I think that they can be addressed to everybody's satisfaction.

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We have a situation where it is a live application, submissions have been made from many different parties up to last Friday. I suppose that with any planning application, I suspect that the Board would take recognition of the views of the public to liaise with the couple to look at the concerns and the issues raised to be addressed. They are my comments on this. But I'm concerned of losing or delaying the Greenway going forward.

I think it is a huge shame that we are in this position that we are in today.

Chief Executive, I am going to bring you in to finish off.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. To make a couple of points and to respond to some of the comments made here this afternoon.

I appreciate all of the comments made by the members.

It is a very emotional subject we have been discussing here today. That has been acknowledged by everyone. I suppose a bit of background the consultants identified a number of options in relation to the bridges, including cantilever options. The traffic lights were considered the only safe and viable option for the scheme.

Also, to note that once, a mature impact statement was required for the scheme, we were legally obliged to make a submission to the An Bord Pleanála, I know that people said there was a part 8 Protestants, now gone to An Bord Pleanála but we were legally obliged to submit to An Bord Pleanála once there was a mature impact statement required for the scheme. In relation to the question if we can withdraw or not withdraw, and what An Bord

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Pleanála said, this is not a regular planning permission application, whereby there is an actual statutory process identified in legislation to withdraw an application, which is for planning permission, this is for section 177. There is no legal process included in the legislation for that.

So, my understanding is that if we came up with an alternative solution, we would have to put in a brand-new application to An Bord Pleanála. That will be the process.

But what we are being asked here today is it withdraw an application without an alternative, viable and safe solution, to replace it with, we don't have one.

... at this moment in time. We have said we would look at it, going back to the consultants, they have not identified another option. We have talked to different people, looking at options at this moment in time there is no alternative solution that is considered safe. I think that safety is paramount in relation to the development of the Greenway. We have to have a safe corridor for families to walk and to cycle. The other point to make is that some of the issues can be addressed at the design stage of this process. If we have to widen a road, we can widen a road at the design stage putting sensors on lights to ensure if there is no traffic on the other side there is no red light. We can do that at the design stage. [inaudible] ... what I would say is that agree with the Cathaoirleach, not scaremongering. If we were to draw the application, if it is legal to do so, which it is not. We are risking the funding, 5 million has been allocated for 2022, for TII if we don't spend the money, question marks will be asked if we will spend it. There is a list of other local authorities out there dying

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to get money for Greenways, so we have seen, and it will be discussed later, about TII suspended the funding for the N11 so there is precedent there, it is not scaremongering. I asked the members, while I appreciate there has been frustrations in relation to the process, maybe the consultation, I suppose, the traffic light option arrived late in the day. There was a huge amount of consultation beforehand with the district, with the forms with the individual landowners on the whole of the Greenway, it is regrettable that there is a perception that there was no consultation with regards to the traffic lights but unfortunately it is the only safe and viable option that is put forward. We could have had consultation, but it would not have changed what was put forward to An Bord Pleanála. The process allowed all to put forward observations, and An Bord Pleanála, as I said earlier, they will send back a list of all of the submissions made to the council, which will be available to the public to look at. Also, as Cllr John Mullen suggested, there is quite likely a good chance that there will be an oral hearing in relation to the matter.

So, I ask people, to go with the process. There is a process in place. Everyone has their ability to put in observations over the last few weeks. Let's see what comes from it. If a solution comes up in the meantime, there is the option to put forward a separate application but at the moment we don't have the solution. So why would we withdraw the application we have without an alternative solution in place? On that alone, I would ask the members just to engage and embrace the current process that we have. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gerry O'Neil, one second. I have 6 or 7 people looking to come back in. Can I ask everybody ... sorry? Can I ask everybody to be brief?

There is a lot of people ...

CLLR O'NEIL: When I am given a chance to sum up. I am OK.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Go on.

CLLR O'NEIL: If you want to let the others sum up.

CATHAOIRLEACH: You were first to raise a hand go ahead.

CLLR O'NEIL: You wish me to speak? A few issues, Brian has said, that we have all heard, that there is no alternative. But part 8, there were cantilever bridges to be fixed to the side of the bridges. That was agreed. That was part of the part 8. It would be the solution to the bridge, however when put at the last meeting with the couple officials, about the cantilever, it was suggested that the bridges may not be safe.

That they may not be sound to fix the cantilever bridges to. If that is the case, I can understand that the bridges are 85 years old a life-span of 100. I would plead again for people to support [inaudible] as if we do, I will much prefer to see maybe quarter of this Greenway done and done properly, instead of being poorly put together.

Mary asked questions there about the board and ... I can give the name the person out here, no problem. Or if you want me to relay the name of the person at An Bord Pleanála privately, or to the, to yourself, Cathaoirleach, I can

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do that. I have spoken to him. He made it very clear to me that this can be withdrawn. This can be withdrawn. Now, I hope that there is no-one doubting me, there, for some reason or other but I can give the name of the individual here or I can give the name of the person privately. But I have checked that out.

The cantilever is a way out of this. But, there's a building, there, there's a home old health centre, I don't know whether, what it cost, from the HSE, maybe a million or whatever, half a million, don't know what it was, I was been asking how much the Wicklow County Council spent on that, and to make it very clear here - if this thing goes ahead, this will inflict hardship on the people of Blessington, to talk about this hub, the old health centre, it is on the Kilbride Road when you walk out the health centre, to the right and left, turn left you go to the cross in the town, and then there's a line of shops to your left which will bring you to St Joseph's Road, those 25 car park spaces are gone. The centre is there, the hub will go there, I don't know why the hub is there, because there's no parking there, if you want to Wicklow to Cork or whatever and take part in the Blessington, it is the last place you'd go to, because there's no car park spaces and the few that would be there, is gone now with the plan. Because those 14 businesses there be wiped out with that plan going in place, those 14 businesses will be wiped out completely. I cannot for the life of me understand the TII's role in this. The TII, are, day in day out objecting to one-off housing and planning because of the increase of traffic to the N18, yet

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they're prepared you know, willy-nilly, not even to put a submission in as regards the amount of 360,000 extra cars a year on the road, that's just on passing. There's another few questions there on the kill ferries one. Then there's the argument here Tulfarris, the town was included in the part 8, Tulfarris was never included in that, it is included in this one, I'd ask why is that part of it why did people have to pay for a private enterprise. There's 3km of road, Shay if you could, I've been put out of this for the last couple of weeks and if I could just give me that chance to finish off will you if you could, Chair.

CLLR O'NEIL: If it was 50 million Cllr Snell pointed out, the people of the Lakeside who will be locked in from here on in, it wouldn't matter to them if it was a five billion that's not the point here. Who has the franchise for this, who has the franchise, the people of the area here aren't too happy about the ins and outs and rules and regulations as regards all this? This has been inflicted, the traffic survey carried out in the height of the lockdown, in May 21, is not fair. There are four roads leading on to one of these bridges here to take a traffic report in the centre, is totally wrong. It is unfair. I'd really feel, with the whole process, of this application is wrong and I plead to all councillors there to really consider that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Avril Cronin.

CLLR CRONIN: I know we're tight for time and I'm conscious there's many other councillors that from other areas that have their own issues they want to resolve as well at this meeting. Can I just ask confirmation from the Chief

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Executive there, can we, I know you said changes can be made along the way, so, if we let this go ahead - are you saying we can still look at alternatives?

I know that I asked at our meeting that the engineers and the consultants look at alternatives, I know they hadn't come up with something straightaway I'm no engineer I imagine these things take time and assessments have to be done. If we let this go ahead through the process, can alternatives be looked at and can it be changed at a later stage?

Also, you mentioned the road could be widened as well. So, if that can be done, well maybe that could resolve some of the issues we have along the bridges and along different areas. I'm just wondering, you have mentioned that we can make changes, can I just get clarification that you can make changes along the way if this goes through, if we allow this to go through, can we make changes along the way?

And again, just ask the legal position on what we're voting on, I'm conscious if I'm asked to vote on something I want to know I'm voting on something that's legal. I don't want to be tied up in a case here where I'm voting on something that is completely illegal. I haven't done it in the past don't want to intend doing it today so I would appreciate if we got full clarification on the legal position on this vote because we talked about it for long enough and we really need to get the legal position, are we entitled to vote on it or not to vote to it thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Martin Allen.

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CLLR LEONARD: Yes, I wanted to get clarification, I know there's a process involved in when submissions are made to An Bord Pleanála because I dealt with Arklow flood relief scheme where we made submissions and Wicklow County Council come back with replies to the submissions and changes were made recently with the more glass introduced and stuff like that. So, I'm wondering, like Avril has said, is there an opportunity if we let this go ahead, I'm conscious of the funding and everything as well - but, if we can, if Wicklow County Council can come back with alternative design, and also, laterification, is it what is the problem with the design?

Is it the cost, is the budget that's limiting the design of alternative and if not, if it is just engineering limitation could we look for an independent review of the situation and try and get an independent review and see if there's alternative that could be got there, thanks?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: Cathaoirleach, it has been a very interesting discussion and I think a lot of the local members from the west were putting faith in An Bord Pleanála and that like the problems can be resolved. But actually, we've learnt something now, even in this discussion from the Chief Executive - because he said look there could be consultation but what was the point, we can't do anything with the lights are going to have to go on the bridges anyway. He just said that there could be consultation, but the lights have to go there anyway so their minds are made up. And councillors from the west, who think that An Bord Pleanála are going to overrule council officials because they're going to go

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back to the council as has been said with the submissions saying now Chief Executive what do you think about this, don't say you weren't warned he said it, there's no other alternatives other than the lights, he said it here and said afterwards, churr I told you that at the meeting, so councillors who voted against this motion you're effectively accepting the lights are going to be put on the bridges. Because that's what we've been told here today. So, there's no point in hoping that An Bord Pleanála are going to come up with new solutions the officials have made up their minds. If you don't look for this to be withdrawn, you're basically losing the opportunity to influence this and influence the Chief Executive and his staff to fix this with some alternative even though they've already turned their minds against it. The other thing he said, was that well, if we had to withdraw it would have to be new application of course it would because there have to be changes but that's not the end of the world. And last point I'd make is just because the law doesn't say that you can withdraw it, it doesn't also say that you can't withdraw it. You use your common sense. You use your judgment. And what I'm saying to members before we take this vote is - use your judgment and say we've been told the bridges are going to have lights on them, end of story. So, if you don't vote for the motion, you're accepting that. Vote for the motion you give us the chance, you give the Chief Executive and the local councillors primarily a chance to work this through Cathaoirleach.

Thank you for the motion.

CLLR O'NEILL: Here, here.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Irene Winters.

CLLR WINTERS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. It's very clear that we're here because there wasn't a proper communication at certain stages throughout this process. And that is regretful and I a lot of the meetings we've attended in the last 18 months that has been the consensus is we spent a lot of time talking because, a lot of officials are not consulting in I suppose proper timelines with the elected members, and we wouldn't be where we are. It is without doubt all 32 members of this council want the Greenway to go ahead and realise how fantastic it will be for each of the Blessington area and I agree with Cllr Paul O'Brien I would love one on the east side as well and look forward to the Wicklow Greystones Greenway when it eventually happens, and it will.

I do though realise there is enormous concern amongst all the members talking today about whether this vote is legal, or it isn't legal and before we actually push for voting it, I am wondering should we be given the opportunity whether we want to vote on it or not and whether we should be taking a vote. Do we think we have the legality to do that?

Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Can I briefly - yes, two questions really that have arisen from this discussion - Cllr Gerry O'Neill said he has definitive information from An Bord Pleanála that the council has the authority to withdraw the application. I'd like- to- some clarification of that, that's diametrically against the advice

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we've been given that the council cannot withdraw it. So, we need to resolve that dilemma, and I'm not sure we can resolve that dilemma today. But we need an answer to that, to understand better what are our options are.

Secondly, is there an option, in a normal planning you can do unsolicited further information. Is there an option for the council to make a submission at this stage, putting, setting aside some aspects of the planning application, which is park on the plain street Blessington and proposal for lights on the bridges?

Could they be put to one side in relation to the application?

And with a view to making a submission covering them?

Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. There were a few questions there for Brian, I'd let him answer first.

Chief Executive: In relation to changes, look obviously, if the changes are not material, it can be applied at design stage as I said, widening the road would not be considered material, putting sensors on the traffic light would not be seen as material, removal of traffics lights would be seen a material change and, in that case, a separate new application would have to be put forward. In relation to the can't lever bridges that was an option that was looked at, cantilever bridges and requiring the feasibility a structural investigation of the bridge would be required and also, it is outside, there's no additional funding in relation to it and the timing of the length of time it would take, so, that

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would cost millions extra. We've been allocated 15 million for the project. Cantilever bridge can be done as a parallel issue, there's a different source of funding for that, it can be looked at but, if you withdraw this application or try to withdraw this application in the hope, you're going to get an extra five million Euro for cantilever bridges I think we're leaving ourselves wide open to this project not going ahead full stop. So that's the situation there. The question whether this is legal or not - I think the conclusion in relation to the legal advice that was given is quite clear. The suggested resolution is one, if proceeded with would be legally unsound and invalid and in breach of 142 and 140- 10. And to force the Chief Executive to withdraw a required application under section 177A of the Planning and Development Act because it would be an attempt to force the Chief Executive to do something that the council is not lawfully able to do, any such resolution would be void and ineffective. So, I don't think we can get any clearer in relation to that particular matter.

They were queries that was asked.

CLLR TIMMINS: I'm not talking - I thought you were addressing the question I asked, I made the point forget about the section and members, can the council themselves make the withdrawal, we were told you couldn't withdraw it. And, Cllr Gerry O'Neill has got different advice that you can withdraw it. So, to answer that question.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I can only go on the legal advice provided to me and legislation in front of me and in relation to 177IE does not have a process for withdrawing the application that's black and white.

I don't know who Cllr Gerry O'Neill spoke to. As I pointed out earlier, if the question was asked can a planning permission application be withdrawn?

Someone in An Bord Pleanála would have said yes it can because there's an actual process outlined under the Planning and Development Act in relation to a normal planning permission process. This is not a planning permission process.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Just wait.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: It is put to An Bord Pleanála under section 177, which is, there's a legal obligation for the council to do that, because there's an impact statement required for the project.

CLLR O'NEILL: At five minute toss one ...

Today ...

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Miriam Murphy please.

CLLR MURPHY: Thank you chair.

Yeah, I mean we've two hours here now on a very delicate, delicate situation for west Wicklow. And we've all different views and whatever. My, one or two questions I would have been, it is a very worrying situation going forward for

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any further Greenways in our county which we wanted to develop as a tourism destination. We have Avondale Park which is going to be one of our top tourism areas, and the link then with west Wicklow would be added pure heaven for to welcome to Wicklow. I do worry about the consequences of it not happening. But also, can we just ask Cllr Gerry O'Neill, did he get his information confirmed in writing because, we have to trust it in writing?

And it is very, very difficult, again, for people who I suppose are not living in the area to vote on something, my heart goes out to the six councillors in west Wicklow, because, it is like, a situation in all of our towns at the moment, we are trying to improve our town, with public realm and whatever, and again, the lack of communication on all sections, not just on the Greenway, but in projects in our town is just non-existent and we've been facing the same situation here in Arklow. So, I mean, it is a lesson to learn it is happening in every district and again us councillors are the people who are meeting the public, who are meeting the public and in fact have to hide from the public at times because we're not able to answer the questions. We're not able to answer them. I don't want to live my life like that, I said that last week, I am not prepared as a councillor to avoid people, the people who have voted us in, to be their public representative, but we're not allowed do that.

And when we ask questions, we're not being given the answers, or told we can't hold meetings. I mean, this just is ridiculous. And I feel that actually this meeting, deserved a special meeting for two hours, look at our agenda, we can never get through our agenda. It is crazy. It is crazy. Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr Irene Winters.

CLLR WINTERS: Thanks, I'm just, I had asked a question, which wasn't responded to. I would like if we could actually ask the members whether they're even happy to vote on this. There is so much lack of clarity on the legality of it, I don't think people should be asked to vote on it, unless they're happy and I want to ask the members if they're happy to vote on this, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Tom Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Lots of debates, not intricacies of this, and I'm just wondering, could the CEO either himself or delegate one senior staff to ring the board and ask the board the question, because Cllr Gerry O'Neill is certain what his information is. So, why wouldn't we do that rather than talking and talking about it?

And then the other thing is, I would like to get a feel, if I can have votes what the feel is from the six west councillors because I'm confused, I'm reading it 50- 50 at this stage so I'm not too sure what the consensus is there. I think that this calls for a different kind of action. And I'll repeat what I said earlier, this is driven by us characters, you know not communicated with, and not asked properly. So, there's a responsibility, why we quote legal advice from the law agent what about the rights of us as public representatives to be properly communicated as democratically elected by the public to come in

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here and represent them. Surely there's implications around that as well, I it is not black and white or strayed forward.

CLLR O'NEILL: If I could answer that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I just want to sum up for a second, we have a section 140 in front of us, the legal advice is that it is unsound so are we asking the members to vote on something that is legally unsound?

Which I think, I'm getting the clear direction from members that they're very uncomfortable to have to vote on something that is legally unsound. The second part that I hear from the members is you happy with the legal opinion? The legal opinion is the council legal opinion, is it a case, do we want a second legal opinion?

I suppose these are the questions that I'm hearing from the members. So, if I could sum it up in that scenario, there's concern of having to vote on something that's legally unsound and secondly are we looking for another legal opinion?

So, just I'm going to ...

Cllr Gerry O'Neill

CLLR O'NEILL: My name is brought in so can I clearly ask, at six minutes to one today arrange An Bord Pleanála there's a section there that looks after this project, the Greenway, I spoke to a gentleman there, I told him who I was, Cllr

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Gerry O'Neill, a member of Wicklow County Council I've asked him about the Greenway, I asked about the, he quoted a section to me, I said can that be withdrawn by the Wicklow County Council he said yes. I we talked, he repeated it twice to me. He said clearly to me, that we can, that can be withdrawn.

Now, I would maybe suggest that, it could be another way out - I didn't, did I get it in writing I couldn't have, it was an hour ago I didn't get it in writing but I will get it in writing and I think the onus is on Wicklow County Council, to get it in writing and show the members that it can happen, that it can be withdrawn. It can be withdrawn, and I absolutely don't accept for a minute it can't be. An Bord Pleanála's they've stated clearly to me, it can be withdrawn. It is only to rectify what's there to address the issues, as genuine concerns there, about the bridge, about the ...

There's a lot of stuff there, Shay, you are cutting me there a good bit. Shay you are. I want that, I want it to be very clear to every member here today that I had that conversation with An Bord Pleanála, and at four minute toss 1.00 today.

And this was the information I got. I have the gentleman's name; I'm not going to probably wise to splash it all over the place I made that call at four minutes to 1.00 today. And that's the answer I got.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK, Cllr Mary Kavanagh.

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CLLR KAVANAGH: Given that there's a conflict between what An Bord Pleanála on one hand is agency and law agent on the other I don't think we can just take one side as being read, asking with the definitive answer so I think that, we instead of voting on this, that we try and seek something in writing from An Bord Pleanála that corroborates what Cllr Gerry O'Neill is saying, and then, look to vote on it. I think to do so, now, would be just to take one side's view and ignore the other which may be the correct one so I don't see how we can vote on this, thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Pat Fitzgerald.

CLLR FITZGERALD: Yeah, care Cllr John Snell.

CLLR SNELL: I will be brief, it is very confusing here for everybody, Cllr Irene Winters made a valid point, and a lot of the discussion is based around is whether we can force the Chief Executive through the section 140 to withdraw this?

What I don't think we're getting clarification in regard to, if this was withdrawn in the morning the Chief Executive, I assume can withdraw that. The question is the legal advice is saying we can't force him to withdraw it. But he can withdraw it himself.

And I haven't heard anyone say he can't withdraw it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I think he said he can't himself.

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CLLR SNELL: On section 177 you can't but 142, and section 140- 10, that's in response to the section 140 that's been put in front of the members. And what's put in front of the members is that, we're asking that this be withdrawn, i.e. the public representatives are putting a proposal that this be withdrawn, in other words forcing you to withdraw it, but can you clarify if that was withdrawn, this minute and taken off the table, you have the authority to withdraw this, surely, any organisation who submits an application has the authority to withdraw that, like what Cllr Gerry O'Neill is saying that An Bord Pleanála could not refuse you to take that application back out. That's all I'm asking for clarification.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I'll clarify that. Under the legislation, I cannot be directed to withdraw the application, because section 10 means any acts under the Planning and Development Act are exempt from section 140, so I cannot be directed to withdraw the application. Understand 177 there's no provision for me to withdraw it in any event. So, I can't, that's the legal advice, there is no provision to withdraw it, it is mandatory it has to go in to An Bord Pleanála because of the impact statement. As I said earlier, if it were decided after the process that went through, An Bord Pleanála that we were to go ahead with it, and then we came up with another solution we would submit a brand new application to An Bord Pleanála. As he posed to withdrawing it. That's my understanding of the process, but there's no legal process for a normal planning permission application and it is under section 140 ironically, a different section of the Planning and Development Act there was a process

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outlined for an individual withdrawing application to An Bord Pleanála, or a body withdrawing application to An Bord Pleanála, but under section 177, there is no process outlined.

So that's, I know this is confusing, but that's the process there, and that's what is outlined in the legal opinion.

So, I hope that clarifies some way.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Paul O'Brien.

CLLR O'BRIEN: After two hour debate on this, confusion reigns, there's no other way of putting it. We have agenda that we have to get through. We have motions that, there's another suspension of standing order that I would like to get to Cllr John Mullen where people are bombed out of their houses in Ukraine and we're talking about traffic lights and a bridge, I'm not taking away from the subject. Confusion reigns, we need to bring this to answered, resolution and move on. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK, two more speakers want to come in and then I'll sum it up.

CLLR TIMMINS: You made a suggestion I agree with, we're clear it is contradictory situation here. Chief Executive with all due respect made it very clear what his legal advice is and quoted the sections, three times at this stage so we're very clear on the position of the Chief Executive, we have Contra

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contradictory section from Cllr Gerry O'Neill and Cllr Mary Kavanagh said we can't vote so we finish this discussion now, and we wait for clarification from An Bord Pleanála as to what opinion to give Cllr Gerry O'Neill and then we come back and vote.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. To finish, Cllr Pat Kennedy.

CLLR KENNEDY: I've listened for two hours with interest, in the first part there was 18 contributions, and in the second part in the sum up, as Cllr Gerry O'Neill said let me sum up and there were 15 contributions. It seems to me at the end of this debate there's two things to be decided here. One, Cllr Edward Timmins said I won't repeat that, do we go ahead do, we not, people's confusion. The first item then would be, if we take the motion that is put down by Cllr Gerry O'Neill and Cllr Joe Behan, and that is supported, is the application not going to be - is that vote not going to be honoured anyway and going to be left in An Bord Pleanála and that's the answer, I would like an answer to that question. But I would support what Cllr Edward Timmins is just after saying because I think what Cllr Edward Timmins is after saying, he is summing up with Cllr Avril Cronin said earlier on and Cllr Irene Winters said earlier on and there's narrative in what he has just said if people were listening it. But I would like an answer to the first part of that question, what I'm after saying, if the motion is voted on here and if it is passed, is that going to mean then that the management is going to withdraw it or are they going to leave it in An Bord Pleanála anyway. If that answer to that is one way or the other,

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then perhaps, Cllr Edward Timmins has said needs to come into play if people can understand what I just said. Are you clear?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes, I am, and just to answer you, as far as I'm aware and the Chief Executive can come in, we're voting on something that is legally unsound, and if the vote was passed the Chief Executive would not be forced to withdraw the application.

are you clear with what I said?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes, I am. As far as I'm aware, the Chief Executive can come in, we are voting on something legally unsound? The vote is passed the Chief Executive will not be forced to put in the application. We can read the legislation again, Councillor Kennedy.

CLLR KENNEDY: What I am saying is, if the motion is voted on and passed, if the motion is voted on and supported, are we clear in.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.

>>: What I am saying then that the 57cation is still with An Bord Pleanála. Correct?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes. Go ahead, Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: We're in charge of this process, not the Chief Executive. It is our legal right to discuss and to pass a motion. The Chief Executive is under obligation to act if we give him a direction. We are entitled to judge the legal advice and to make our own decision, Kay Cathaoirleach. Don't let's throw

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away the power that we have got because of a very weak, very weak argument, by the Chief Executive that because you are told in law, you are not told you can't do it, therefore you can't do it, actually, he has not proved at all he can't withdraw it, what we have is a more convincing point for Cllr Gerry O'Neil where An Bord Pleanála says that they can. And the other point, he says even if it is withdrawn, he's not going to change it. He has made up his mind and even the An Bord Pleanála will send it back.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We are at a point we have the section 140. It is legal unsound, repeating myself, from our legal opinion. So, OK? We are voting on something that is legally unsound. OK? No, that's the legal advice. That legal advice I have in front of me.

CLLR MURPHY: Chair can I come in, Cllr Irene Winters made a suggestion, I think it must be acknowledged. We should be asked: Are we prepared to vote? We should have that respect given to us. We have sat here for two hours and given this discussion the respect that it is due. Now please give us respect in asking, are we prepared to vote? I can tell you here, I am not. But I would like the others to be given the respect to that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Irene Winters, are you putting forward a proposal asking people do they want to vote on this or not?

CLLR WINTERS: Cathaoirleach, I think that a lot of people are concerned. You heard what Cllr Sylvester Bourke has said in relation to what happened with the Red Cross Crematorium. People are concerned about if they can do this or

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not. And regardless of how they vote on the motion, firstly, let's see, are they prepared to vote on the motion? That does not suggest if they do or don't. I think a lot of people would like to vote one way in the motion but are afraid to, as they are afraid what the implications maybe, so I want to know are people even prepared to vote on it?

I will bring in Lorraine.

>>: You have section 140: Without prejudice to any other relevant requirement, it is necessary for the passing of the resolution under the section that at least one third of the total number of members of the local authority concerned vote in favour of Winters' the resolution. That is what you are looking at. One third of the number of the local authority members voting in favour of the resolution. It also says further down, I will not go into the detail: A resolution under this section, does not apply or extent to and it lists A, B, C, D. At E this says: For any matter of thing to be done in the respect of the local authority, with the planning authority, under the planning authority. Now if elected members, the elected members don't vote against whether we will or won't vote, if you are not in favour of it, vote for or against it or abstain.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is that clear?

CLLR FORTUNE: It is totally all over the shop. I think the wise and the sensible decision in my view is to take Cllr Edward Timmins' proposal because of the conflicting view. You get the view clarified that is being put to us and then lay it [inaudible] this is not a normal discussion or debate on a topic. There so much

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involved and the advice is doubted. There is a quote from a reputable councillor from An Bord Pleanála, that at least needs to be checked out. I think that Cllr Edward Timmins met all of that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gerry O'Neil and Cllr Joe Behan are you happy with what Cllr Edward Timmins is saying? That we get clarification from An Bord Pleanála and if required another legal opinion? Are you happy with that? I do take it there are a lot of people uncertain about a vote here.

CLLR O'NEIL: There can be, but this is a precedent, really. If the section 177, it can affect other areas tomorrow morning. Will we sit on our hands to allow this to happen again? The reason I am looking for the withdrawal of this is because of no, zero consultation, it can happen tomorrow morning or the following or the same next week, this is for every councillor, if we are going to put up with this legislation or whatever, it is confusing. But are we going to put up with this from here on in is this a new planning act?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Are you happy to get clarification on this?

CLLR O'NEIL: I want to put it to a vote.

I want to put it to a vote. That as the motion suggests, that the county manager, that the manager will withdraw this.

That's, Cathaoirleach, that is based on being fair to everyone here, everyone in the Chamber, the 32 councillors, this is a precedent.

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Are we going to allow this to happen again and again? We are not paid to by the people that elected us. Can I remind everyone in the Chamber, we are elected by the people? We are elected by the people. We have to honour those votes. We are servants of the people. I am not interested in the County Council is doing business in this way.

CATHAOIRLEACH: You want to put it to a vote and not look for further clarification? Cllr Edward Timmins?

CLLR TIMMINS: Can I address Cllr Gerry O'Neil. Gerry, we all agree with the whole consultation issue and the lack of consultation issue, that there is no dispute of, we make it loud and clear. What we move forward with today does not impact on diluting that attitude. But can I say to you, by waiting for clarification from An Bord Pleanála, that it will make us a little wiser in how we vote and proceed next. If it means, I am conscious of not wanting to delay this for another month, it is too long to wait. We could have a special meeting on this if we felt it was a better approach? Would you not just wait until tomorrow when we get an opinion, a written opinion from An Bord Pleanála and then the members will feel more comfortable about what way they are voting.

CLLR O'NEIL: I can understand that. If the special meeting is sooner, rather than later. This thing is moving on. There are real concerns in the area, huge concerns in the area. So, the special meeting is held within a week, I have no problem with that? And we do, Cathaoirleach, to let me finish off. I spoke to

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the section in An Bord Pleanála today at 1.55pm. This is the information you gave me.

CLLR MURPHY: You didn't confirm it?

CLLR O'NEIL: It is not in writing. it was 2 hours ago.

CLLR MURPHY: An email can be sent in 5 minutes.

>>: In the absence of agreement that Lorraine pointed out the issues of 140 but Cllr Winters made a counterproposal, supported by Cllr Miriam Murphy to go ahead with the vote go ahead with the counter proposal first.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We cannot do that; Lorraine has told us clearly. I will bring in the Chief Executive.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: To clarify, Lorraine made a reference to section 10E of subsection 10E of 140 in relation to the exceptions under that particular section. Regarding functions as a planning authority under planning and development act 2000. It further states under that subsection that any resolution claiming to be past under the section that contravenes the subsection is void. So, it is quite clear that any resolution put forward in relation to trying to withdraw a planning application, is void.

This is to, this is not the 177 elements, it is directing the Chief Executive to do something. There are exceptions under 140/10, Lorraine said there was a list A-F. E relates to planning functions. So, any resolution aiming to be passed

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under this section that contravenes the subsection, i.e., functions in relation to planning and development is void.

So, that is nothing to do with the section 177 and An Bord Pleanála.

[inaudible]

>>: The people remotely cannot hear you, councillor.

>>: I want to challenge the word questioning; does it mean you as the CEO can withdraw or as opposed to being directed by us?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: The section 140 directs the Chief Executive.

>>: But you can't be directed but you can still do it.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: It is not valid. If it is not legal, I will not do it.

>>: The two things are not related the section 140 is to enable the elected members to direct the Chief Executive to do so. But there are a number of limitations of them. It happens to be one in the planning and the development act. It is a marker you cannot overstep in directing the Chief Executive.

>>: But An Bord Pleanála still say that the Chief Executive can withdraw the planning application.

>>: But that is not what we are hearing from Cllr Gerry O'Neil.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gerry O'Neil are you happy for us to get further clarification on this within obviously the coming weeks, as quickly as possible? I can have a special meeting.

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CLLR O'NEIL: I raised it two hours ago. Surely to God anyone could have checked with An Bord Pleanála within the two hours from the Wicklow County council offices. I take the man's word, he said it twice - we have the power to withdraw the application. If it can be checked out now or if someone wants to ring, I will give you the number there, or online, there, that they can check it out. I am going by what the person told me. He said it twice: Any application. He is dealing with the Greenway project. He said it could be withdrawn by Wicklow County Council at any time.

>>: I say to Cllr Gerry O'Neil, I know you are listening to colleagues, everybody wants to do the right thing. But there is more information required. I don't think there is harm to ferry this motion for a week or two weeks to get first clarification where the elected members feel comfortable to vote [inaudible]

CLLR O'NEIL: Is Brian indicating that no matter which way it goes he is going to withdraw.

>>: There is confusion. This must be delayed. We are getting nowhere. To ask a person to ring An Bord Pleanála at what time ... I'm looking at it here on the system, to get a clarification of whether he can do this or that. This is ridiculous. It should be put back.

The only thing we have discussed at this meeting.

CLLR TIMMINS: I made the address. By the sound of it, he is agreeable it is OK to have it done quickly, we have a special meeting at 6pm on Monday. For those of us that work. And we get a written response from An Bord Pleanála as

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to whether or not the Chief Executive can withdraw it. If it transpires that the Chief Executive can withdraw it is up to us to persuade the Chief Executive, if we want to, to so choose to do, to speaker swayed the Chief Executive to withdraw, he may not be obliged to, however there is no legal avenue to force him it withdraws, if he feels he can't withdraw we can use powers of persuasion. We will know by Monday.

[inaudible]

[All speak at once]

CLLR O'NEIL: It seems to me he is not going to withdraw this one way or the other.

CATHAOIRLEACH: ... the board and legal opinion. Is everyone agreed with that? Can we have a seconder? Seconded by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald. Cllr Joe Behan I've asked three times at this stage. Cllr Gerry O'Neil for the last time, I'm agreeing to defer this until next Monday week, OK? We will get further clarification from An Bord Pleanála and legal opinion. Are you happy with that?

CLLR O'NEIL: If you can get it next Monday.

CATHAOIRLEACH: In two weeks, not next Monday, Monday week. Cllr Gerry O'Neil has the section 140, it has to be put through him. Are you happy with that, Cllr Gerry O'Neil?

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CLLR O'NEIL: Far from happy with it but I don't want to, it is 3 hours gone this meeting and I want to accommodate things. So, I am nervous that no matter which way we go on this, it seems that the Chief Executive is not going to withdraw or consider withdrawing this. And I'm here to represent the people. The people in trouble with this in a big, big way. Putting it out there. I am saying it could be a precedent.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We want to vote on this to defer it for two weeks.

>>: A vote to defer. If the vote fails.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will go for a vote to defer this for two weeks with further clarification.

HELEN PURCELL: We are taking a vote to defer item 1 on the agenda for two weeks. Until the 21st of March. In order to seek clarification.

OK. Councillor Tommy Ainsley? ...

[COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING]

There is 24 for, 6 against and two abstaining. That is for the motion for a special meeting on the 21st of March.

CATHAOIRLEACH: At 2pm. If that is agreeable. I will have a look at that OK, members. I didn't think I would have to do this but I'm looking for extension to the meeting after section 1.

Item 2. Proposer and seconder for minutes of the Ordinary Meeting Wicklow County Council held on Monday the 7th.

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Item 3. Considering the disposal of property in the townland of Bray, Co Wicklow situated on Urban District of Bray parish of Bray and Barony of Rathdown by transfer order to Mr Patrick Murphy, entitled to the freehold interest in the property. If I could have a proposer and a seconder for item 3? Proposed by Cllr O'Brien seconded by Cllr Joe Behan. Agreed?

Item 4. To consider the disposal of property in the townland of Sheeppouse, Arklow Co Wicklow comprised of Folio WW2871L. Being the property known as 107 St Peter's Place Arklow, Co Wicklow by Transfer order to Ms Catherine O'Brien of 107 St Peter's Place, Arklow, Co Wicklow. The person entitled to the freehold interest in the property as previous circulated. Proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr Aoife Flynn-Kennedy.

Agreed?

Item 5. To consider disposal of a strip of land annexed to the existing sporting pitch increased from 0.485643 hectares to 0.6187 hectares. 1.2 to 1.5. acres. Situated at Dr Ryan Park, Kindlestown, Greystones, Co Wicklow to the Sporting Greystones Football Club known as previously circulated proposed by.

CLLR FORTUNE: Forward seconded by Cllr Derek Mitchell. All agreed? Agreed.

Item 6. To consider disposal of property comprised of Folio WW11333 in the townland of Knockanrahan Lower and Knockanrahan Upper County Wicklow being the property known as 58 Fernhill, Arklow, Co Wicklow consisting of the freehold interest and additional piece of land measuring Transfer Order to Mary Kelly of 58 Fernhill, Arklow the person entitled to the freehold interest in

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the property and the additional land incorporated into the property as previously noted.

Can I have a proposer and seconder?

CLLR MURPHY: Proposed.

Councillor Ainsley proposed and councillor Murphy seconded.

Item 7. To consider the disposal of property in the townland of Little Bray, Castle Street, Bray comprised in Folio WW6086L. Being the property known at the former Heiton Buckley site at Church Street, Bray, Co Wicklow by Transfer Order to Silverbow Ltd, Bushnell Investments Ltd, 1st Floor, Block 1, Quayside Business Park, Dundalk Co Louth, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property as per note noticed previously circulated a propose and a seconder? Cllr Joe Behan, I will bring you in first.

CLLR BEHAN: I don't know of a Church Street in Bray.

>>: It should be Castle Street.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Did I say Church Street?

CLLR BEHAN: You said church Street.

HELEN PURCELL: Disposal of 0p0248 hectares of property in the townland of Little Bray, Castle Street, Bray comprised in Folio WW6086L.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed by councillor [inaudible], seconded by Cllr O'Brien. Agreed?

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>>: A point of information, sorry, to, I'm concerned as on it says to dispose of the property at Little Bray, Castle Street then it says being the property known at Heiton Buckley site at Church Street, Bray, Co Wicklow, so I am concerned as it is the same site but giving two different addresses. As far as I'm concerned there is no Church Street. Heiton Buckley is on Castle Street. There is a typo. So, I am concerned about it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: It is definitely Castle Street. Confirmed.

>>: We will refer that to the law agent.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I'm going to go to item 12. To note Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee end of year report 2021, to note that if it is OK with the members? OK.

Back to item number 8 to consider the Chief Executive's monthly management report, February 2022.

We don't have long. I want to get to the suspensions. Are we happy to take the Chief Executive's report as read and if you want to submit questions to the relevant directors? Or defer for two weeks?

submit questions.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Deferred for two weeks until the next meeting. Agreed.

How are we time timewise? We will go to the suspensions. Suspensions, so, if you want to read those again.

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HELEN PURCELL: The first suspension of standing orders was submitted by Cllr John Mullen, seconded by councillor Paul O'Brien stating: The members of Wicklow County Council condemn the unprovoked invasion of the sovereign nation of Ukraine by Russia to demand that in response to the unjustified invasion of the nation, that the Irish Government use the maximum diplomatic sanction, the expulsion of the Russian ambassador from the Republic of Ireland.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr John Mullen?

CLLR MULLEN: Thank you for allowing the discussion. I think that the motion is straightforward. We have all seen the events of the last few weeks. With despair ... I never thought in my lifetime that I would ever be sitting in a Chamber discussing a war in Europe.

We thought those days were behind us. But Vladimir Putin, like most bullies and tyrants, he thinks that the West is weak. Maybe he has reason to think that the West is weak. We have had Brexit, we have had Trump, we have had the growth of populist politics, and after two years of COVID, we have come out of the disaster of the COVID situation to find the Russian federation invading a fellow European country and the people of the Ukraine, but the reaction of people has never been more unified. The people of Europe, the people of Ireland have never been more united in reaction both in a negative sense and to the reactions of a regime that is a bully. And also, in the positive reaction of people who want to help. And the amount of people who have been ringing me, wanting to donate clothes, medicines or where to give

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money, it has been unbelievable in the last ten days since that innovation began.

So, the motion speaks for itself. But I think that with the refugee crisis that is happening in front of our eyes, I think that I have already had a discussion with our community section and in fairness, they have played a blinder during COVID, they played a blinder during COVID, our community section. I think that now is a similar opportunity for the members of this council, and the staff of this council to help fellow Europeans in their time of need with shelter or with any other practical way. So, I am asking if we can have something in those lines.

This will affect all of us. I know over the weekend we have seen the price of diesel going through the roof. We have seen agricultural businesses and grain and rice going through the roof, the farmers will value a difficulty. It will have an economic effect to the country and to the country to rebuild after COVID. So that is how ruthless and devious and cynical and brutal and wrong Vladimir Putin's innovation of Ukraine has been. I do think in history it will be going down as one of the great mistakes, I think he has united ordinary people around the world and in particular on the continent of Europe for the first time maybe since 1990 [sic]. Since that collapse. So, I think that the motion speaks for itself.

CLLR O'BRIEN: To echo what Cllr John Mullen said. I am reluctant to speak of motions and national let alone international to bring it into the local politics but to me it goes beyond local and national politics, what we witnessed in the

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Ukraine in the last 11-12 days is nothing short of horrific. The pictures of kids with their nap sacks on the backs lying on the streets killed by Russian soldiers is a memory to live on with us forever. I know what the excuse will be if we expel the Russian ambassador.

We've seen Agri business and grain prices through the roof, our farmers will have a difficulty, this will have a real economic effect and the abet. This country to rebuild after COVID, so that's how ruthless and devious and cynical and brutal and wrong, pew tin invasion of Ukraine has been.

I do think in history it will go down as one of the great mistakes because he has united ordinary people around the world and in particular on the Continent of Europe for the first time, maybe since 1990, when we saw the off yet union collapse, and the united, the motion speaks for itself, I hope you support it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Paul O'Brien.

CLLR O'BRIEN: Cathaoirleach I want to echo what

CLLR MULLEN: Hull has said, as I spoke to you before, I'm reluctant to speak on national let alone international level bringing it into global politics but this goes beyond national and local politics, what we've witnessed in the Ukraine in the last 11- 12 days has been nothing short of more risk, the picture of young kids with their knapsacks on their back, lying in the street killed by Russian soldiers is a memory that will live on with us forever.

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And I know the excuse will be, if we expel the Russian ambassador, will they retaliate and expel our ambassador and who will look after the Irish in Russia, but the reality is this man in Dublin, the ambassador for the Russian Federation, went on Russian TV recently, and the lies this man talked about the Irish people is unforgivable and, in my opinion, has put the Irish people in harm's way. In Russia. This man went to the owe rock toss said it was absurd to think the Russian fed conservation would invade a sovereign country, he lied to our TDs, he is lying to the Irish people, and now, he is putting Irish people in harm's way, in Russia.

And we all know as Irish people anyone who studied history, what politicians can do by their words, during the campaign of the IRA we saw what the Irish people had to endure in the UK, now Irish citizens are being put in harm's way by this liar, he should be expelled immediately. And we should take the strongest action. It is an embarrassment to have two MEPs standing up Irish MEPs standing up for this tyrant and it is about the time Irish people stood up against tyranny, we are as Cllr John Mullen said doing the right thing. And it is up to each and every one of us to do the right thing and expel this liar once and for all.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Thank you Cathaoirleach, I know I submitted a motion as well looking for us to adopt the exact wording from what was presented to the Dail by minute centre cove any because it is strength in the unity of our approach to stuff this, is a human tragedy. On a scale that some people are

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struggling to comprehend, especially young people and I know for me to explain it to the young members of our Wicklow Comhairle na nOg that another member from Carlow, who is literally now has just escaped from middle of Ukraine in the midst of this category for people to wrap their head around that has been difficult and it is only the beginning in terms of how they will process what it means to live in this Continent and what the risks are in terms of travelling to study, travelling to experience the world and we don't really know yet the full extent what will change in that regard. And just to build what Cllr John Mullen said, I think maybe when we look at what is going to land in Wicklow in terms of Ukrainians looking for help and support, as I said by Cllr John Mullen maybe we should consider and the chief and CCSD, and yourself Cathaoirleach can look at reconvening the community response forum if required because that was pour me a model of the absolute best practice to support people in times of need thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Thanks and whilst I totally understand the feelings around this motion and I share the sentiments there the previous speakers said about the lice coming out of this ambassador's mouth it is hard to take but my view would be we need unilateral approach from the EU in expelling ambassadors we need to be mindful of Irish in Russia and Ukraine, there's up to 6 automatic citizens trapped in Ukraine under more risk circumstances so I would urge caution in expelling the ambassador, I would certainly look at the amount of support staff in the embassy, we believe to be over 30, I think the Government

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are be looking at that, and looking at expelling some of them but the lines of communication need to be kept open. If it is unilateral EU approach, then so be it, but, certainly, and I would also urge the community section of the council to look at migration strategy to look to deal with the appalling humanitarian crisis developing in Ukraine and I'm sure we will put a plan together in relation to accommodation and integration of influx of refugees and I'm sure we'll welcome them with open arms and do everything within our power to support them when they do come thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr John Snell.

CLLR SNELL: I concur with all previous speakers in regard to this. I know that that over a week ago there was in the realm of 30 Fianna Fail members of Parliament who came out and looking for the ambassador to be expelled and rightly so. I think Alan Kelly who I wouldn't be a fan of, but to be fair to him, I think his best speech was in his last day's as Leader of the Labour Party when he addressed the Dail and called for the ambassador to be expelled from Ireland.

And yet it seems that our political leaders, are not listening. The people want this to happen. And it is only right and fair to show some sort of solidarity with the Ukrainian people and I've no doubt that Ireland won't be found wanting, but I would call on the members of this motion to expand on it, because, it doesn't matter war is wrong whether it is on the streets of Ireland, Ukraine, Gaza, Syria, and I do believe that we should be expelling the Israeli ambassador from Ireland as well. And I would ask the two members who moved this

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motion let's not be selective there's no difference between the children slaughtered on the streets of Ukraine and the children who are slaughtered on the streets of Palestine. Both ambassadors should be expelled from this country, we're a country of neutrality. We have very little powers in regards what we can do, other than showing our distaste for what is happening and neither of these individuals should be here in this country. So, I'd urge, and I would support this motion, and I urge Cllr John Mullen to expand on it. And to include the expelling of the Israeli ambassador from Ireland as well, send out a clear message, let's show the people that we in County Wicklow don't support war no matter where it is, the innocence of small children, adults, elderly people who are fleeing their homes. There was a cross- party of four cross party organisations within the Dail moved a motion in May of 2021, to expel the minister, but some of your own members of the people who have moved this motion go against the party grain at a national level. Your politicians have shown leadership at a national level unfortunately the leaders of the party haven't grasped it, but I think we'll send a message here in Wicklow, expel the Russian ambassador, expel the Israeli ambassador. And I'll support the motion.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Irene Winters.

CLLR WINTERS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

I am appalled by everything as most people are, by what is happening in the Ukraine and I think the current Russian ambassador has been proved to have lied to the House, our Government and I feel he should go. However, I feel

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that the only way to resolve most situations is through dialogue, so, rather than expelling him I would be asking that we replace him to let the Russian Government know that we don't want somebody who comes and lies and that we think that's acceptable. But I don't believe that you can stop talking to people and resolve a situation. So, I would like if the motion was actually amended so that the Russian ambassador was replaced, rather than expelled. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK thank you. Cllr Gerry O'Neill.

CLLR O'NEILL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Yeah. Well, I share in the culmination of what is going on in Ukraine, absolutely. I think it is dreadful the displacement of people. It is heart-breaking to see. But I could not go along with the motion to expel the Russian ambassador and I'm a little bit surprised I don't know to a certain extent here because I mean, if we look at the Middle East we should have expelled the American ambassador long ago and the issues in Yemen, the British Ambassador should be gone out of town long ago, there are 72 different companies in England, actually making arms for use in Yemen, for 10,000 young children have died and almost 400,000 people have died in the last six years. So, while I condemn the lot, I'm very surprised to hear Sinn Fein that nit-picking at one particular ambassador, and why they don't agree and I fully agree with Cllr John Snell as regards the Israeli ambassador should be gone long ago, I would not support the motion to expel the Russian ambassador. I think every line of communication should be left open. I'd also con demnat the EU policy here of army and proposing that arm ordinary

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civilians in Ukraine, untrained people young lads there, two are now carrying guns on their backs, which is absolutely disgusting. So, I think long and hard before I'd support that motion, which I won't anyway I would not support it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Derek Mitchell.

CLLR MITCHELL: Thank you Cathaoirleach. I agree with what much has been said and it is clear that the Russian and indeed the supported by China, that they want to change the international order to might is right. And that is of concern to any small nation. And it seems to me that this is the end, what happened of a rule's- based national order based on human rights and it seems to me lying is now policy amongst Russia.

So, I don't expect the master was changed we'd be doing anything more than getting more liars. So, I think I don't think the ambassador should be expelled, there's a need to have some connection with a government on relation to our citizens elsewhere. I think it should be very much reduced, it is bigger than the one this Britain. I can't understand why that could be, for any good purpose and we should insist it is reduced to two or three people. But I do not agree that the ambassador should be removed thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Mary Kavanagh.

CLLR KAVANAGH: Thanks care. Yeah, I think I would agree with Cllr Irene Winters, that, he needs to be replaced as owe he is toed to removed. I think we're asking, that he be replaced sends out at message, even though they may

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all lie, he has actually been caught out and was blatant, and he can't be trusted. If nothing else, it will send out that message, but I really would fear for the Irish living in Russia that they would not have any advocacy over there, without having an ambassador, Irish ambassador over there, which may very well prove to be very important at this time given that we don't know how things are going to pan out. So, I think to cut overcommunications, especially at this very, very sensitive time, and given what is happening and given that some people don't seem to have any regard whatsoever for anything, they don't seem to have any kind of empathy or human decency, I think to cut off communications at a very sensitive time like this would be wrong but I would certainly second a motion to have him replaced with another diplomat.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Paul O'Brien, do you want to amend.

CLLR O'BRIEN: Can I come in there for a minute. I don't want to delay here. What I'm trying and Cllr John Mullen is the same, what we're trying do is send a clear message here today we're condemning the Ukraine, I am not going to play politics and attack other politicians, for the sake of getting a headline. But so, I would like to amend the motion if Cllr John Mullen is agreeable as well, this council wholeheartedly condemn Russia for the invasion of Ukraine and the atrocities that they're carrying out. I hopefully that would be good enough to pass here today.

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LORRAINE: The members of Wicklow County Council condemn the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, full stop.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr John Mullen yeah.

CLLR MULLEN: Yeah and again, I'm cognisant what colleagues said in good faith, there are Irish citizens in Russia, and Russian citizens here, I think the Russian regime is rotten to the core and until there is a democracy, and I want to praise the Russian people as well who have been out on the streets demonstrating at risk of getting arrested, because apparently you can't demonstrate there, and you will be picked up by the police. So, I'd like to amend the motion to get most. Us, on the same page about another country invading another country thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. So, look are we all agreed with that, everyone happy, Cllr John Snell.

CLLR SNELL: I would ask them if they would consider, there's an invasion in the Gaza Strip and publish people are suffering for many decades, children are being murdered on the streets. Adults, elderly people, numerous parties within the Irish political system, are looking for the ambassador of Israel to be expelled, I asked the members to move that, it is not playing party politics, I'm an independent, I don't play party politics. I'm asking, in the interest, of transparency and fairness, if we're against war, we're against war everywhere.

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Expelled the Israeli ambassador, the same as the Russian ambassador, that's all I'm asking, I didn't get clarification on that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Paul O'Brien go on.

CLLR O'BRIEN: I won't delay. I just want this message to go out here today that this council condemns Russia, in terms of Israel, Cllr Anne Ferris and myself have a strong motion in, for some time now, which I think will send out a clear signal. What I don't want to do, and I'm genuine about this, now, I want this council to send out a clear signal that we condemn Russia, and I don't want it to be diluted with anything else, we have a strong motion in, myself and Cllr Anne Ferris in relation to Israel, I think we stick what Lorraine has said.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will get to that somewhere special meeting, I'm conscious of the motions there. Are you happy with that, Cllr John Snell?

CLLR SNELL: Yes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. Are we all agreed? Yes. OK. Moving on to our second suspension.

HELEN: Standing orders was proposed by Cllr Joe Behan seconded by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald. That this council agrees to ask urgent meetings with the minister for transport to discuss the suspension of funding for the N1SM11 road improvement scheme as well as need for noise mitigation measures in Kilmac, and the requirement for footpath linking Kilmac to Bray.

Are we agreed?

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CLLR BEHAN: It was a proposed and seconded at the SPC meeting two weeks ago, have we a proposal here, it is important we seek urgent meetings with the Minister for Transport because of his decision and decision of TIA to cut the funding for N11 and M11 and waste 3 million possibly more in money that is has been spent on consultant. I also would ask Cathaoirleach because it is a key strategic issue, that it be an item on the agenda from now on, separate to the Chief Executive's Report, that we get an updated every meeting on what is happening with regard to the N/M11, it affects everybody through the east coast Cathaoirleach. The motion as it stands, is, to seek a meeting that you would lead deputation from this council in a couple of other representatives, if members agree.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: I agree with the motion, and just wanted to highlight that I raised this with the eastern Midland region authority at their last meeting subsequent to our meeting last month and I asked also they write to the minister and TII in relation to this and I will bring that up again this Friday with that authority, to bear in mind this project was part of the RSCA document, so it can't just be Sheffield and paused indefinitely so we'll put the pressure on from that side but agree with the ask with the minister.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Pat Fitzgerald.

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CLLR FITZGERALD: I obviously, supporting the motion, but I just noticed on the weekend, that because of a threat by a particular party to take down the Government the minister was able to find three million to progress the N24 water and N4, Mullsingar to Waterford announced a YouTube, so there was spare money so three million went to that road and we're looking to funding for a road that needs to be done and no funding available, so, obviously the thing is put the pressure on, get the funding.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Derek Mitchell.

CLLR MITCHELL: Thank you. Yeah. Yeah, I strongly support this, which we discussed at the SPC. And I think it is very important we get in to see the minister about this. What, is not totally realised by most people, is that this road is projected with its bus systems, which are part to be allowed for by the project to substantially increase mode share of public transport from our Arklow, Wicklow Town, and places including south Greystones, Kilcoole. And, this is put forward solely as roads project but it is very much providing for buses, cyclists and Walkers, along the roads around the Bray by pass, so I think it is important to emphasise that, it is not just a road scheme, and I would, I'm interested to hear what Cllr Pat Fitzgerald said about minister finding money of but what we need at the moment is approximately three million to keep this project going, to keep it moving forward and designing this road, there's still of years bureaucracy left before any Diggers and big money starts.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Melanie Corrigan.

CLLR CORRIGAN: Thank you, I would totally agree with this motion. A lot of money has been wasted and it is wrong, it is totally wrong but I would also feel strongly about as Cllr Joe Behan was saying the road safety issues from residents from Kilmac, they've been cut off from Bray, the buses aren't running properly, children, adults have no choice but to walk the roads to access the village of Kilmac and that really needs to seriously be addressed with the noise mitigation, that the people living alongside the motorway there have to endure. I really think, a meeting with the NT is an important and I fully support the motion, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Chief Executive to clarify.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Just for information purposes to let the members know, I have asked and arranged a meeting with the Chief Executive TII, to discuss both matters, both the improvement scheme and also the noise mitigation measures at Kilmac so that will be later on this month so I'll obviously keep the members informed of developments in that but I fully support the proposal being put forward by the members in relation to this aspect.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Are we agreed? With the motion? Yeah. All agreed. Thank you. OK, we'll go back to the agenda. And item number nine to ask a Part 8 for the construction of is 06 residential units to include 70 number houses, 36 duplexes apartments and creche, 200 square metres and sorted site works at

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site at Burgage More, Blessington County Wicklow, copy attached. So, I think, we do we have a Joe, you take that.

Sorry, your mic.

JOE: I have a small presentation from the consultant, do you want to go through it or what.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We'll go through it, yeah.

JOE: OK, Thomas?

THOMAS: Yeah, good afternoon, everyone, hopefully you can hear me OK. We've a short presentation here, I know time is running on, so I'll go through it quickly. If you can go on to the next slide, please.

OK, so we're talking about the site here in Burgage More on the southern fringe Blessington on a site that falls eastwards towards the Greenway and the reservoir beyond. So, going on to the next slide please. So, this is just the nature of site at the moment it is under grasslands going grazed at the moment, it is characterised by strong hedgerows, free-lined hedgerows to the east and south. Some particular good trees on the northern hedgerow and then, country lane of Burgage More West Road that leads on to the lane near the graveyard that needs to upgrade and north there is a corner there, is a scheme that has recently gotten permission, and I understand has now

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commenced onsite, so, that in itself, is I suppose, changing the nature of the opposite side of the lane way in this development itself.

This is just a summary of what is being proposed of the scheme, it is 106 dwellings in total, 70 are houses mixture of two and three bed. And then, 36 units in duplexes arrangements, combination of one bed and two beds. So, very effective way of providing those smaller dwellings particularly one- beds that would be for single users, potentially older person housing as well which would have universal design and accessibility, parking provision is 170 spaces in total, public open spaces it is over 16% so well in excess of development plan requirements and density is just over 34 dwellings per hectare.

There's a good mix between the one, two and three beds.

This is a resulting site plan. It is arranged in four blocks of back- to- back dwellings. The blocks are all, addressing each as streets and all sites so we have very good active frontage and supervision to all aspects around the site. The blocks, on the east on the right- hand- side set back from those tree- lined boundaries so that we can retain the trees, dot lined there the protection areas so keeping well back from those which are fantastic in the character of the setting and allow that permeability to the east to the open space zoned areas to the east which would open up to the Greenway. On the western side there, block one, is forms the entrance to the site, we do have some three storey duplexes at the particular corner of northwest corner, they frame the entrance and access to the site, and also give sense of scale to the larger open space, which is central in the scheme there. It makes it very relatively

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accessible from the public side as well as well as being well supervised and overlooked of the housing. On the Baltimore Road housing directly faces on to it and activates which is at the moment is a country lane but really, it is already transitioning by the development on the northwest and improvement to the road junction that needs to undertake, so, this, forms an urban edge to the fringe of Blessington and that transition to the more country lanes further to the south. We're introducing new tree planting on all of the streets, particularly Burgage More Road, we have planting there, and strong tree planting to replace the fragmented boundary that's there at the moment. That's highlighted here in the landscape architects design that have been (frozen).

JOE: We lost connection, but the next series of pictures are plainly profiles ...

THOMAS: So, I don't know if I'm back in there again. Hello. Next slide there. OK. If you can hear me there. Early view gives a snapshot of the massing of form, as you see largely two storey some of the corners there overlooking the open space are three storeys but largely two story scheme, corner units, small duplexes to turn the corner so we have active perimeter edges. Next slide. If you can hear me.

Great. They're views looking from the new junction where the graveyard looking towards the scheme, they're the three storeys at the corner but the rest is two storeys stepping down showing extent of new tree planting

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integrated on the scheme. This was coming around towards the entrance to the estate. The roadway in the foreground is what would be built as part of the scheme. With you, that allows for the future expansion that roadway accessing the lands that are zoned for further development in the foreground here. The open space, on the left there, and further down into the site then, very well tree landscaped, resolution is lower here because it was for the design statement so it might be become lower resolution on the bigger screen there.

This just showing the landscape character within the open space around the playground areas, where there's real richness of planting, pollinators so we're conscious of enriching the biodiversity bird- friendly tree planting, very rich trees, good foliage for bees else, to improve the biodiversity of the landscape plan. That is carried through to the small area of the south to create a smaller parkland setting away from the larger space with more intimate, more free play areas for younger children. And access to the housing is along the pedestrian pathways taking the cars away from the houses to make it more pedestrian friendly and more intimate from a housing point of view. A few context elevations to show the scale and the nature of the build. It is trying to keep it simple. A rural edge of a rural setting. So, the housing is largely rendered to reflect that. The entrance areas have a brick, we are looking at the colouring to reflect the stone of the surrounding area of the graveyard walls and some of the stone features of Blessington itself, that is carried into the railings and the closures to the gardens so give robustness and richness to the

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material palette but still having it quite calm and sensible in the setting. I think it may be the end of it.

JOE: That's it. As people remember. We were talking about this a while back with the section 85 agreement it is part of the PPP arrangement and part of bundle 3. We are recommending the development as proposed with the following modifications, based on the submissions received. 42 submissions received; a number of things dealt with in the report. However, the report is proposed to meet the northern boundary the low wall and railing and planting to the boundary on the site. It is also proposed that the height of the boundary type 2 Stonewall, is reduced to 1.2 metres or provide a boundary point on 1.2 rail on low capped plinth wall. Small boundary addition. It is proposed a mesh fence is erected to the eastern boundary with additional planting to supplement the hedgerow and proposed boundary type 6 railings in lieu of the 4-type boundary omitted all together to the south-west corner. Based on submissions that we received from the Chief Executive's report.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Joe. Members? Anyone want to contribute? Cllr Joe Behan?

CLLR BEHAN: Chairman, I want to ask a question. This is part of a PPP bundle.

As I understand those bundles, they are run by the department of housing. Rather than by Wicklow County Council.

How much of this development is being insisted on by the department and not necessarily being agreed by Wicklow County Council housing section as in, if

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County Wicklow had full control, would this be the same designed the same scheme or would it have been different? Or can Mr Lane comment on the question? It will appear to me that what I have heard, I could be wrong but there is pressure from the department, and we had a situation like that in Bray a long time ago, we had the consequences of it since, he knows what I am talking about. So, if I can get clarity on that, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gerry O'Neil?

CLLR O'NEIL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Thank you for the presentation. We have been looking at this with the 3 local councils and we met up yesterday, we all welcome housing, and I'm delighted that we, that this will be hopefully up and running fairly soon. But we were at the impression that we could get maybe another month to discuss this with, I talked with Declan this morning, that we could get another month to have a look at it. It does incorporate the graveyard and the proposed extension to the graveyard and the other development land in that area. I'm not clear, anyway, as a councillor, exactly. I have no knowledge of a master plan, if it has been designed but there is an issue as regards being satisfied with the master plan, or the general, we are all a little blind folded, and how it would affect our decision on the housing here? I know there are, this estate here is on the side of a narrow lane into a very old Mr Lane residential area, where there are 25 families living their concern is with on street parking with the estate, it is not that people can drive into driveways, it is on street parking and how it clashes with the likes of funerals in that area? I, honestly, I'm not clear on that. I have no access to the master

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plan. I don't know if it is completed or nearly completed but it is part of a 32-acer site and there is also industrial land there. So I just ask that we get a breathing space there and I believe that Cllr Edward Timmins and Cllr Patsy Glennon will be of the opinion from the conversation that we had yesterday, that if we got another four weeks on that to look at the planning detail and so, I ask, I would be asking for a four-week stay on that one to gather thoughts and look on it and maybe get the master plan for the area. the narrowness of the road, they have been narrowed emptying into the lane that meets the section of the Greenway that is finished, it is a very busy part of the Blessington and, to be rest assured that the people in the area and ourselves that we are moving in the right direction, I hope we won't be delayed, we really, really look forward to housing and we need it in a bad way in this part of the world.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr John Snell? And thank you to Tomas for the presentation as well. I had the pleasure of dealing with Tomas before when he designed the [inaudible] school a number of years ago, excellent people at what they do. Unfortunately, with regards to this, I'm old enough to remember when the north-west of county we could not provide housing due to, obviously the economic circumstances at the time. All sorts of issues but we were depending at one time on four acquisitions. I remember going out with the housing team at the time, and the Chair of the housing SPC, Nicky Kelly, at the time. It was a big thing in Blessington to hand over four sets of keys to four families in Blessington.

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I think this is a great opportunity.

A great opportunity for 106 residential opportunities and all of the councillors welcome that. We are very lucky in the County Wicklow moon is pap cricket with regards to the volumes of housing. We have had the opportunity to deal with what has been presented here today. It is a housing estate in County Wicklow Town of over 50 units, delivered through the same bundle. We as six councillors met numerous times to tease out and to have the conversations, the same as Cllr Joe Behan is asking with regards to what is the programme, what is it about? Why is the lead agency, in Dublin, and we got all the answers to that and I'm glad to say there are over 50 families housed in County Wicklow Town with regards to it? So, yes, get the answers to your questions. Try not to delay things too long. But certainly, make yourselves familiar with what the scheme is. At the end of the day, unfortunately, our social housing waiting list throughout the county has grown, even though we are bringing in huge amounts of opportunity who are on the housing list and reducing the waiting time on the waiting list but West County Wicklow in particular has seen the fruits of the good work through the housing section if that is in Carnew, Baltinglass, recently, Cllr Avril Cronin and the Chair and yourself, Cathaoirleach were there recently to welcome new tenants into the houses in Dunlavin. So, it is an opportunity that the Blessington needs. It is not to be scared of it is to be welcomed. We are available us six councillors to discuss how the project worked here, that is what the housing section is there for. If you need more

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information, we are there to talk. I would not like to see it delayed at all, I will be supporting this fully, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Edward Timmins?

CLLR TIMMINS: Can I suggest we have a meeting in Bray for the 21st, can we go back to that?

CATHAOIRLEACH: There are two options, I will let the speakers in.

>>: To go on from what Cllr Gerry O'Neil said. There are some issues, we obviously support this 100% and are conscious of the expediting it in as quickly as possible. There has been no new housing for 15 years. But this are issues to iron out, I go along with the Cllr Gerry O'Neil proposal to finalise it in 4 weeks' time. In relation to the parking coming out, 31 parking spots that exit on to the same road. The issues here that the residents are concerned about.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Vincent Blake?

CLLR BLAKE: I second the vision of this project in Blessington, as has been said, it is badly needed, and reference is made to a number of housings built in areas over the last few years. This council has gotten on with building houses. I know that [inaudible] in housing a few years ago, so I give recognition to the staff at the council. I know that the fact we didn't have the storage planting in that part of the investment delayed the whole thing there, but Cllr Edward Timmins alluded to the fact that the car park, and to the road there, I wanted to ask, could the creche be moved to a different road to accommodate the level of parking? But get on with the project.

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CLLR CRONIN: Thank you very much and thank you for the presentation. Nobody can deny we are in dire need of houses in Blessington. And Cllr John Snell is right. We had a wonderful day. Great to see you over here in West County Wicklow. Cathaoirleach, you are welcome any time for the opening. The houses in Dunlavon have been a huge success. So far, everyone is delighted to be in and please to make memories in their new home and hopefully the people of Blessington will be able to do the same. There are a number of concerned residents. I know you will have dealt with some issues outlined in the sub missions with relation to the boundary but there is huge concern over the parking spaces. I hope you consider that as well.

And to take into consideration the concerns of the local residents already living there. Anybody that contacted me has been welcome to the development. But they have concerns about the congestion and the traffic along the road and where the cars are to park and the amount of traffic that is coming on the narrow roads, so it is something to look at and hope to finalise this in a favourable manner to sexuality everybody. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Patsy Glennon?

CLLR GLENNON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

I'm not going to repeat all that my three colleagues have said. There is a number of issues that need to be addressed. I welcome housing, obviously. Everyone welcomes housing in the area. Badly needed in Blessington as there has not been anything built for years and in a shorter period, we are having a

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meeting in two weeks' time if there is immediate engagement perhaps it is time to put it back to? It is not we are against it by any means, we welcome the housing, there are issues to be addressed that there is concern with the roadway leading down to Dick Burns that has been brought to your attention. These can be addressed reasonably easily.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will propose to put it back for the special meeting in two weeks' time which gives everybody time to iron out the issues in the meantime so handing back to Joe on the last word. JOE: We have been engaging so two weeks is enough for all. And Cllr Joe Behan, I will answer you directly, no, we applied for the PPP, so we were not forced into it. They did allow density, which we may not have been allowed before, we are comfortable with that as the demand is in Blessington. The PPP accepted the risk that the sewerage scheme [sic] would not be there when we started. It has allowed us to plan while waiting for the scheme, rather than starting when the scheme is there. That was important to us. The demand in Blessington is 96 for 100 beds, 100 two bedrooms and 13 in the four-bedroom category, we want to develop this as quickly as possible. And the extra units, it does suit us, we did apply for it, and it allows for the issue of finances. That particular piece of land, the master plan, this part was zoned housing, it was always for housing. So, the linking it up to the master plan is, look, we can deal with it in two weeks, the parking is for the development of the houses. Only.

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So, look, we will be engaged with Declan who is available to anyone who wanted to. We have consulted with the local area; we will bring it back in two weeks if that is OK.

CATHAOIRLEACH: If we can have a seconder? Cllr Avril Cronin did you want to come back in?

CLLR CRONIN: Apologies, I should have taken down my hand. Sorry.

CATHAOIRLEACH: That is agreed. I will go on to item 13 to consider or note the 3-year annual capital programme.

Do we have an update?

>>: Thank you. Members I present for consideration the capital investment programme for 2022 to 2024 amounts to £553 million. It is a strong programme of planned capital extend tower. With the expenditure envisioned of 2022 with 160 million, 190 million in 2023 and 101 million in 2024. Depending on grants of 451 million. Development levies of 31 million, required loans of 36 million and other funding of 7 million. Testimony is noted it is part of a 3-year rolling programme reviewed in light of evolving circumstances and it is presented to members on a yearly basis the members have a question on that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Mitchell?

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CLLR MITCHELL: I have concerns about it, it is a huge amount of money. Good it is spent for the betterment of the county. But is a short time to discuss such a large amount of funding.

I have a concern about the use of the development levies. Development levies are collected on each new house or apartment, or I think a factory, which are, is built in County Wicklow. The concept behind the development levies, which are general levies replace specific levies is that there is a list of projects for costed and the amount charged is the amount to do the projects over time. They are related, the projects are related to the expansion, to support the new houses and there is a vast expansion of housing, certainly, not industry, in the area that I represent and also in the County Wicklow municipal district. I think that the development levies in particular should be used in the areas where they are raised and we should know how much is raised in an area and spent in the area, because the amount of infrastructure needed to support the people coming, is enormous.

So that is one point.

Secondly, the other, this are a couple of things. Harbours are listed to get a substantial amount, 4 million from the development levies yet they are not listed in the development levy scheme that harbour should get the money. It seems that the harbours are not necessary to support the people and it doesn't seem appropriate that level of funding will be coming from the development levies for it. That is what the schedule says. In addition, I just note that the Clare mount, does absorb a lot of money that we don't get to

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discuss in relation to discussing Claremont. For instance, in this, there is about 4.3 million of other council money, I'm not sure what it is, which is for Claremont in the period. In addition, not mentioned here is the mortgage on Claremont which has been talked about selling council land to pay that mortgage and that's a huge amount of money in this project. I think it needs a much clearer debate about the project for such a large amount of money. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Peir Leonard?

CLLR LEONARD: So, I know I probably should be more experienced at this stage a couple of years into this but I'm not sure how the process works. I wanted to ask a couple of questions to make suggestions as well. In relation to the arts funding 1% for art and the Music Generation, I have been working with them on the music generation committee. I wonder can part of the money that is allocated for the arts funding, the 1% for art and music generation, be ring-fenced to put more instruments into the library, speaking to Anne Nolan, 10,000 to 15,000 can make a substantial impact. I have been working with the musical groups in the county, there is a huge need for the kids to progress to new instruments and learn new instruments and the correct instruments. There is room to work with these groups to look at that. If we can ring-fence that money for that, it will be fantastic. And in relation to the road transport and safety and economic development, I am looking at my own municipal and some of the projects listed, Kilbride, 1.6, I don't know what the project is, I want to find out about it. Arklow abbey lands and money is allocated, that has

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not been discussed at the meetings that I have been at? How are the projects chosen? What are the criteria used for the projects? With the economic development projects, I am looking at a lot of projects in Rathdrum. Also, I wonder how are the projects decided going forward? So, I can input more to what we need in Arklow in the town itself? Is it linked to the population or the unemployment index for industry and economic development? Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Sylvester Bourke.

CLLR BOURKE: The road for Kilbride is it to upgrade the old for a new road? I will be interested also in seeing a breakdown of the municipal cricket's total allocation. Maybe we would not be able to do that, if it is divisive, I don't know if there is a breakdown of allocations per district? That is the inquiries for the moment.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Joe Behan?

CLLR BEHAN: One of the statutory functions of the Chief Executive is to present this report every year. We got it late on Friday evening, we are rushing through it now. We don't have enough time to consider matters like this. It is a hugely important topic. I believe myself it should be pushed to another meeting where there is more time. Where a presentation should be given by the finance officer on the pain points and to allow for questions such as I've been asked by other members, and in particular to agree with Cllr Derek Mitchell about the levies, the levies are intermingled in the capital programme but people who pay the levies are entitled to get services for the levies that

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they are paying. We don't spend half enough time interrogating all of this information and looking to see if we can get equity. But can I ask the Chief Executive why was the report so late in coming to us? You have a statutory, we have heard lots about the law today, you have a legal responsibility to get the information in good time for us to discuss it properly, Cathaoirleach. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Grace McManus?

CLLR MCMANUS: I agree, I don't think there is sufficient time to discuss this. For fear we may not get another chance I have a question about the housing, what is Special's Pilot's Schemes in and are re-let's included with this?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Edward Timmins?

CLLR TIMMINS: A question. This is a massive amount of money. We do need more time to discuss it. One question: The Irish Water section, where do we have the copy of the Irish Water Capital Investment Programme? Have we got that? Page 9?

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. We are out of time. I can look to defer this to the next meeting. If there is a particular question with, maybe to get them in so that we can get answers.

I am conscious that we are out of time, and it is an important document.

>>: The Local Government Act this report is for the elected members for noting.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. If we want to discuss it further at the next meeting, we can do that. I have no issue with that. Brian?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: As Lorraine said, it is not for approval, it is for noting, it is an aspirational plan. Obviously, it depends on the funding. To mention a couple of things to the developed levy scheme it is county wide as a scheme, similar to local property tax. We don't ring-fence based on where it is raised. In relation to the harbour money, which is road-related issues in relation to the planned URDF submissions in relation to Arklow and County Wicklow which may Notogaea go ahead if we are not successful in the applications, so it does not go ahead, so it is very much aspirationally planned. In relation to the Music Generation of 1%. As far as I'm aware if it is for capital. If you have a road scheme and there is an art feature on the side of the road that 1% is in relation to that, it is not for current expenditure so unable to transfer in terms of running costs for Music Generation, but we have a revenue Budget for Music Generation separate to that. So, if the members wish to defer it. Irish Water, the Investment Programme, which is Irish Water. So, that is why it is not included in our capital plan.

If the members wish to discuss it further, we can do it at a separate meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH: If you have further questions, we can put them in. Are you happy for us to put it on the agenda for the next meeting? Or happy to put the questions in to get responses?

>>: I would like to know about the 1.6 million before we finish.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: If you have any further questions, we will get it to Breda are you happy we put it on the agenda for the next meeting or put questions in and get responses?

CLLR BOURKE: I'd like to know about the 1.6 million for Kilbride please before we finish.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK members I will put it back on the agenda for the next meeting because others want to come back in here, if you have questions get them to Breda and we will put them on the agenda for the next meeting. OK. Just finish up with correspondents.

HELEN: Briefly, the Department of Tourism Culture Arts Gaeltacht Sports and Media, have sent notification in relation to the Government has agreed a National Ceremony of Remembrance and Reflection, which will take place on 20th of March in Dublin. This will represent an opportunity for the nation to pause and reflect and take time to remember all those who have lost their lives during the pandemic and pay tribute to everyone who contributed to how we've faced and are facing the challenges together. And recognising the pivotal role of the local authorities all local authorities are requested to develop and host one local ceremony. The decision has taken in Wicklow to have one Municipal District area they will be held on 19th and 20th of March, there will be organised through CCSD and county librarian in conjunction with MDs and further contact with the elected members in relation to the events. But just to let you know they're taking place on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th

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and then we have our special meeting in relation to County Development Plan meeting on the 28th of March. So, meeting now on the 21st and another on the 28th and possibly the 29th and then the 4th of April.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you all. Thank you for your participation, anyone that is on protocol remain here please. Thank you. Bye- bye.

DRAFT